



City of Springfield

Special Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

Linda Fitzpatrick
413-787-6559

Monday, December 8, 2014

6:00 PM

Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

6:00 PM Meeting called to order on December 8, 2014 at Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

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

Moment of Silence - Pledge of Allegiance

II. General Business

1. Order (ID # 2869)

Overlay Surplus

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Read the first time and Rule 19 suspended and an explanation was given by Richard Allen, Chair of the Board of Assessors and T J Plante, CAFO spoke and Mr. Allen said that setting the rates will be contingent on Mass Department of Revenue (DOR) certifying the City's projections and figures and the Board of Assessors had been supplying DOR with documents and data for them to certify the City values before the scheduled meeting on Thursday. Mr. Allen also said that the Board has been meeting all week to declare a surplus based on a request from DOR that the Overlay Account needed at least \$4 to \$4.5 million and the \$2.7 million transfer would comply with DOR request. Mr. Allen said the surplus is from many years dating as far back as 1994 and was deemed to be no longer needed to meet City obligations for assessment matters such as property value challenges dating back to those years. Councilor Rooke said it appeared the City over-inflated its projected tax revenues at the start of the fiscal year, leading to the transfer request. Mr.

Plante said the City does its best to predict its revenues, but real estate values has been flat starting about April and if the values had continued to rise there would be no need for the transfer and that the City make a best faith effort to predict how much revenue will be raised from real estate tax in June of each year when the budget is set but don't have a crystal ball as to an exact amount that will be collected. Councilors Williams, Allen, Walsh and Concepcion expressed concerns about loss of value, late DOR approval and how the money from MGM was used. Councilor Fenton left the Chair and Councilor Walsh moved to the Chair and Councilor Fenton said it seemed dangerous to use the overlay account as a piggy bank when it convenient and questioned how a surplus of \$2.7 million was being declared just in time for the tax rates and read a second time and passed by the following roll call vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Certification - Overlay Surplus (PDF)
- Special Notice by Mail-12-8-14 (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [9 TO 3]
MOVER:	E. Henry Twiggs, Ward 4 Councilor
SECONDER:	Kateri B. Walsh, Vice President - At-Large Councilor
AYES:	Allen, Twiggs, Shea, Walsh, Edwards, Williams, Ramos, Concepcion, Ashe
NAYS:	Zaida Luna, Timothy J. Rooke, Michael A. Fenton
ABSENT:	Justin Hurst



City of Springfield

ADOPTED

Meeting: 12/08/14 06:00 PM
Initiator: Lindsay B. Hackett
Sponsors: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
DOC ID: 2869 A

2.1

Overlay Surplus (Mayor Sarno)

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 59 Section 23, Chapter 40 Section 5B and Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008, the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer and his Honor the Mayor have requested authorization from the City Council to transfer the sum of \$2,700,000 from the Board of Assessors Certified Overlay Surplus to FY15 Overlay in accordance with the City of Springfield Financial Policies to meet the budgetary needs for the 2015 fiscal year.

WHEREAS, after reviewing this order, the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer has certified to the Mayor and City Council, that in his professional opinion, after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, the City's financial resources and revenues are and will continue to be adequate to support the proposed expenditures and obligations involved in the transfer, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services, in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council approves the transfer of the sum of \$2,700,000 from the Board of Assessors Certified Overlay Surplus to the FY15 Overlay account in accordance with the City of Springfield Financial Policies to meet the budgetary needs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014.

From: FB Reserve For Overlay Expenditures

0100-00-000-0000-0000-000000-0000000-322100 \$2,700,000

To: FY15 Overlay

RESULT:	ADOPTED [9 TO 3]
MOVER:	E. Henry Twiggs, Ward 4 Councilor
SECONDER:	Kateri B. Walsh, Vice President - At-Large Councilor
AYES:	Allen, Twiggs, Shea, Walsh, Edwards, Williams, Ramos, Concepcion, Ashe
NAYS:	Zaida Luna, Timothy J. Rooke, Michael A. Fenton
ABSENT:	Justin Hurst

City of Springfield
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103



Division of Administration
and Finance

To: Springfield City Council
From: TJ Plante, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer
Date: 12/8/14
Re: Order for Council Meeting – 12/8/14
Cc: Mayor Sarno

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide an explanation of the order sponsored by the Mayor for the December 8, 2014 Council meeting, which authorizes the City to transfer \$2.7M from the Board of Assessors Certified Overlay Surplus to the FY15 Overlay account.

Background: During the FY15 budget process, the tax levy was budgeted at \$177.3M with an overlay budgeted at \$3M, totaling a net levy of \$174.3M. Since the budget was adopted in June, values have stagnated, and currently stand at \$176.1M, leaving only \$1.8M for overlay/abatelements. Considering our outstanding abatement cases, DOR would not approve setting a tax rate with less than \$4M in overlay. As a result, the Board of Assessors voted to move \$2.7M in surplus overlay from previous years into the FY15 overlay account, totaling \$4.5M. This insures that the budget is completely balanced and the Board has the necessary funds for abatements.

CAFO Certification: This memorandum will confirm that in my professional opinion, as the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, that the City's financial resources and revenues are and will continue to be adequate to support the proposed expenditures and obligations involved in this City Council Order, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services, in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

This certification is made in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

Attachment: CAFO Certification - Overlay Surplus (2869 : Overlay Surplus)



City of Springfield

Special Meeting

~ Agenda ~

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

Linda Fitzpatrick
413-787-6559

Monday, October 27, 2014

6:30 PM

Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers

December 3, 2014

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have this date notified the members of the City Council of the City of Springfield of a **SPECIAL MEETING** to be held on **Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.** in the City Council Chambers by First Class Mail of said notice to the last and usual place of abode to: COUNCILORS Timothy C. Allen, Thomas M. Ashe, Clodo Concepcion, Melvin A. Edwards, Michael A. Fenton, Justin Hurst, Zaida Luna, Orlando Ramos, Timothy J. Rooke, Kenneth E. Shea, E. Henry Twiggs, Kateri B. Walsh, Bud L. Williams, a notice of said meeting duly signed by the Council President and I further certify that I have duly notified said City Councilors in the manner aforesaid in accordance with the law.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 3rd day of December, 2014.

Wayman Lee, Esq., City Clerk

Attachment: Special Notice by Mail-12-8-14 (2869 : Overlay Surplus)