



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Final ~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Monday, December 16, 2024

7:00 PM

Hybrid Council Chamber

Call to Order

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor	Present	
Lavar Click-Bruce	Ward 5 City Councilor	Remote	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Remote	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Remote	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor	Present	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Tracye Whitfield	At Large City Councilor	Present	
Maria Perez	Ward 1 City Councilor	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	President	Present	

Ordinances

(1.) ORD-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 SECTIJON 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.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Victor Davila, Ward 6 Councilor
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

Motion to Amend the Ordinance

COUNCILOR DAVILA MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE.

ALL COUNCILORS VOTED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE

(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)

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

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilor Davila noted that it was his intention to have the amendment pass first, second and final steps.

However, given the concerns of other councilors, he will not ask for the vote to be taken in one sitting.

Councilor Whitfield clarified that regardless of Attorney Shea's opinion

Motion to Amend the Ordinance

Councilor Delgado made a motion to amend the ordinance to include a sunset clause.

Councilor Santaniello seconded the motion.

Councilor Perez spoke on the motion and noted that she asked for the ordinance to be sent to committee at the last meeting.

Councilor asked what Councilor Perez's concern relates to the motion to amend the ordinance.

Councilor Walsh asked if this was sent to committee would it put a halt on the termination of the employee in question.

Attorney Shea gave a brief legal opinion regarding.

Councilor Davila asked for the ordinance to be passed in one sitting today or at least pass first steps today and then send to committee. He asked for Solicitor Buoniconti to speak on the Hodge decision.

Councilor Perez asked for clarification on the amendment and first steps.

Councilor Curran asked if any employees are engaged in litigation. If the Council makes this change would this open the city up to litigation?

Attorney Shea's opinion is that it would not open the council up to litigation as their termination happened in the past.

Councilor Whitfield noted that the ordinance is being backdated then it brings up an interest argument. She noted that she would not be voting for the ordinance to pass first steps.

Councilor Perez noted that she has been researching the residency process since the last meeting and is trying to protect the body so it doesn't come back as a legal matter.

Councilor Brown noted that he believes the council should do this but that it should go to committee to iron out details before the council takes a vote on it.

Councilor Govan is in agreement with adding the sunset clause on the amendment to the ordinance. She stated that she has attended committee meetings.

End of Year Business

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