



City of Springfield

Special Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

Linda Fitzpatrick
413-787-6559

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

5:00 PM

Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on December 4, 2013 at Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bud L. Williams	Vice President At-Large Councilor	Absent	
E. Henry Twiggs	Ward 4 Councilor	Absent	
Timothy J. Rooke	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Zaida Luna	Ward 1 Councilor	Present	
Kenneth E. Shea	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Present	
John A. Lysak	Ward 8 Councilor	Present	
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Absent	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Absent	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Thomas M. Ashe	At-Large Councilor	Present	5:25 PM
Clodo Concepcion	Ward 5 Councilor	Present	
James J. Ferrera III	President At-Large Councilor	Present	

II. Orders

1. Order (ID # 2435)

Public Hearing - FY 2014 Residential Tax Factor

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Read and an explanation was given by Richard Allen, Chair of the Board of Assessors that valuation is based on physical status of property is \$6,918,393,170 vs \$6,696,353,300 for FY13. The Tax level is \$5 million more than FY13 and the total level for FY13 was \$167,408,833.00 million vs \$172,956,973 for FY14 and the Mayor is recommending an effective tax rate for residential properties for fiscal year 2014 of \$19.71 per \$1,000 valuation, which is the same as the prior year and the commercial-industrial-personal property tax rate of \$39.04 per valuation for FY14 vs 38.98 per \$1,000 valuation for fiscal 2013. Chair Allen said that after repeated declines in the City's total property valuation in recent years, the values rose from about \$6.7 billion in fiscal year 2013 to \$6.9 billion in fiscal 2014. The average single-family home rose in value from \$127,200 in FY13 to \$131,800 in FY14. Last December, when new tax rates were set for fiscal 2013, the average annual bill for a single-family home decreased by about \$146. Chair Allen said that the out of 2,200 commercial properties in the City 1,995 will see some increase and of those 1,649

would face an increase of \$50 or less. The average single-family tax bill will rise from \$2,507 in FY13 to \$2,598 in FY14 with 71% of the homeowners will have an increase and more than 50% of those homeowners seeing an increase of \$150 or less and 29% having no increase at all.

Douglas Barnshaw, a homeowner on Longhill Street spoke stating that his home is valued at more than he can sell it for but he understands that the City needs tax revenue to the city, schools and other service but he looking for what is justice for his property.

Jeffrey S. Cuiffreda, Executive Director of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, said he represents 515 businesses and was recommending a lower business rate of \$38.93 for FY14 vs \$38.82 for FY 13 and consequently a 4 cent increase in residential higher residential rate of \$19.71 for FY13 to \$19.75 for FY14, aimed at slightly narrowing the gap between the two classifications as the narrowing would promote business retention and growth, along with jobs. Mr. Cuiffreda said that narrowing the gap is important and commended the Council on providing incentive to businesses to move into the City and that economic development is the only way to raise property values.

There being no further testimony the public hearing was closed at 5:35 PM.

RESULT:	RECEIVE REPORT
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City of Springfield

ADOPTED

2.1

Meeting: 12/04/13 05:00 PM
Initiator: Wayman Lee
Sponsors: James J. Ferrera III
DOC ID: 2435

Public Hearing - FY 2014 Residential Tax Factor (President At-Large Councilor Ferrera III)

RESULT: RECEIVE REPORT