

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD  
DECEMBER 18, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anderson called the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Springfield to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Anderson led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Agne, Burdett, Eib, Good, Hinton, Whitfield, and Mayor Anderson.

Also Present: Jim Jenkins – City Manager, Rob Coles – Public Safety Director, Jeannine Turner – Finance Director/Treasurer, and Kris Vogel – City Clerk.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Hinton, seconded by Eib and unanimous that the minutes of the December 4, 2006, regular meeting be approved subject to additions and corrections.

V. PUBLIC HEARING – RECEIVE COMMENTS – Brownfield Plan LHG, LLC (Motorzone)

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing to receive comments regarding the Brownfield Plan for LHG, LLC (Motorzone) at 7:31 p.m.

City Manager Jenkins indicated the Brownfield Plan for the Motorzone site on Dickman Road is for the sole purpose of qualifying the business owner for a single business tax credit.

Being no questions, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.

VI. REPORTS

A. Assessing/Building Department – November (C. Childers)

Mayor Anderson asked if there were any questions regarding the Building Department reports presented by Cris Childers, Assessor/Building Official. Being none, the reports will be filed as presented.

B. Public Works Department – November (T. Matson)

Mayor Anderson asked if there were any questions regarding the Department of Public Works report presented by Tom Matson, Department of Public Works Director. Being none, the report will be filed as presented.

C. Public Safety Department – November (R. Coles)

Mayor Anderson asked if there were any questions regarding the Public Safety Department report presented by Rob Coles, Public Safety Department Director. Being none, the report will be filed as presented.

D. Election Report – November (K. Vogel)

Mayor Anderson asked if there were any questions regarding the Election report presented by Kris Vogel, City Clerk.

City Clerk Vogel stated for the November 7<sup>th</sup> election the City had a 35.9% voter turnout. The election has been certified with no problems noted and City Clerk Vogel thanked the election inspectors for a job well done.

E. City Manager – James D. Jenkins

1. Approve – Brownfield Plan – LHG, LLC (Motorzone)

City Manager Jenkins stated this resolution will approve the Brownfield Plan for LHG, LLC (Motorzone). All the proper notifications have been sent, along with the public hearing held.

**Resolution #77-06**

It was moved by Burdett and seconded by Whitfield that the following resolution be read in part and adopted (the complete resolution is on file in the City Clerk's office):

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BROWNFIELD PLAN

LHG, LLC (MOTORZONE) PROPERTY

City of Springfield

County of Calhoun, Michigan

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Act 381, Public Acts of Michigan, 1996, as amended ("Act 381"), the City of Springfield Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") has prepared and approved a Brownfield Plan to include the LHG, LLC (Motorzone); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has forwarded the Brownfield Plan to the City Council requesting its approval of the Brownfield Plan; and

7. Approval and Adoption of Brownfield Plan Amendment. The Brownfield Plan as submitted by the Authority is hereby approved and adopted. A copy of the Brownfield Plan and all amendments thereto shall be maintained on file in the City Clerk's office.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

2. *Approve – 2007 Meeting Schedule*

City Manager Jenkins indicated this resolution will approve the 2007 meeting schedule and will comply with the Open Meetings Act.

**Resolution #78-06**

It was moved by Whitfield and seconded by Burdett that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD that the following dates be set for the City Council meetings for 2007 and the list be posted; said meetings to be held at 7:30 p.m. at the City Municipal office located at 601 Avenue A:

January	2 (T)	15
February	5	20 (T)
March	5	19
April	2	16
May	7	21
June	4	18
July	2	16
August	6	20
September	4 (T)	17
October	1	15
November	5	19
December	3	17

Note: Agenda review begins at 7:00 p.m.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

3. *Authorize – Expenditure for City Hall/Public Safety Buildings*

City Manager Jenkins noted this resolution is in regard to expenditures for the City Hall and Public Safety buildings and he shared a presentation in support of this expenditure. This plan would use Tax Increment Finance funds for a portion of the project and a bond for the remainder, which the EDC/TIFA/BRA Board supported at their last meeting.

**Resolution #79-06**

It was moved by Agne and seconded by Eib that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT is operating in cramped and dilapidated conditions; and

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD MUNICIPAL BUILDING needs certain upgrades, including a roof; and

WHEREAS, TIFA D has a \$893,000 fund balance; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends an expenditure of \$1,000,000 to expand the Public Safety Department building and upgrade City Hall; and

WHEREAS, THE EDC/TIFA/BRA BOARD OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, at their December 6, 2006, meeting recommended to the City Council the use of \$500,000 from the TIFA D fund balance and to finance \$500,000 debt to renovate and expand the Public Safety Department and upgrade City Hall.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD to proceed with said projects.

Ayes: Council Members Agne, Burdett, Eib, Good, and Hinton.

Nays: Council Member Whitfield, and Mayor Anderson.

Mayor Anderson indicated she was one of the no votes from the EDC/TIFA/BRA Board concerning this issue. The reason for her no vote was because there were only six members at the meeting and one of members had only been to one meeting in a year. The Mayor had asked for a consensus from the Board to postpone the resolution for this project and that was turned down. The Mayor indicated she wanted the City Council to understand where she was coming from in voting no. Mayor Anderson indicated she supports the renovation of the Public Safety Building and that it's long over due, but the work at City Hall was not originally included. Mayor Anderson asked that the Council consider making a recommendation to the EDC/TIFA/BRA Board that no work be done at City Hall until all work is complete at the Public Safety building.

Council Member Good asked if the garage portion of the facility would remain intact? Public Safety Director Coles indicated the garage would stay intact and the office portion of the building would be expanded. City Manager Jenkins indicated there would be some change in the apparatus bay because of the air handling system due to the exhaust from the diesel trucks.

Council Member Good indicated he had a concern with the amount of money to be spent and asked if the architect could massage the plan for a little less money?

Council Member Eib indicated he was one of the four EDC/TIFA/BRA Board Members who voted in favor of this project. These Board Members felt that if we bonded it made sense to include City Hall since the contractor would already working at this location and the City would hopefully save money.

Council Member Burdett expressed a concern with moving forward with any work at City Hall.

Finance Director/Treasurer Turner indicated she felt it would be a good decision for the City to move forward with the renovations to City Hall at the same time as the Public Safety

building; the reason being that as long as the renovations and repairs were part of a project, the expenses could be paid for with TIFA monies. If the roof of City Hall would need to be repaired and it wasn't included as part of a project, TIFA monies could not be used and the burden of the expense would have to be paid for by the general fund. In addition, the City of Springfield is the biggest contributor of funds into the TIFA and is responsible for about \$500,000 of the \$893,000 current balance. Finance Director/Treasurer Turner indicated to bond right now the interest rates are low and in the future there are no guarantees that they will be this low.

Council Member Good asked what the City's debt is? Finance Director/Treasurer Turner indicated the City has \$13,000,000 in fixed assets and our debt is \$1,500,000, which financially is very small.

Council Member Hinton asked if the bond payments would come from the TIFA or general fund? Finance Director/Treasurer Turner indicated it would be all TIFA debt.

Ayes: Council Members Agne, Burdett, Eib, Good, and Hinton

Nays: Council Member Whitfield and Mayor Anderson.

Resolution adopted.

4. *Reappoint – Board of Review Member*

City Manager Jenkins noted this resolution will reappoint a member to the Board of Review.

**Resolution #80-06**

It was moved by Eib and seconded by Good that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Bob Ray to the Board of Review; said term to expire January 1, 2010.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Ray for his willingness to serve.

5. *Reappoint – Income Tax Board of Review Member*

City Manager Jenkins noted this resolution will reappoint a member to the Income Tax Board of Review.

**Resolution #81-06**

It was moved by Good and seconded by Burdett that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD to confirm the Mayoral reappointment of Marvin Ambs to the Income Tax Board of Review; said term to expire January 1, 2010.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Ambs for his willingness to serve.

6. *Authorize – City Manager and Mayor to Execute POLC Sergeants Contract*  
City Manager Jenkins noted this resolution will authorize the City Manager and Mayor to execute the POLC Sergeants contract.

**Resolution #82-06**

It was moved by Hinton and seconded by Whitfield and Good that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD to authorize the City Manager and Mayor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with the POLC Sergeants Union of the City of Springfield Department of Public Safety; said agreement effective July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2010.

Council Member Burdett thanked City Manager Jenkins for his effort in coming to terms with this contract, but made note that he does not like the aspect of a “signing bonus”.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

7. *Adopt – Flexible Benefits Plan Documents*  
City Manager Jenkins noted this resolution will adopt the flexible benefits plan documents for the Section 125 Plan.

**Resolution #83-06**

It was moved by Burdett and seconded by Whitfield that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD to adopt amended and restated plan documents for the flexible benefits plans, including health care, dependent care reimbursement and assistance plans. The City Manager and/or Finance Director are authorized to implement and execute the plan and related documents.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

8. *Bills in Line*

It was moved by Good, seconded by Burdett and unanimously approved that the checks be drawn from the various accounts and the bills be paid.

VII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

All Council Members wished the community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member Whitfield congratulated City Manager Jenkins for having a great year with the City of Springfield.

City Clerk Vogel noted City Hall will be closed December 25, 26, 29 and January 1<sup>st</sup> for the holidays; therefore the next City Council meeting will be January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

City Clerk Vogel stated there will be a fundraising event on January 6<sup>th</sup> at Begg Park's disc golf course, with proceeds going to the Food Bank. This event is called the Ice Bowl and is held across the country. If anyone is interested in participating in this event they can contact the City Clerk's office next week for further details.

Council Member Hinton recognized Terry Blanair for marking his 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Public Works Department and Public Safety Officer Eric Dittmer for marking his 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the department.

Mayor Anderson thanked Endeavor Charter Academy for the invitation to be included in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people reading at the same time; the couple pages read were from Charlotte's Web and a good time was had by all.

Mayor Anderson stated Dave Carrigan was in the audience this evening and it was nice to see him.

Dave Carrigan said it was nice to see the Council again and that Fleis Vandenberg is the new owner of Gove Associates and there has been a change in some of the staff.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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Kris Vogel, CMC  
City Clerk

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Susan L. Anderson, Mayor