



City of Springfield

Special Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

Linda Fitzpatrick
413-787-6559

Monday, November 23, 2015

8:30 PM

Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

8:30 PM Meeting called to order on November 23, 2015 at Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

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

A. Public hearing

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 \$7,044,928,510 vs \$7,276,422,130 for FY16 with a residential value \$5,225,634,600 and \$2,050,787,530 in commercial-industrial-personal property and said the total tax levy for this year is \$181.9 million, an increase of \$5.8 million over last year's levy, which represents a 2.5 percent increase in the tax levy allowed under Proposition 2½ plus new growth.

The Tax level is \$5.8 million more than FY15 and the total level for FY15 was \$176,123,213 vs \$181.910,533 for FY16 and the Mayor is recommending an effective tax rate for residential properties for fiscal year 2016 of \$19.66 per \$1,000 valuation, which is a .01 cent drop from last year and the commercial-industrial-personal property tax rate of \$38.60 per valuation for FY16 vs 38.77 per \$1,000 valuation for fiscal 2015 a drop of 17 cent. Chair Allen said that values were on the rise as the average single-family home value was \$131,500 for FY15 vs \$131,800 in FY16. Chair Allen said however, some commercial properties in the City will see some decrease and some would face an increase.

Jeffrey S. Cuiffreda, Executive Director of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, said he represents 515 businesses in the City and was recommending same values as the Mayor, believed the rates were fair and sensitive to both homeowners and businesses and helps promote jobs and business stability and growth.

Robert Greeley, a Realtor and a member of the tax rate committee, said the 17 cent decrease for businesses goes toward creating a more welcoming environment for business growth which can expand property taxes and help all taxpayers.

Roland Ray, a homeowner said he was concerned that the City was not collecting enough from billboards and antennas and Chair Allen said that the City use the same method as the State for valuing billboards and collects it fair share for antennas.

Donna Moore, a homeowner asked why does the abatement have a cut off date of July1, instead of being pro-rated after the July1 date and Chair Allen said that is State Law and the Assessors can not change that date.

There being no further testimony the public hearing was closed at 8:31 PM.

II. Orders

1. Order (ID # 3272)

Setting Tax Factor for FY 2016

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 \$7,044,928,510 vs \$7,276,422,130 for FY16 with a residential value \$5,225,634,600 and \$2,050,787,530 in commercial-industrial-personal property and said the total tax levy for this year is \$181.9 million, an increase of \$5.8 million over last year's levy, which represents a 2.5 percent increase in the tax levy allowed under Proposition 2½ plus new growth.

The Tax level is \$5.8 million more than FY15 and the total level for FY15 was \$176,123,213 vs \$181.910,533 for FY16 and the Mayor is recommending an effective tax rate for residential properties for fiscal year 2016 of \$19.66 per \$1,000 valuation, which is a .01 cent drop from last year and the commercial-industrial-personal property tax rate of \$38.60 per valuation for FY16 vs 38.77 per \$1,000 valuation for fiscal 2015 a drop of 17 cent. Chair Allen said that values where on the rise as the average single-family home value was \$131,500 for FY15 vs \$131,800 in FY16. Chair Allen said however, some commercial properties in the City will see some decrease and some would face an increase.

Councilor Ramos said that last year he voted against the tax rate because he didn't think it was fair to the homeowners but said this year he would be vote for the Mayor rate because it stroke the balance better than last year .

Councilor Kenneth E. Shea, Chair of the Special Finance Committee tax rate subcommittee conducted 3 public hearings in advance of tonight's vote, including a hearing at City Hall at 8 p.m., tonight just prior to the vote. Councilor Shea, Chair of the Special Tax Rate Committee said the Committee has met to discuss the tax rate and the rate recommended by the Mayor is deemed fair to both homeowners and business owners and it was important not to add to the burden faced by many small businesses, such as the "mom and pop operations" that provide jobs and struggled. Council received the

Report by a majority voice vote with Councilors Ashe, Luna and Walsh absent. Councilor Shea made a motion to set the FY16 tax factor at .786469 and was seconded by Councilor Twiggs.

The Council approves the FY16 tax factor of .786469 by the following roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Kenneth E. Shea, Michael A. Fenton
SECONDER:	Clodo Concepcion, Ward 5 Councilor
AYES:	Allen, Concepcion, Shea, Ramos, Rooke, Williams, Twiggs, Hurst, Edwards, Fenton
ABSENT:	Thomas M. Ashe, Zaida Luna, Kateri B. Walsh



City of Springfield

ADOPTED

Meeting: 11/23/15 08:30 PM
Initiator: Camile Nelson Campbell
Sponsors: President - Ward 2 Councilor Michael A. Fenton
DOC ID: 3272 D

2.1

Setting Tax Factor for FY 2016 (President - Ward 2 Councilor Fenton)

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Revenue of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has certified, pursuant to Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that the Board of Assessors of the City of Springfield is assessing property at full and fair cash valuation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council together with the Mayor's approval, pursuant to said Act, is required to adopt a residential factor in order to determine the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real property, as defined in M.G.L., c.59, s. 2A, and personal property for the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held a public hearing, in accordance with the requirements of said Chapter 369, Acts of 1982 on the question of the adoption of said residential factor to determine the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the residential factor for fiscal year 2016 shall be set at: .786469

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Kenneth E. Shea, Michael A. Fenton
SECONDER:	Clodo Concepcion, Ward 5 Councilor
AYES:	Allen, Concepcion, Shea, Ramos, Rooke, Williams, Twiggs, Hurst, Edwards, Fenton
ABSENT:	Thomas M. Ashe, Zaida Luna, Kateri B. Walsh