



City Council

Special Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Monday, February 26, 2024

5:00 PM

Hybrid Council Chamber

Call to Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on February 26, 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	Present	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Present	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Present	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Remote	
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor	Remote	
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	

Orders

1. Order 2024-2

An Order Amending Code Chapter 27 Article IV § 27-26

HISTORY:

02/20/24

City Council

FIRST READING

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

MAYOR DOMENIC SARNO SPOKE ON THE ITEM - PROVIDED HISTORICAL OVERVIEW ON THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS, COMMUNITY POLICE HEARING BOARD, PROMOTIONS AND HIRING IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

DEPUTY CHIEF AKERS SPOKE REGARDING THE ORDER AND HIS APPOINTMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT.

COUNCILOR CLICK BRUCE SPOKE REGARDING THE PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMITTEE MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE TODAY (FEBRUARY 26, 2024) AT 4:00PM. HE NOTED THE ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILORS THAT ATTENDED THE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING.

HE NOTED

COUNCILOR CLICK-BRUCE READ ALOUD AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDER.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILOR CLICK-BRUCE, IT WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BROWN.

COUNCILOR BROWN SPOKE ON THE AMENDED ORDER. HE SUPPORTED THE AMENDED ORDER.

COUNCILOR GOVAN SPOKE ON THE ITEM AND NOTED THAT SHE RECOMMENDS NOT PASSING SECOND STEPS ON THIS ORDER.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SPOKE ON THE ORDER. SHE SUGGESTED AN ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT THAT THE MOU SIGNED BY THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS BE NULL AND VOID.

COUNCILOR PEREZ SPOKE ON THE ORDER

COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE ON THE ORDER

CITY COUNCILOR ALLEN CALLED THE QUESTION, IT WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR WALSH. THE MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION PASSED.

COUNCILOR DELGADO SPOKE ON THE ORDER AN WHY HE CHOSE TO VOTE NO ON THE AMENDMENT.

CITY COUNCILOR GOVAN MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE TO STRIKE REFERENCES TO SUPERINTENDENT AND CHANGE TO POLICE CHIEF SECONDED BY COUNCILOR WHITFIELD

COUNCILOR ALLEN ASKED FOR JUDGE PAYNE TO EXPLAIN THAT IF THE NAME CHANGE PASSES TONIGHT WOULD REVERT BACK AFTER LAWRENCE AKERS RETIRES.

JUDGE PAYNE SPOKE ON THE DOJ SETTLEMENT AND HOW CHANGES THE COUNCIL MAKES COULD AFFECT THE CONSENT DECREE THAT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE ON THE NAME CHANGE AND ASKED JUDGE PAYNE ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING THE DOJ CONSENT DECREE ON THE TITLE.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD NOTED HER SUPPORT FOR THE TITLE CHANGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT TO POLICE CHIEF.

COUNCILOR PEREZ ASKED IF THE COUNCIL IS EMPOWERED TO CHANGE THE TITLE AND IF SO WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE TITLE CHANGE ARE.

JUDGE PAYNE NOTED THAT IT WILL AFFECT THE SELECTION PROCESS POSSIBLY TRIGGERING A CIVIL SERVICE REQUIREMENT.

COUNCILOR DELGADO ASKED HOW THE CITY WAS ABLE TO CHANGE THE TITLE FROM POLICE CHIEF TO POLICE COMMISSIONER IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE MAYOR NOTED THAT IT HAPPENED DURING THE CONTROL BOARD.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO ASKED THE JUDGE THAT IF THE COUNCIL CHANGED THE TITLE TO POLICE CHIEF WOULD IT JEOPARDIZE LAWRENCE AKERS APPOINTMENT.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD WITHDREW HER SECOND TO AMENDMENT. THE MOTION FAILED.

COUNCILOR WALSH OPINED THAT HIRING AND PROMOTION SUPERINTENDENT

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD MADE AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:

The board of police commissioners shall not forfeit the authority to hire, discipline and promote, to the police superintendent (or chief) or any other individual by memorandum of understanding (MOU) or any other means, unless approved by majority vote of the city council.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GOVAN.

***** ADD MINUTES AT THE ONE HOUR AND 35 MINUTE
MARK*****

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD WITHDREW THE MOTION.

COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE ON THE ORDER

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [11 TO 2]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
NAYS:	Jose Delgado, Victor Davila

Call the Question

COUNCILOR ALLEN MADE THE MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION. COUNCILOR WALSH 2ND THE MOTION

WALSH - YES

ALLEN - YES

DELGADO - NO

CLICK-BRUCE - YES

GOVAN - NO

BROWN - YES

DAVILA - NO

CURRAN - YES

SANTANIELLO - YES

EDWARDS - YES

WHITFIELD - NO

FENTON - YES

Amendment to Order Chapter 27

COUNCILOR LAVAR CLICK BRUCE MADE A MOTION TO
INTRODUCE THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT.
COUNCILOR BROWN 2ND THE MOTION.

WALSH - YES

ALLEN - YES

DELGADO - NO

CLICK BRUCE - YES

GOVAN - NO

BROWN - YES

DAVILA - NO

CURRAN - YES

SANTANIELLO - YES

EDWARDS - YES

WHITFIELD - YES

PEREZ - YES

FENTON - YES

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Lawrence E. Aker's service to the City of Springfield as the Police Superintendent, this provision shall revert to the provision in effect immediately prior to this amendment.

Motion Superintendent to Police Chief

COUNCILOR GOVAN MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF POLICE SUPERINTENDENT TO POLICE CHIEF. COUNCILOR 2ND THE MOTION, BUT FURTHER WITHDREW. MOTION FAILED.

Motion to Amend the Order

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD MADE A MOTION AND WA 2ND BY COUNCILOR GOVAN AND THEN WITHDRAWN.

Motion to send to Committe

COUNCILOR DAVILA MADE A MOTION TO SEND THIS ITEM BACK TO COMMITTEE. THERE WAS NOT A END. MOTION FAILED.

2. Order 2024-3

An Order Amending Code Chapter 16, Section 16-66, Article XIX

HISTORY:

02/20/24 City Council CONTINUE VOTE

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

WALSH - YES

ALLEN - YES

DELGADO - NO

CLICK BRUCE - YES

GOVAN - YES

BROWN - YES

DAVILA - NO

CURRAN - YES

SANTANIELLO - YES

EDWARDS - YES

WHITFIELD - YES

PEREZ - YES

FENTON - YES

RESULT: FIRST READING***Amendment to Chapter 16***

COUNCILOR CLICK-BRUCE MADE A MOTION, COUNCILOR BROWN 2ND, TO AMEND THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Lawrence E. Aker's service to the City of Springfield as the Police Superintendent, this provision shall revert to the provision in effect immediately prior to this amendment.

WALSH - YES

ALLEN - YES

DELGADO - NO

CLICK BRUCE - YES

GOVAN - YES

BROWN - YES

DAVILA - NO

CURRAN - YES

SANTANIELLO - YES

EDWARDS - YES

WHITFIELD - YES

PEREZ - YES

FENTON - YES

Amendment to Chapter 16

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD MADE A MOTION AND COUNCILOR GOVAN 2ND TO AMEND TO THE ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:

The board of police commissioners shall not forfeit the authority to hire, discipline and promote, to the police superintendent (or chief) or any other individual by memorandum of understanding (MOU) or any other means, unless approved by majority vote of the city council.

WALSH - NO

ALLEN - NO

DELGADO - YES

CLICK BRUCE - YES

GOVAN - YES

BROWN - YES

DAVILA - YES

CURRAN - NO

SANTANIELLO - NO

EDWARDS - YES

WHITFIELD - YES

PEREZ - YES

FENTON - NO