

ORDINANCE NO. 574

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 54, ARTICLE IV, LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIREES, TO REQUIRE FUTURE RETIRED EMPLOYEES TO PAY THE FULL PREMIUM COST TO MAINTAIN COVERAGE IN CITY GROUP LIFE, HEALTH, VISION AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS AND TO ALLOW THE CITY TO TERMINATE COVERAGE FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO FAIL TO PAY PREMIUMS ON TIME OR WHO ELECT TO DISCONTINUE COVERAGE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; SEVERABILITY; AND AN IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield allows retired employees to participate in its group life, dental, vision and health insurance programs and will continue to allow participation for all current and future retired employees: and

WHEREAS, the City will grandfather existing retired employees' coverage by continuing to contribute to the premiums for current coverages; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges the costs of contributing to the premiums of future retired employees will create a fiscal restraint; and

WHEREAS, the City will require all future retired employees to pay the full premium cost for any or all continued insurance programs provided by the City who elect to maintain coverage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the people of the City of Springfield, Florida:

SECTION 1. CHAPTER 54, ARTICLE IV of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Springfield is hereby amended to read as follows (new text **bold and underlined**):

ARTICLE IV. – GROUP LIFE, AND HEALTH, VISION AND DENTAL INSURANCE FOR RETIREES

Sec. 54-91. – Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Eligible employee means an employee that meets the standard coverage requirements of the then existing group insurance program.

Group life, health, vision and dental insurance program means the city group insurance program existing on the employee's retirement date and subject to changes in insurance providers, or carriers and benefits provided therein and premium cost allocation thereof. The city reserves the right to require future employees pay the whole cost or a portion of their premiums.

Retired employee:

(1)

If an employee was hired before January 1, 1996, he or she must have been continuously employed by the city for at least ten consecutive years and is at least 55 years of age on their retirement date and who is covered by the then existing group insurance program and who is eligible for retirement under the then existing retirement program. The employee must retire from current employment with the city.

(2)

If an employee was hired after January 1, 1996, he or she must have been continuously employed by the city for at least 15 consecutive years and is at least 62 years of age on their retirement date and is covered by the then existing group insurance program and who is eligible for retirement under the then existing retirement program. The employee must retire from current employment with the city.

(3)

If an employee retires after October 1, 2021, he or she must retire from current employment with the city, have been covered by the then existing group insurance program and either: a) be eligible for retirement under the then existing retirement program and begin to receive retirement benefits immediately after retirement from employment; b) or have worked for the City for 30 years.

Sec. 54-92. – Payment of premiums by city.

(1)

The city shall **continue to** pay a portion of the group life, health, **vision** and dental insurance premiums of employees that retire from current employment with the city **prior to August 1, 2021** and who are covered by the then existing group insurance policy and are eligible for the then existing retirement program and meets the standard eligibility requirements for group insurance coverage under the then existing group insurance program. **After August 1, 2021, the city shall allow its retired employees to participate in the City’s group life, health, vision and dental insurance plans provided the employee pays the entire premium for his or her coverage.** The city reserves the right to terminate its obligation to pay any portion of the described premiums. Once the employee qualifies for Medicare benefits or some other type of health care coverage then the city’s group insurance program shall become supplemental to the primary provider.

(2)

Premiums for retired employees are due on the 1st of every month. If any retired employee who participates in the city’s group life, health, vision, and dental insurance programs fails to pay his or her premium for a period of 30 days or longer, the retired employee shall lose all right to coverage under the City group life, health, vision and dental insurance plans and the City shall be entitled to terminate all coverage. If the retired employee elects to terminate coverage from any of the City’s group plans at any point after retirement, he or she shall not have the future option to reinstate the coverage.

Sec. 54-93. - Obligation of city; limitations.

This article creates no obligation of the city to provide any type of insurance or pay any premium for employees that retire pursuant to this article who are not normally eligible for standard coverage under the then existing group life, health, **vision**, and dental insurance program.

SECTION 2. It is the intent of the City Commission that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the City of Springfield’s Code of Ordinances, and that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section,” “article,” “regulation,” or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

SECTION 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED and ADOPTED in regular session, with a quorum present and voting, by the City Commission, upon second and final reading this 7th day of September, 2021.

City of Springfield, Florida



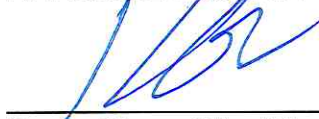
Ralph Hammond, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Cox, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kevin Obos, City Attorney

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following entitled ordinance shall be presented to the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida, for a public hearing and final adoption at a regular meeting to be conducted at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at the Springfield City Hall, located at 408 School Avenue, Springfield, Florida, to-wit,

ORDINANCE NO. 574

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 54, ARTICLE IV, LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIREES, TO REQUIRE FUTURE RETIRED EMPLOYEES TO PAY THE FULL PREMIUM COST TO MAINTAIN COVERAGE IN CITY GROUP LIFE, HEALTH, VISION AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS AND TO ALLOW THE CITY TO TERMINATE COVERAGE FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO FAIL TO PAY PREMIUMS ON TIME OR WHO ELECT TO DISCONTINUE COVERAGE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; SEVERABILITY; AND AN IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE DATE.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, if an appeal is available, such person will need a record of the proceeding, and such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person requiring a special accommodation to participate in this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact Teresa Cox at 408 School Avenue, Springfield, Florida 32401 or by phone at (850) 872-7570 at least five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, and you possess TDD equipment, you may contact the City Clerk using the Florida Dual Party Relay system which can be reached at (800) 955-8770 (Voice) or (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS desiring to be heard on the adoption of the aforesaid ordinances are invited to be present at the meeting. Copies of the ordinances may be obtained or inspected at the office of the City Clerk, Springfield, Florida, at the City Hall.

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FL

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PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Springfield, City Of
Springfield, City Of
408 SCHOOL AVE.
Panama City FL 32401

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF BAY

The Panama City News Herald, a newspaper printed and published in the city of Panama City, and of general circulation in the County of Bay, State of Florida, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

08/17/2021

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 08/17/2021

D. Roberts

Legal Clerk

Sarah Bertelsen

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

7/27/25

My commission expires

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SARAH BERTELSEN
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

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8/17/2021
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