

November 19, 2012

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **City Council Meeting Summary: Nov. 19, 2012**

City Council adopted a resolution approving the creation of a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Citizens' Task Force, and setting the scope of duties for this task force. The task force will spend the first half of 2013 studying the issue, before returning to council with a recommended course of action. Citizens may begin applying for one of 15 spots at [www.springfieldmo.gov](http://www.springfieldmo.gov) Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012.

Council also voted unanimously to grant a [tax abatement for the proposed redevelopment of the downtown Landmark Building](#). Developers Matt and Stacy Miller plan to convert the office building into an affordable housing apartment complex accessible to residents with disabilities.

City Council held public hearings on a few items, including these highlights:

**A clean-up bill** would have brought the controversial E-Verify ordinance into compliance with the federal court order enjoining enforcement of several provisions. The bill comes after a September court settlement in which the city agreed to remove some key provisions of the law that had been challenged by four local businesses. Councilman Doug Burlison, however, made a motion to amend the clean-up bill to completely repeal the initiative E-verify ordinance. The motion to amend passed 5-2, with Jan Fisk and Jerry Compton opposing. The vote on whether or not to repeal, which will come at the next Council meeting, will require a unanimous vote.

**A public hearing** on a request for [tax abatement for Warren Davis Properties'](#) redevelopment of the 1.37 million-square-foot former Solo Cup facility on North Glenstone Avenue. The developer's intent is to rehabilitate and subdivide the space for multiple tenants.

**A public hearing** on a change to the City's [zoning ordinance that would allow pawn shops](#) in areas where general retail businesses are permitted.

**A public hearing** on an ordinance putting [renewal of the 1/4-cent Capital Improvements sales tax](#) on the April ballot. The tax would fund about \$25 million in street and infrastructure improvements through 2016.

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