

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
APRIL 17, 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: James Jenkins – City Manager, Cris Childers – City Assessor, and Kris Vogel – City Clerk.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Hinton, seconded by Good and unanimous that the minutes of the April 3, 2006, regular meeting be approved subject to additions and corrections.

V. PRESENTATION – CALHOUN HEALTH PLAN – COUNTY COMMISSIONER KATE SEGAL AND SAMANTHA PEARL

County Commissioner Segal noted that over the past year she has been speaking about the Calhoun Health Plan that was put together for people who couldn't afford health insurance and didn't qualify for Medicaid. County Commissioner Segal introduced Samantha Pearl. Samantha reviewed how the program works and the history of how the program started. Ms. Pearl left information packets with City Clerk Vogel to give to residents of Springfield.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING – RECEIVE COMMENTS – SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL – N. 24TH AND N. 34TH STREETS – 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Anderson opened the Public Hearing to receive comments regarding the N. 24th and N. 34th Streets Special Assessment Roll at 7:43 p.m.

A. Explanation of Public Hearing – James D. Jenkins, City Manager

City Manager Jenkins stated the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding the special assessment. Both streets will require curb and gutter and this assessment is for that. City Manager Jenkins noted that City Assessor Cris Childers prepared the special assessment, notified residents of the Public Hearing and their special assessment.

B. Details of Special Assessment Roll – James D. Jenkins, City Manager and Cris Childers, City Assessor

City Manager Jenkins and City Assessor Childers explained how the amount of the assessment was determined for each property and that properties that had prior assessments would only be charged for a portion of the assessment.

C. Citizen Input and Questions

Ms. Marie Hall, 745 Upton Avenue, asked when the project would start and be completed, and where would parking be allowed? City Manager Jenkins stated that the contractors would work with homeowners so they have access to their driveways. He noted that residents who are unable to get to their driveways will be able to park on other streets. City Assessor Childers stated that the work will begin on Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

D. Council Input and Questions

None.

Being no further questions, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m.

VII. REPORTS

A. Assessing/Building Department – March (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 – March (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 – February/March (R. Coles)

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

D. City Manager – *James D. Jenkins*

1. Adopt – Zoning Ordinance – N. 24th Street Court

City Manager Jenkins stated this ordinance will change the zoning of 25 N. 24th Street Court to R-1 residential. He noted that the property itself was zoned both Industrial and Residential and this would change the portion of the property that is currently Industrial.

Mayor Anderson stated that the zoning change would not be spot zoning because the remainder of the street is already zoned residential.

Ordinance #03-06

It was moved by Hinton and seconded by Good that the following ordinance be adopted by title only (a complete copy of the ordinance is on file in the City Clerk's office):

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD WITH RESPECT TO ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

All ayes. Ordinance adopted.

2. Approve – Special Assessment roll – N. 24th & N. 34th Streets

City Manager Jenkins noted this resolution will approve the special assessment roll

prepared by City Assessor Childers.

Resolution #20-06

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

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD to confirm, approve, and file the special assessment roll, as prepared by the City Assessor, for the N. 24th Street and N. 34th Street Improvement Project.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

3. Reappoint – Zoning/Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals Members
City Manager Jenkins indicated this resolution will reappoint members to the Zoning/Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals.

Resolution #21-06

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

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD to confirm the Mayoral reappointment of Rick Fleming, Bob Ray, and David Rich to the Zoning/Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals; said term to expire May 1, 2009.

All ayes. Resolution adopted.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Fleming, Mr. Ray, and Mr. Rich for their willingness to serve on the Zoning/Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals.

4. Proclaim – Crime Victim Rights Week

City Manager Jenkins noted that Crime Victims Rights Week is April 23-29, 2006.

Proclamation #04-06

Mayor Anderson presented the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, President Ronald W. Reagan first declared “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” in 1981 to focus our Nation’s attention on the plight of crime victims; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, America has joined together annually to recognize the needs and rights of crime victims and survivors during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 23-29, 2006, has been designated as National Crime Victims’ Rights Week; and

WHEREAS, despite impressive accomplishments in crime victims’ rights and services, there remain many challenges to ensure that all crime victims and survivors are treated with dignity and respect, recognized as key participants within our systems of justice, and afforded services that provide help and hope to them.

NOW, THEREFORE the Council of the City of Springfield proclaims that April 23-29, 2006, is recognized as Crime Victims’ Rights Week in the City of Springfield. The Springfield City

Council thanks and recognizes those Victims of Crime, the Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office, the Springfield Public Safety Department and other Law Enforcement and Service Agencies, who, through their cooperative effort in coordinating the events of Crime Victims' Rights Week, help heighten awareness of the plight of those who are or become a victim of crime.

5. Proclaim – Sexual Assault Awareness Month

City Manager Jenkins noted that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Proclamation #05-06

Mayor Anderson presented the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the month of April, 2006 has been designated as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, only 36% of rapes and sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, among female victims of rape and sexual assault, 67% of the crimes were committed by intimate partners, relatives, friends or acquaintances; and

WHEREAS, one in four girls/women and one in seven boys/men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

NOW, THEREFORE the Council of the City of Springfield proclaims that April, 2006 is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in City of Springfield. The Springfield City Council thanks and recognizes Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County, the Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office, the Springfield Public Safety Department and other Law Enforcement and Service Agencies, who, through their cooperative effort have coordinated the events of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

6. Proclaim – Alcohol Awareness Month

Mayor Anderson presented the following proclamation to Donna Katchman representing the Substance Abuse Council:

Proclamation #06-06

WHEREAS, each year about 1,900 persons who are under 21 die in motor vehicle crashes that involve underage drinking; and

WHEREAS, alcohol is also involved in about 1,600 homicides and 300 suicides each year among persons under 21; and

WHEREAS, alcohol is the most frequently used drug by high school seniors; and

WHEREAS, young people begin drinking, on average, at 13.1 years of age; and

WHEREAS, young people who begin drinking before age 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

WHEREAS, alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date

rapes of teens and college students and is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other transmitted diseases; and

WHEREAS, the typical American young person will see 100,000 beer commercials before he or she turns 18 (that is more than for sneakers, gum, and jeans); and

WHEREAS, 13 percent of all youth, ages 12 -17, had at least one serious problem related to drinking in the past year;

- A town hall meeting to reduce underage drinking was held on March 28th to discuss actions to be taken and to kick off alcohol awareness month in Calhoun County.
- A follow-up meeting will take place on April 25th.
- Local leaders and citizens throughout the county are invited to be part of the solution by volunteering to teach a lesson about alcohol to 5th and 6th grade students during the last two weeks in April or the first two weeks in May. The Substance Abuse Council will provide training and materials for "Teach-In" presenters at sessions on April 13th and April 19th.
- The Substance Abuse Council will provide schools in Calhoun County with a letter addressed to parents to make them aware of underage drinking events that may take place during the prom and graduation season.
- A media campaign will be conducted throughout the month, including information about the dangers of underage drinking during prom and graduation, as well as the community's responsibilities to help prevent underage drinking.
- The Substance Abuse Council will present a display throughout the community to inform parents and youth about underage drinking.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Springfield hereby proclaims that April, 2006 is Alcohol Awareness Month in Calhoun County. We also call upon all citizens, parents, youth, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and workplaces, hospitals, and schools in Calhoun County to support efforts that will reduce and prevent underage drinking in our community.

7. Bills in Line for Payment

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.

VIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Hinton congratulated Public Safety Director Coles and Sergeant Furgason for marking their 17th anniversary with the City of Springfield's Public Safety Department. Council Member Hinton stated she enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and City Clerk Vogel and Deputy City Clerk Carnell did a wonderful job putting it together.

City Manager Jenkins reminded the Council of the Special City Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 5:30 p.m. to authorize the sale of bonds.

Mayor Anderson thanked City Manager Jenkins for coming back from vacation early to help answer questions that came up at tonight's meeting.

City Clerk Vogel thanked Council Members Hinton, Agne, Mayor Anderson and her husband Ted for helping with the Easter Egg Hunt. She also thanked Deputy City Clerk Carnell who gave nearly the entire day assisting with the event. She stated it was a beautiful day and there were approximately 500 children who participated. City Clerk Vogel also reminded the community of the upcoming election on May 2, 2006, and encouraged them to vote.

IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Lester Richardson, 68 Hickory Nut Lane, asked why a trailer was put on what was at one time considered an unbuildable lot? Mr. Richardson expressed his concern with the grade change and water run off. Mr. Richardson expressed concern that this is a used trailer and may not be up to code. He stated that in a conversation with City Assessor Childers he learned this is a HUD home and is concerned that it may not be built to withstand the weight of an attached garage. He added that it is his opinion that the home is sitting there illegally and there are no permits posted. He stated the neighbors were not contacted or informed that this building was going to be placed on the lot. Mr. Richardson asked that the construction stop until all questions can be answered and proper inspections be done.

City Manager Jenkins stated the zoning has always been residential in this area and no zoning changes occurred. He also stated that as far as the lots being unbuildable, it may have been someone's opinion as to why they didn't want to buy the lots and that it would be difficult to build. City Manager Jenkins stated setback requirements will be met so the home will not be any closer to the road than any other house in the neighborhood. City Manager Jenkins stated that it is not a new home and offered to show the artist rendition of the outcome of the construction. He stated the home will meet code for electrical, plumbing, and building. He stated the City Building Inspector has seen the drawings and has approved the plans. City Manager Jenkins stated he agrees with the residents that the way the structure is sitting at the present time it is an eye sore; however a garage will be added and it will have a walkout basement. In addition, the structure is not sitting there illegally as the person who owns the property has every intention of putting it on a foundation. He stated that the owner will be meeting with the excavators next week. City Manager Jenkins stated that once the foundation is poured and cures the house will be set and the remainder of the construction can be completed. He also stated that it is not a requirement to contact property owners when a new home is constructed in a residential area. He stated he spoke with the owners and there will be corrugated tubing bringing the water to the front of the property.

Mr. Terry Woodin, 90 Hickory Nut Lane, stated he received copies of HUD requirements for manufactured homes. He noted that HUD homes have to be designed to hold the weight of an attached garage. He stated they do not know if this home is designed for this weight and feels a study should be done to ensure that it can hold the weight. He stated he is also concerned with the property valuation of the neighborhood because he plans to refinance his home and his financial institution indicated a double wide trailer in the neighborhood could cause his property value to drop.

Mr. Tom Riley, 34 Royal Road, asked what the covenants for the area indicate the minimum square footage can be for a home? Mayor Anderson state for that neighborhood it is 1,000 square feet. Mr. Riley asked if the home would be taxed the same as the stick built homes in the area? City Assessor Childers stated that if two homes had the same taxable value their taxes would be the same and they would use the same rate on the value of the home.

Mr. Richardson asked what timeframe the builder has to complete this project? City Assessor Childers stated the builder is meeting with the excavator next week. A building permit is good for 180 days in between inspections. The builder anticipates having the house complete within four weeks after the basement has cured.

Mr. James Carey, 4 Castle Drive, asked what the home would be valued? City Assessor Childers indicated the home has not been assessed at this time, but an estimate could be prepared if needed.

Council Member Whitfield indicated that if the laws of the City of Springfield allow for this home to be placed on this piece of property he doesn't have a problem with it, but stated it should be thoroughly investigated prior to it's placement. City Assessor Childers stated the property owner meets all local ordinances, setbacks, and covenants.

Council Member Good asked if the home has been inspected by a City Inspector? City Assessor Childers indicated the City Inspector has been to the site, but has not been inside the home. The Building Inspector has reviewed the plans and approved them.

Ms. Linda Whitfield, 36 Hickory Nut Lane, expressed a concern with the safety of the home/site while under construction. City Manager Jenkins indicated the home has been sitting there for a month and to this point there have not been any problems.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Kris Vogel, CMC
City Clerk

Susan L. Anderson, Mayor