City Council

General Government Sub-Committee

~ Agenda ~

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

Tasheena Davis
4137876589

Thursday, November 14, 2019 | **4:30 PM** | **City Hall -- Room 200**

I. Call to Order

4:30 PM Meeting called to order on November 14, 2019 at City Hall -- Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

II. Public Portion

III. Orders

1. Order (ID # 5369)

Order Authorizing Mayor to Execute Quitclaim Deed for Sale of NS Cardinal Street, Lot 261 (02350-0014) & NS Cardinal Street, Lot 260 (02350-0015) to Russ Tetreault Realty, LLC

HISTORY:

10/21/19 **City Council** **REFERRED TO COMMITEE**
Next: 11/18/19

Julie Sandoval-Ramos spoke about the order. She explained the sale is for an abutter lot in Indian Orchard that will be used for off street parking and will include a green area.

Councilor Ramos explained he has concerns because he has received complaints from the neighbors of this parcel and does not want this lot to become a junk yard.

Councilor Ramos made a motion to send the item to committee, seconded by Councilor Shea. All being in favor, the item was sent to committee.

2. Order (ID # 5396)

Local Acceptance of G.L.C. 33 Section 59 Benefits for Military Leave

HISTORY:

10/21/19 **City Council** **REFERRED TO COMMITEE**
Next: 11/18/19

Councilor Whitfield requested this item be taken out of order. With no objection, it was taken first on the agenda.

Councilor Walsh explained she is the lead sponsor on this order. She stated the acceptance of the statute would allow deployed military service men and women stability and security for themselves and their families. She introduced Juan Barrera of the local Firefighters Union #648.

Juan Barrera of the local 648 spoke in favor of the order. He explained the Brave Act was amended at the push of Governor Baker. He explained it was to assist veterans and military

personnel and their families by increasing the number of days from 17 to 40 for paid leave. He explained that the 40 days covers one weekend a month plus two weeks a year of training that is required of military members. He stated those performing military duties would not lose employment benefits and as it stands now, those in Springfield must take unpaid days from their civilian jobs to serve. Holyoke, Ludlow and Chicopee have already accepted the statute.

Councilor Fenton asked what the financial implications to the City would be by accepting this statute. He asked what would this cost be and can the City afford it.

Mr. Barrera explained that some of the money can be reimbursed by the state and smaller cities with less resources than Springfield have accepted the statute.

TJ Plante, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, explained the Finance Department is currently working on an analysis to show what the costs would be. He explained there are at lease 60 Springfield Police Officers and 30 Firefighters that would fall under the statute. He would like the Springfield Fire and Police Commissioners to have input also. He stated the Commissioners have to backfill when an employee is out.

Councilor Gomez asked how long it would take to get the analysis.

Mr. Plante explained a week or two as he wanted the Fire and Police Departments involved also.

Councilor Gomez stated he fully supports our military but wants to ensure the City can afford this. He stated that we also need to know how many military service men and women this will impact outside of SPD and SFD.

Mr. Barrera stated that with SFD, there is no gap in overtime.

Councilor Shea explained he fully supports this as he is a veteran, however the Council has an obligation to figure out what this will cost the City. With such a large increase in expenditures, the City has to know where that money will come from. The Departments also need to have enough man power to cover positions.

Councilor Shea made a motion to send the item to committee, seconded by Councilor Whitfield.

Councilor Walsh expressed discontent that the Council is nickel and diming on such an important issue. She explained that freedom is not free.

Councilor Shea explained that this is an emotional issue but there is an obligation for the Council to have the facts first.

Councilor Whitfield stated it will cost the City over a half million dollars to implement the change and she would like to know if there are other costs associated with the mandate. She explained that sending it to committee doesn't mean the Council doesn't support it, but they are performing due diligence.

Councilor Lederman thanked the sponsors of the order. He explained the military men and women will need to be deployed either way so the City needs to figure out how to pay for this. He'd like an analysis for the next Council meeting and would like to be added as a co-sponsor.

Councilor Ryan made a motion to amend the motion to committee to add that the item come back onto the agenda for November 18th, seconded by Councilor Whitfield.

Councilor Ramos expressed that he is not certain that motion is necessary, but would like assurance from the committee chair that there would be a committee meeting held prior to November 18th.

Councilor Edwards, chair of the General Government committee, stated he would have a subcommittee meeting prior to that date. He explained his grandchildren's grandfather died

in Afghanistan, so this issue is near and dear to him. The General Govt. committee will get this prepared.

The item was sent to the General Government subcommittee by motion of Councilor Shea, seconded by Councilor Whitfield.

City Council

TABLED

Meeting: 11/14/19 04:30 PM
Initiator: Melvyn Altman
Sponsors: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
DOC ID: 5369

Order Authorizing Mayor to Execute Quitclaim Deed for Sale of NS Cardinal Street, Lot 261 (02350-0014) & NS Cardinal Street, Lot 260 (02350-0015) to Russ Tetreault Realty, LLC (Mayor Sarno)

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield acquired title to two (2) vacant lots located in Indian Orchard, Springfield, Massachusetts known as North Side Cardinal Street, Lot 261 (Parcel-ID # 02350-0014) containing about 5,000 square feet and North Side Cardinal Street, Lot 260 (Parcel-ID # 02350-0015) containing about 5,300 square feet (hereinafter the "properties") through tax title foreclosure proceedings in Land Court; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Title Custodian determined that the properties with a combined total area of 10,300 square feet are not needed for general municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Housing solicited requests to abutters to submit applications for the purchase and redevelopment of the properties pursuant to the Abutter Lots Sales Program of the City of Springfield for consideration of $1,030.00 (10 cents per square foot); and;

WHEREAS, the application submitted by Russ Tetreault Realty, LLC, owner of abutting property located at 159 Michon Street and South Side Michon Street, was accepted by the Abutter Lots Sales Program Committee; and

WHEREAS, Russ Tetreault Realty, LLC will pave and use the properties for additional off-street parking and as a landscaped side yard; and

WHEREAS, Russ Tetreault Realty, LLC, will combine the properties with the abutting parcels it owns at 159 Michon Street (Parcel-ID # 08610-0027), South Side Michon Street (Parcel-ID # 08610-0026), and South Side Michon Street (Parcel-ID # 08610-0028) to form one larger parcel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized in the name of and on behalf of the City of Springfield to execute and deliver a quitclaim deed to Russ Tetreault Realty, LLC for the transfer of title to North Side Cardinal Street, Lot 261 (Parcel-ID # 02350-0014) and NS Cardinal St., Lot 260 (Parcel-ID # 02350-0015) for consideration of One Thousand Thirty and 00/100 Dollars ($1,030.00).

City Council

TABLED

Meeting: 11/14/19 04:30 PM
Initiator: Kateri B. Walsh
Sponsors: At-Large Councilor Walsh, Councilor Lederman
DOC ID: 5396 A

Local Acceptance of G.L.C. 33 Section 59 Benefits for Military Leave (At-Large Councilor Walsh, Councilor Lederman)

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
October 21, 2019

WHEREAS, the Springfield City Council would like to join the State of Massachusetts in helping our women and men of the military to continue with benefits while on military leave, and

WHEREAS, we are urging the City of Springfield to adopt the benefits for military leave as provided for through G.L. c. 33, Section 59, a local acceptance statute, and

WHEREAS, the adopted measure would provide financial security for all employees of the City whose public employment is interrupted by being called to active duty in the military, and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Legislature adopted several provisions amending section 59 of chapter 33 of the General Laws. These provisions make it possible for active military members to serve their country without loss of pay and benefits earned from their civilian employers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that the Springfield City Council strongly urges the passage of the Local Acceptance of G.L. c. 33, Section 59 for our dedicated military civilians who also serve our country when they are called to active duty.