



CITY COUNCIL

City Clerk's Office 12/11/2024

Regular Meeting Agenda~

I hereby notify you that the following items of business have been filed with this office and can be acted upon at the meeting of the City Council **Monday December 16, 2024** at 07:00 PM.

City Clerk

Call to Order

7:00 PM Meeting called to order on December 16, 2024 at Hybrid Council Chamber, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Ordinances

- (1.) ORD-2024-1 - Amendment to Article V of Chapter 385 of the Ordinances of the City of Springfield
- (2.) (ID # 8382) - Amending Chapter 73 Article II a of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Springfield, as Amended, by Deleting Article II § 73-8(A) and Inserting a New Article II § 73-8(A)

End of Year Business

Informal Caucus to Elect President and Vice-President of the City Council for the 2025 Legislative Session



City Council
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Meeting: 12/16/24 07:00 PM
Department: City Council
Category: Local Law
Prepared By: Gladys Oyola-Lopez
Initiator: Gladys Oyola-Lopez
Sponsors: Davila, Santaniello, Walsh
DOC ID: 8131

TABLED

ORDINANCE 2024-1

Amendment to Article V of Chapter 385 of the Ordinances of the City of Springfield

CHAPTER 385, Vehicles and Traffic:

BY ADDING A NEW SECTION AFTER SECTION 385-17 AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 385-17A- Veteran Use of Municipal Parking Meters.

Any veteran who holds a Veteran License Plate, as defined bellow, shall be able to utilize all municipal parking meters in the City provided for in chapter 385 without a fee to utilize said meter. A Veterans License Plate shall be defined as a license plate that is issued to a veteran, as defined by Massachusetts General Law chapter 4, Section 7, clause 43, by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles that includes the wording "Veteran" on said plate. The veteran must be driving a vehicle with the Veterans License plate on the vehicle to be able to utilize the municipal parking meters referenced above without a permit of fee. This ordinance shall not extend to any veteran that is utilizing a vehicle without a Veterans License plate. This ordinance shall not be interpreted to include a veteran's usage of a handicapped parking spot without the required placard.

HISTORY:

07/08/24 City Council FIRST STEP

COUNCILOR DAVILA GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE AMENDMENT.

HE NOTED THAT THIS AMENDMENT IS BORROWED FROM EXISTING ORDINANCES IN HOLYOKE AND CHICOPEE.

COUNCILOR DAVILA REQUESTED THAT THE CLERK READ THE AMENDMENT LANGUAGE INTO THE RECORD. HE NOTED THAT HIS INTENTION IS TO PASS FIRST STEPS TODAY AND TO MEET IN COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FURTHER BEFORE 2/3 STEPS.

COUNCILOR GOVAN ASKED IF THERE WAS AN ADDITIONAL COST ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING A VETERANS PLATE.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SHARED THE MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY.

SHE THANKED THE COUNCILORS WHO ARE SPONSORING THE AMENDMENT.

COUNCILOR CLICK-BRUCE NOTED HIS SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT.

09/16/24 City Council REFERRED TO COMMITTEE
Next: 12/16/24

COUNCILOR DAVILA MADE A MOTION TO SEND TO COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR EDWARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ALL COUNCILORS VOTED IN FAVOR.



City Council
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Meeting: 12/16/24 07:00 PM
Department: Law
Category: Local Law
Prepared By: Thomas Moore
Initiator: Thomas Moore
Sponsors: Ward 6 Councilor Davila, President Fenton
DOC ID: 8382

SCHEDULED

ORDINANCE (ID # 8382)

Amending Chapter 73 Article II a of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Springfield, as Amended, by Deleting Article II § 73-8(A) and Inserting a New Article II § 73-8(A)

AMENDING CHAPTER 73 ARTICLE II A OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, AS AMENDED, BY DELETING ARTICLE II § 73-8(A) AND INSERTING A NEW ARTICLE II § 73-8(A)

1. CHAPTER 73 ARTICLE II § 73-8(A) of the revised Ordinances of the City of Springfield, as amended, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with a new ARTICLE II § 73-8(A), hereto as follows:

“§73-8 Condition of Employment.

(A) Except as provided for in this article, every person first employed by the City of Springfield on or after March 17, 1995, shall, within 24 months of the start of employment, be a resident of the City of Springfield and shall not cease to be a resident during his/her employment by the City.”

2. The amendment listed above shall be made effective for employees hired by the City of Springfield on or after September 1, 2023, and shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Approved as to form,

Associate City Solicitor

HISTORY:

12/09/24 City Council

COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE AND GAVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE AMENDMENT. THIS IS SPONSORED BY BOTH COUNCILOR FENTON AND DAVILA. THIS WOULD GIVE NEW HIRES COMING TO WORK FOR THE CITY 2 YEARS TO RELOCATE TO SPRINGFIELD. RIGHT NOW IT IS 1 YEAR, AND IT WOULD GO RETROACTIVE TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.

COUNCILOR PEREZ ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE AMENDMENT. SHE NOTED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECAUSE THIS HAS BEEN AN ONGOING ISSUE IN SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS IN THE CITY.

ATTORNEY KEN SHEA NOTED THAT THIS AMENDMENT WOULD GO TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE IF IT PASSES FIRST STEPS.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE PERSON REACHES THE 24 MONTH EXPIRATION DATE. CITY SOLICITOR BUONICONTI GAVE AN EXPLANATION AND STATED IT WOULD BE A TERMINATION.

COUNCILOR DELGADO IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE 9/1/23 DATE. SOLICITOR BUONICONTI STATED THERE ARE ECONOMIC ISSUES AND THE CITY IS HAVING PROBLEMS ATTRACTING QUALIFIED PEOPLE TO WORK FOR THE CITY, AND FURTHER MOVE INTO IT. THERE ARE SEVERAL EMPLOYEES ARE COMING TO THEIR 1 YEAR EXPIRATION DATE, AND THEY ARE CONSIDERED "VALUABLE." COUNCILOR DELGADO WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION AND DOES NOT LIKE BEING PRESSURED TO TAKE A VOTE.

COUNCILOR ALLEN INCLINED TO MAKE A MOTION TO PUT INTO COMMITTEE. HE ALSO STATED THE EXPERT ON THIS TOPIC IS COUNCILOR FENTON, WHO IS ABSENT THIS EVENING. HE ASKED THE SOLICITOR IF THIS IS A TIME SENSITIVE MATTER, AND THE SOLICITOR CONFIRMED THAT IT IS. COUNCILOR ALLEN MADE A MOTION FOR COMMITTEE AND IT WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR WHITFIELD.

COUNCILOR DAVILA WANTED TO REMIND THE COUNCIL THAT IF THIS PASSES FIRST STEPS, IT WILL GO TO COMMITTEE ANYWAY.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ALSO STATED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION. SHE REFERENCED WHEN SHE WORKED FOR CITY HALL, THERE WERE EMPLOYEES THAT WENT FURTHER THAN THE 1 YEAR DATE AND WERE NEVER TERMINATED. SHE BELIEVES THAT THIS RULE HAS NEVER BEEN ENFORCED. SHE ALSO STATED THAT THE ECONOMY WILL COME BACK AND WOULD RATHER SEE TRAINING AND AGREES WITH SENDING IT TO COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR GOVAN STATED THAT SHE AGREES WITH PASSING FIRST STEPS THIS EVENINGS DUE TO THE URGENCY WITH THE EMPLOYEES THAT WILL ARE COMING UP TO THEIR 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY DATE. REFERENCED THAT NEPOTISM EXISTED IN THE CITY BEFORE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS WERE PUT INTO PLACE. STATED THAT EMPLOYEES ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY FINDING HOUSING IN SPRINGFIELD AND REFERENCED THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT. WOULD LIKE TO URGE COLLEAGUES TO PASS FIRST STEPS. COUNCILOR GOVAN ALSO WOULD LIKE HUMAN RESOURCES SHOULD EXPAND ON WHERE THEY POST CITY JOBS.

COUNCILOR PEREZ WANTS TO GO ABOUT RESIDENCY THE RIGHT WAY. SHE STATED THAT THE COST OF LIVING AND THE HOUSING MARKET WILL NOT CHANGE MUCH IN 24 MONTHS, AS OPPOSED TO 12.

COUNCILOR ALLEN WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW HIS MOTION. DOES NOT WANT TO LOSE VALUABLE EMPLOYEES.

COUNCILOR DAVILA WANTED TO REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ITEM. WANTS TO KEEP THE TALENT THAT WE HAVE. HE IS WILLING TO HOLD THE COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF FIRST STEPS ARE NOT PASSED TODAY, THIS WILL "DIE."

COUNCILOR BROWN FEELS THAT THIS IS NEEDED FOR THE CITY. HE BROUGHT UP THE STRICT EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN JOBS, AND THE CITY IS MISSING OUT ON EXPERIENCE CANDIDATES.

COUNCILOR WALSH ASKED THE SOLICITOR IF ANYBODY WOULD BE TERMINATED BY THE END OF THE YEAR? HE STATED IF THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT IS ENFORCED, THEN THE RESIDENCY COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THAT RECOMMENDATION.

COUNCILOR CURRAN THINKS THAT RESIDENCY SHOULD STAY AT ONE YEAR, THAT IT IS AMPLE TIME TO FIND HOUSING. WANTED TO KNOW HOW MANY EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN TERMINATED DUE TO RESIDENCY? THE SOLICITOR STATED THAT HE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY TERMINATIONS. FURTHER STATED THE RESIDENCY COMMISSION SENDS OUT COMMUNICATION 90 DAYS BEFORE THE ONE YEAR MARK.

COUNCILOR DELGADO DOES NOT LIKE THAT THIS IS BEING PUT ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. THIS MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN UP FOR DISCUSSION MONTHS AGO. WANTS TO PUSH SKILLS BASED HIRING. LOOK AT WAIVERS INSTEAD OF TERMINATION.

COUNCILOR SANTANEILLO QUESTIONED IF CURRENT NON RESIDENT EMPLOYEES WOULD GET ADDITIONAL 2 YEARS. THE SOLICITOR STATED THAT THE EMPLOYEE WOULD GET 2 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF HIRE.

COUNCILOR PEREZ THINKS IF THE ORDINANCE IS BUMPED BACK TO 2023, THEN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SPOKEN ABOUT SOONER. DOES NOT WANT TO COME OFF AS UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE EMPLOYEES, BUT AGREES WITH COUNCILOR DELGADO, DOES NOT LIKE BEING UNDER PRESSURE.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD AGREES WITH COUNCILOR DELAGAO AS WELL. BELIEVES THERE IS MORE THAN ONE EMPLOYEE THAT DOES NOT MEET THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT. THIS FEELS TOO RUSHED, AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THIS WEEK, HER SCHEDULE IS BOOKED. DOES SYMPATHIZE WITH THE EMPLOYEE, BUT CANNOT VOTE TO PASS IT FOR FIRST STEP.

COUNCILOR GOVAN CALLED THE QUESTION.

COUNCILOR DAVILA STATED THAT HE WILL HAVE A COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE DECEMBER 16TH. IF WE DO NOT PASS THIS, WE WILL LOSE TIME, TRAINING AND MONEY. THE HOUSING MARKET IS TOUGH. IT TOOK HIM OVER A YEAR TO BUY A HOUSE THE RIGHT WAY. HE REITERATED THAT HE IS NOT BEING SNEAKY OR PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE CITY COUNCIL TO TAKE AND PASS THE VOTE "QUICKLY."

10:00PM END POINT TO MEETING AND COUNCILOR BROWN OBJECTED TO CONTINUE THE MEETING.