



CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES
 Regular Session

08/10/2015
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ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

- The Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Missouri, met in Regular Session on August 10, 2015 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at Grain Valley City Hall
- The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike Todd

ITEM II: ROLL CALL

- City Clerk Jaime Rehmsmeyer called roll
- *Present: Arnold, Headley, Johnston, Palecek, Stanley, West*
- *Absent: None*

-QUORUM PRESENT-

ITEM III: INVOCATION

- Invocation was given by Wayne Geiger of First Baptist Church of Grain Valley

ITEM IV: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Yolanda West

ITEM V: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- City Administrator Hunt stated no need for changes

ITEM VI: PROCLAMATIONS

- A proclamation was read by City Attorney Matt Geary regarding citizen Jan Redding Celebrating her 80th Birthday
 - Mayor Todd announced Ms. Redding's surprise birthday party to be held at Grain Valley North Middle School on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

ITEM VII: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- None

ITEM VIII: CONSENT AGENDA

- May 20, 2015 – Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes
- May 20, 2015 – Planning & Zoning Commission Work Session Meeting Minutes
- July 2015 – Court Report
- July 27, 2015 – Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Minutes
- July 30, 2015 – Board of Aldermen Work Session Meeting Minutes
- August 10, 2015 – Accounts Payable

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT
Mayor Mike Todd	None	City Attorney Matt Geary
Alderman Dale Arnold		City Administrator Ryan Hunt
Alderman Bob Headley		Community Development Director Ken Murphy
Alderman Chuck Johnston		Finance Director Cathy Bowden
Alderman Valerie Palecek		Human Resources Director/City Clerk Jaime Rehmsmeyer
Alderman Tranita Stanley		Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Davies
Alderman Yolanda West		Chief of Police David Starbuck



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- *Alderman West made a Motion to Approve Consent Agenda*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Johnston*
 - No Discussion
- *Motion was voted on with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Headley, Johnston, Palecek, Stanley, West*
 - *Nay: None*
 - *Abstain: None*

-MOTION APPROVED: 6-0-

ITEM IX: PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- None

ITEM X: NEW BUSINESS

- None

ITEM XII: PRESENTATION

- None

ITEM XII(A) ORDINANCES

Bill No. B15-17: An Ordinance by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Missouri Approving the Final Plat of Rosewood Hills Seventh (7th) Plat

- City Attorney Matt Geary read **Bill No. B15-17** for its first reading by title only
- *Alderman Arnold moved to accept first reading of **Bill No. B15-17** bringing it back for a second reading by title only*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Headley*
 - No Discussion
- **Bill No. B15-17** was voted upon with the following roll call vote:
 - *Aye: Arnold, Headley, Johnston, Palecek, Stanley, West*
 - *Nay: None*
 - *Abstain: None*

-BILL NO. B15-17 APPROVED FOR A SECOND READING: 6-0-

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT
Mayor Mike Todd	None	City Attorney Matt Geary
Alderman Dale Arnold		City Administrator Ryan Hunt
Alderman Bob Headley		Community Development Director Ken Murphy
Alderman Chuck Johnston		Finance Director Cathy Bowden
Alderman Valerie Palecek		Human Resources Director/City Clerk Jaime Rehmsmeyer
Alderman Tranita Stanley		Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Davies
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RESOLUTIONS

ITEM NO. XIII(A)

Resolution No. R15-55: A Resolution by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Missouri to Establish Procedure to Disclose Potential Conflicts of Interest and Substantial Interests for Certain Officials

- City Attorney Matt Geary read **Resolution No. R15-55** by title only
- *Alderman Headley moved to accept Resolution No. R15-55 as read*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Arnold*
 - Human Resources Director/City Clerk Rehmsmeyer explained the need for the resolution to be in compliance with the requirements of the Missouri Ethics Commission.
- *Resolution No. R15-55 was voted upon with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Headley, Johnston, Palecek, Stanley, West*
 - *Nay: None*
 - *Abstain: None*

-RESOLUTION NO. R15-55 APPROVED: 6-0-

ITEM NO. XIII(B)

Resolution No. R15-56: A Resolution by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Missouri Authorizing the City Administrator to Enter into an Extension Agreement with Troutt Beeman & Company for Audit Services

- City Attorney Matt Geary read **Resolution No. R15-56** by title only
- *Alderman West moved to accept Resolution No. R15-56 as read*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Stanley*
 - No Discussion
- *Resolution No. R15-56 was voted upon with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Headley, Johnston, Palecek, Stanley, West*
 - *Nay: None*
 - *Abstain: None*

-RESOLUTION NO. R15-56 APPROVED: 6-0-

ITEM XIV: CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- None

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT
Mayor Mike Todd	None	City Attorney Matt Geary
Alderman Dale Arnold		City Administrator Ryan Hunt
Alderman Bob Headley		Community Development Director
Alderman Chuck Johnston		Ken Murphy
Alderman Valerie Palecek		Finance Director Cathy Bowden
Alderman Tranita Stanley		Human Resources Director/City Clerk
Alderman Yolanda West		Jaime Rehmsmeyer
		Parks & Recreation Director
		Shannon Davies
		Chief of Police David Starbuck



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ITEM XV: CITY ADMINISTRATOR/STAFF REPORTS

- City Administrator (*City Administrator Ryan Hunt*)
 - Elected body was asked to contact Khalilah Holland if they would like to attend the MML Conference held at the Sheraton Hotel in Kansas City.
 - Krista Klaus requested a termination of contract in mid-July. The contract term ended on July 31, 2015. City staff is visiting with other contractors for PIO services within a month or so.
- Community Development (*Community Development Director Ken Murphy*)
 - The City, in partnership with the Jackson County Public Works Maintenance Department, held the annual Household Hazardous Waste Event on Saturday, August 1, 2015. The event was successful as 188 vehicles dropped off items.
 - Main Street improvements will not conclude until spring of 2016. There have been setbacks with the weather and railroad agreements.
- Finance (*Finance Director Cathy Bowden*)
 - Proposed 2015 Tax Levy was provided to the elected body and is included herein. A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, August 24, 2015 regarding the proposed levy.
- Human Resources/City Clerk (*Human Resources Director/City Clerk Jaime Rehmsmeyer*)
 - None
- Parks & Recreation Department (*Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Davies*)
 - Friday, August 7, 2015 held the second Movie in the Park of the year. There was a good turnout for the event with approximately 250 people were in attendance.
 - The Eastern Jackson County Municipal Challenge is going on this month and in September. Opening ceremonies held the Mayor’s Shootout; and Mayor Mike Todd received the gold medal in that event. The City took second in the Sand Volleyball event.
 - The annual Feed the Need Softball Tournament was held at Monkey Mountain Park on Saturday, August 8, 2015. Seven teams participated. The City of Grain Valley team took second place.
- Police (*Chief of Police David Starbuck*)
 - The National Night Out on Crime was held at the Park Pavilion on Tuesday, August 4, 2015. Approximately 300 people were in attendance despite the rainy weather.
 - A Prescription Pill Disposal Day will be held in the City Hall parking lot on Saturday, September 26, 2015. The event will be hosted by the DEA. More information to come regarding this event.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT
 Mayor Mike Todd
 Alderman Dale Arnold
 Alderman Bob Headley
 Alderman Chuck Johnston
 Alderman Valerie Palecek
 Alderman Tranita Stanley
 Alderman Yolanda West

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT
 None

STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT
 City Attorney Matt Geary
 City Administrator Ryan Hunt
 Community Development Director
 Ken Murphy
 Finance Director Cathy Bowden
 Human Resources Director/City Clerk
 Jaime Rehmsmeyer
 Parks & Recreation Director
 Shannon Davies
 Chief of Police David Starbuck



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ITEM XVIII: EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Mayor Todd stated a need to hold an Executive Session for the following item:
 - Leasing, Purchase or Sale of Real Estate Pursuant to Section 610.021(2), RSMo. 1998, as Amended
- *Alderman Arnold moved to close the Regular Meeting for items related to Section 610.021(2) RSMo. 1998, as Amended*
- *The motion was seconded by Alderman West*
 - No Discussion
- *The motion was voted on with the following roll call vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Headley, Johnston, Palecek, Stanley, West*
 - *Nay: None*
 - *Abstain: None*

-MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-

-THE REGULAR MEETING CLOSED AT 7:25 P.M.-

- *Alderman Headley moved to open the Regular Meeting*
- *The motion was seconded by Alderman Palecek*
 - No Discussion
- *The motion was voted on with the following roll call vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Headley, Johnston, Palecek, Stanley, West*
 - *Nay: None*
 - *Abstain: None*

-MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-

-THE REGULAR MEETING OPENED AT 7:51 P.M.-

ITEM XIX: ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT
 Mayor Mike Todd
 Alderman Dale Arnold
 Alderman Bob Headley
 Alderman Chuck Johnston
 Alderman Valerie Palecek
 Alderman Tranita Stanley
 Alderman Yolanda West

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT
 None

STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT
 City Attorney Matt Geary
 City Administrator Ryan Hunt
 Community Development Director
 Ken Murphy
 Finance Director Cathy Bowden
 Human Resources Director/City Clerk
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-THE REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:52 P.M.-

Minutes submitted by:

 Jaime Rehmsmeyer
City Clerk

 Date

Minutes approved by:

 Mike Todd
Mayor

 Date

Non-Official Copy

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT
 Mayor Mike Todd
 Alderman Dale Arnold
 Alderman Bob Headley
 Alderman Chuck Johnston
 Alderman Valerie Palecek
 Alderman Tranita Stanley
 Alderman Yolanda West

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT
 None

STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT
 City Attorney Matt Geary
 City Administrator Ryan Hunt
 Community Development Director
 Ken Murphy
 Finance Director Cathy Bowden
 Human Resources Director/City Clerk
 Jaime Rehmsmeyer
 Parks & Recreation Director
 Shannon Davies
 Chief of Police David Starbuck

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO SET TAX LEVY FOR 2015**

A hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M., Monday, August 24, 2015, at the Grain Valley City Hall, located at 711 Main Street, in the City of Grain Valley, Missouri, at which citizens may be heard on the property tax rates proposed to be set by the City of Grain Valley, Missouri. The levy amount is per \$100 of assessed value.

	Prior Year 2014	Current Year 2015	Change Assessed Valuation
Assessed Valuation (by categories)*			
Real Estate including Railroad & Utility	137,661,235	148,354,633	7.8%
Personal Property including Railroad & Utility	28,947,879	30,454,404	5.2%
Total	166,609,114	178,809,037	7.3%
New Construction	644,357	4,410,951	

	2014 Tax Levy	2014 Revenue	Proposed Tax Levy	Estimated Revenue	Change in Revenue
General Fund	0.5685	947,173	0.5558	993,821	4.9%
Debt Service Fund	0.9925	1,653,595	1.0025	1,792,561	8.4%
Parks & Recreation	0.1255	209,094	0.1227	219,399	4.9%
Public Health	0.0500	83,305	0.0489	87,438	5.0%
Total	1.7365	2,893,167	1.7299	3,093,219	

This notice was prepared utilizing the latest data available from Jackson county.

**CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY
2015 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY**

	General	Park	Public Health	Debt Service	Total
2014 LEVY					
Revenue (2015 budget)	\$ 947,173	\$ 209,094	\$ 83,305	\$ 1,653,595	\$ 2,893,167
	0.5685	0.1255	0.05	0.9925	1.7365
2015 Levy					
Revenue (2016 budget)	\$ 993,821	\$ 219,399	\$ 87,438	\$ 1,792,561	\$ 3,093,218
	0.5558	0.1227	0.0489	1.0025	1.7299
2015 Levy - ceiling allowed rate					
Revenue (2016 budget)	\$ 993,821	\$ 219,399	\$ 87,438	\$ 2,602,566	\$ 3,903,222
	0.5558	0.1227	0.0489	1.4555	2.1829

Each penny in levy represents 17,881 in total revenue.

Difference -revenue- \$ 46,648 \$ 10,304 \$ 4,133 \$ 138,965 \$ 200,050

2014 Assessed Valuation \$166,609,114
 2015 March Assessed Valuation \$178,809,037
 Increase by % 7.3%

CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY
2016 Estimated Revenue

	General	Park	Public Health	Debt Service	Total
Proposed 2015 Levy					
2015 Levy	0.5558	0.1227	0.0489	1.0025	1.7299
Estimated Revenue (2016 budget)	\$ 993,821	\$ 219,399	\$ 87,438	\$ 1,792,561	\$ 3,093,218
Each penny in levy represents 17,881 in total revenue.					
Estimated Total	\$ 993,821	\$ 219,399	\$ 87,438	\$ 1,792,561	\$ 3,093,218
Less: Uncollected 4%	(39,753)	(8,776)	(3,498)	(71,702)	(123,729)
County Collection Fees 1.6%	(15,901)	(3,510)	(1,399)	(28,681)	(49,491)
Estimated Revenue	\$ 938,167	\$ 207,112	\$ 82,541	\$ 1,692,177	\$ 2,919,997
2014 Assessed Valuation	\$166,609,114				
2015 Assessed Valuation	\$178,809,037				
Increase by %	7.3%				
State Maximum Allowed (2015)					
Revenue Based on State Maximum	\$ 993,821	\$ 219,399	\$ 87,438	\$ 2,602,566	\$ 3,903,222

WHAT GRAIN VALLEY RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HB 722: A STATE INTRUSION ON LOCAL CONTROL

HB 722 intrudes on the power of Grain Valley to set our own community standards.

HB 722 is a misguided bill passed by the Missouri legislature this spring that interferes with local decisions on work, employee benefit policies like paid sick leave, and proposed limits on plastic bags at grocery stores. Simply put, HB 722 would eliminate the right of voters and lawmakers in local communities like Grain Valley to determine how best to meet the needs of their residents. This bill was vetoed by Governor Nixon but now faces a veto session this fall in which the Missouri legislature could override the veto to make this far-reaching legislation law.

The state government should not take a one-size-fits-all approach to lawmaking that denies local communities like Grain Valley the right to make choices that are best for them.

Every community is different and local government exists to reflect and reinforce those unique needs and values. The state government does not always know best what works in every town and county. Here in Grain Valley, we need the authority to create standards beyond what the state requires.

Grain Valley has a unique role to play in improving the lives of our residents.

Our best opportunity to bring change is at the local level, where it is easiest for elected officials to understand the unique needs of residents. We need to protect local control and our fundamental rights as citizens to make decisions at the local level so we can make our communities stronger.

It is wrong for special interest lobbies to use their influence over national and state politicians to block local progress.

National corporations and their lobbyists are violating our right to make laws that reflect local values, make our workplaces healthier, improve the lives of working families, and make our air and water cleaner and safer. Grain Valley shouldn't be denied local control because corporate lobbyists and special interests are using their influence at the national and state level to block local progress just to make profits.

Throughout the state, media outlets and city governments have published opposition to HB 722.

- **Springfield News-Leader Editorial Board: "Veto state's power grab."**

From a July 1, 2015 Editorial: "House Bill 722 specifically restricts cities and counties ("political subdivisions") from establishing or mandating minimum wage limits or employee benefits that exceed the requirements of state or federal regulations. It also specifies that cities and counties can't enact ordinances to ban plastic bags from use by merchants and vendors, or impose fees for their usage. We aren't advocating the city do either of those things at this time, but **it's alarming to see this kind of bill proposed and passed.** It's a trend we don't want to see continue... For a state government that consistently bristles against Federal encroachment, why encroach in this way on local municipalities?"

- **Missouri Municipal League to Gov. Nixon: "HB 722 [is] a bill that intrudes into municipal matters which are best left in the hands of local officials."**

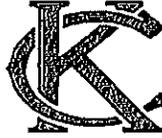
From a June 2015 letter from the Executive Director of the Missouri Municipal League to Governor Jay Nixon: "This bill is an intrusion into local affairs by the Missouri General Assembly. We believe it is not the role of the state legislature to limit a municipality's ability to establish their own policy decisions. Local elected officials are accountable to citizens of the community and this local

accountability should not be supplanted by the legislature. The Missouri House and Senate have often objected to intrusion into state affairs by the U.S. Congress, in turn, the Legislature should not be allowed to intrude in local affairs.”

- **Columbia Daily Tribune:** “All you to need care about is local control. HB 722 would limit the power of local government to pass such legislation. If they get in this habit, no telling where they will stop.”
- **Springfield, Missouri City Council:** “We find it very ironic that a legislature which has taken a strong stance against Federal encroachment in State affairs, apparently sees no conflict when they choose to interfere in the affairs of local governments.”
- **Kansas City Mayor Sly James and St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay:** Rather than allow local governments to reflect the values of their communities, the legislature has pushed state-wide policies on issues that should be treated as local ones.”
- **City of Arnold:** “The decisions you make can have dire consequences to how municipalities operate and function. Our citizens are best served when those governing closest to the people have the ability to do just that, govern. The local municipal or county government should be much more responsive to the needs of the people because, quite frankly, we govern closest to the people.”

There is time to prevent HB 722 from becoming law.

Missouri legislators need to hear from elected leaders and voters in Grain Valley that state government intrusion on our local control is unacceptable. We think that reasonable conversations with our state legislators can clarify why HB 722 is wrong for Grain Valley and wrong for Missouri. But our representatives need to hear from us SOON. Please call State Representative Jeanie Lauer at 816-228-9152 and State Representative Sheila Solon at 816-229-0218 and ask that they vote NO on motion to override the Governor’s veto of HB 722. If you’d like to get more involved in this issue, contact Jan Brill at janice_brill1@hotmail.com or 816-286-0380.



June 5, 2015

Honorable Jay Nixon
Governor
State of Missouri
PO Box 720
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

We are writing to request that you veto House Bill No. 722 (HB 722). HB 722 addresses two separate subjects: whether merchants may sell plastic bags, and whether local minimum wage ordinances should be allowed after August 28, 2015. Although HB 722 attempts to address two subjects in one bill, the cumulative impact is to alter the respective authorities of local and state governments.

As mayors, we see municipalities as the level of government most closely connected to people's lives. The municipal governments we lead attend to the daily needs of our constituents. We fix potholes. We protect public safety by providing police and fire services. We manage parks and oversee recreation activities, provide transportation and affordable housing, provide public health and emergency medical services, and deliver a broad range of other essential services that improve the day-to-day lives of our residents and visitors.

Municipalities create local laws that promote the values, hopes, and aspirations of those who live and work there. By allowing cities to adopt laws that reflect local priorities, cities can serve as laboratories in experimenting with new approaches to social and economic issues, without risk to the rest of the state and without forcing the rest of the state to come along for the ride. This type of policy experimentation has served our country, our state, and our cities well over the years. Cities can only perform these important policy-testing functions if given the freedom to do so. But, recently, the trend has been to limit the role of local government. Rather than allow local governments to reflect the values of their communities, the legislature has pushed state-wide policies on issues that should be treated as local ones.

HB 722 is a prime example of this trend. Municipalities around the country have experimented with new ways of promoting a sustainable future, like limiting the proliferation of plastic bags. Municipalities, including St. Louis and Kansas City, have adopted, and considered for adoption, local laws to protect fair wages and working conditions for individuals who earn a living in our communities. Neither Kansas City nor the City of St. Louis have adopted ordinances banning plastic bags or setting a city minimum wage, but our respective cities certainly deserve the right to do so in the future. HB 722 would take that choice away from the leaders of our respective cities, effectively robbing our constituents of the freedom to govern themselves.

HB 722 is an attempt to limit freedom and to deprive local government of the ability to adopt laws that reflect local priorities. We respectfully request that you veto this legislation and uphold local governments' rights to serve their residents.

Sincerely,

Sly James
Mayor - City of Kansas City

Francis G. Slay
Mayor - City of St. Louis



Growing Our Communities Together

Dan Ross
Executive Director

Bill Kolas
Mayor, Higginsville
President

Jan Marcason
Councilmember, Kansas City
Immediate Past President

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Jay Nixon, Governor
State of Missouri
Office of Governor Jay Nixon
State Capitol Building, Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

On behalf of the Missouri Municipal League, I respectfully request that you veto HB 722. This bill is an intrusion into local affairs by the Missouri General Assembly.

We believe it is not the role of the state legislature to limit a municipality's ability to establish their own policy decisions. Local elected officials are accountable to citizens of the community and this local accountability should not be supplanted by the legislature. The Missouri House and Senate have often objected to intrusion into state affairs by the U.S. Congress, in turn, the Legislature should not be allowed to intrude in local affairs.

Again, we urge you to veto HB 722, a bill that intrudes into municipal matters which are best left in the hands of local officials.

Sincerely,

MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Dan Ross
Executive Director

June 15, 2015

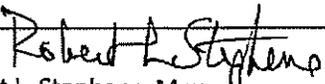
The Honorable Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon
Governor of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

We are writing to urge that you veto Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill 722. This bill prohibits local political subdivisions from enacting bans on plastic bags. While the City of Springfield is not currently contemplating such a ban, we are very concerned about the trend of current legislation which seeks to take away local control of such issues. The City of Springfield has consistently voiced its concern that local control currently allowed by state law be retained.

We find it very ironic that a legislature which has taken a strong stand against Federal encroachment in State affairs, apparently sees no conflict when they choose to interfere in the affairs of local governments. Local governments are closer to their constituents and, as such, should retain the authority to reflect the views of their constituents on matters of local concern. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Stephens, Mayor


Greg Burris, City Manager
by Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager

Office of the Mayor
840 Boonville Avenue, P.O. Box 8368
Springfield, Missouri 65801 • 417-864-1651 • springfieldmo.gov



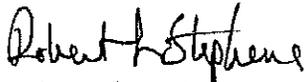
June 15, 2015

The Honorable Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon
Governor of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

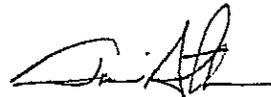
Dear Governor Nixon:

We are writing to request that you veto Senate Bill 5. As finally passed, this legislation goes significantly beyond the purpose for which it was introduced and has significant unintended consequences for Springfield and other cities. Our current estimate of fiscal impact to the City of Springfield is a loss of \$300,000 per year in revenue. While financial conditions have improved since the Great Recession, Springfield and other cities are still struggling to provide the services expected and demanded by our citizens. A loss of this magnitude has a serious effect on our ability to provide these services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Stephens, Mayor



Greg Burris, City Manager
by Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager

cc: Senators Dixon and Wasson
Collin Quigley, Assistant City Manager
Scott Marrs, Legislative Assistant

Office of the Mayor
840 Boonville Avenue, P.O. Box 8368
Springfield, Missouri 65801 • 417-864-1651 • springfieldmo.gov





City of Arnold

Ron Counts, Mayor

March 19, 2015

An open letter to our Missouri State Representatives and Senators:

I am writing you on behalf the entire Arnold City Council. We recognize you have a difficult job this term in finding solutions to correct what many would agree, are abuses by municipal governments with regards to how they treat their citizens. Overuse of municipal fines and fees is a very complex issue for which you have bravely stepped forward to address. We, as locally elected officials, sympathize and understand your dedication to try and govern in a way that is fair and just.

The reason for this letter is to remind you that fair consideration is due as you decide which bills to pass on the issues of municipal rights. The decisions you make can have dire consequences to how municipalities operate and function. Sometimes there is a tendency to try to fix every problem with a new law and sometimes, the result can be as bad, or even worse, than the original problem. Our citizens are best served when those governing closest to the people have the ability to do just that, govern. The local municipal or county government should be much more responsive to the needs of the people because, quite frankly, we govern closest to the people. This is just a sample of some of the bills you will be considering throughout the rest of this term that can negatively impact the ability for us to govern and possibly create additional restrictions that are simply not needed.

HB865 – Prohibiting political subdivisions from requiring an employer to provide a minimum wage rate or employment benefit that exceeds the requirement of federal or state laws.

SB223 – Eliminating the inflationary growth factory for municipal property tax rates and giving taxpayers standing to sue without first paying taxes under protest and allows for class action lawsuits.

HB662 – Requiring municipalities to pay for the cost of moving telecommunication facilities in the public rights of way.

SB323 – Allowing non-residents to run for city offices in 3rd and 4th class cities.

SB266 & HB437 – Prohibiting municipalities from providing services that are being provided in the private sector.

Again, we thank you for your willingness to serve the people of Missouri and appreciate you taking the time to listen to our concerns.

On behalf of the Arnold City Council,

Jason Fulbright
Mayor Pro-Tem
Ward 1 Councilman