

JOURNAL MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio, was held on Friday, February 19, 2010, at the City Service Center, 2100 Lagonda Avenue.

Roll Call was answered by Mmes. Chilton, Duncan, Messrs. Martin, O'Neill, and President Copeland.

I. RETREAT

59-10 The City Commission, City Manager Bodenmiller, and staff members met to conduct the two-day City Commission retreat.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

City Manager Bodenmiller, Economic Development Administrator Franzen, Community Development Director Meadows, Deputy Economic Development Administrator Richards, and Bryan Heck, executive assistant to the City Manager, presented a report on economic development issues.

A. OBJECTIVE: Continue working on extension of services into the CEDA area (e.g., utilities, safety services, land use planning, maintenance, etc.) and consider development of a utility master plan and system fees.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In regard to CEDA expansions, there have been no new developments; however, we have reached out to Springfield Township and Green Township in an effort to reestablish communications. The partnership on the PrimeOhio I maintenance and OPWC grant was a good step forward. Plans for utility extensions to PrimeOhio II are also in the works for 2010. Preliminary discussions on a utility master plan/system development fees have occurred among staff. Also, we are currently designing a gravity sewer to run from the existing sewer package plant on SR 794 to the Southern Interceptor. Water line improvements near the airport are also under study.

B. OBJECTIVE: Continue efforts aimed at redeveloping downtown Springfield, concentrating on the medical facilities, and coordinate efforts with the Center City Association, Wittenberg University, and other stakeholders.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Much has been accomplished in regard to the downtown. The hospital is on time and on budget. The Center City Park plans have been presented and approved by the Commission. We have received

streetscape and paving funds for Fountain Avenue from Veterans Bridge to McCrieght Avenue. We have initiated contact with potential developers for the future buildings along the Center City Park. We continue to work on the downtown garage, the 3-C Corridor Station, and the Bushnell Building redevelopment. Phase I whitewater is complete. An ice arena location has been determined. Additional efforts focused on downtown redevelopment include ongoing discussions with Wittenberg University, Clark State, the Turner and Springfield Foundations, NTPRD, Center City Association, and the Chamber of Commerce. Plans continue for a parking garage.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Hope to reshape the entire face of the downtown within five years. We believe the new hospital, other new facilities, recreation opportunities, and new retail will revitalize our downtown.

C. OBJECTIVE: Work to develop sites within the City, including the Lagonda and Sheridan-Kenton areas.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Work continues on the environmental studies and remediation at Lagonda Avenue. Some delays were encountered with OEPA's review of the final remediation plans as well as the two remaining structures on the site related to the historic review processes. Staff members expect to complete the plans and environmental remediation in 2010.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: City staff members will submit an Ohio Job Ready Site (JRS) Grant application for \$3.5 million in order to fund the utilities and road infrastructure necessary to develop the park. If successful, the infrastructure will be installed in early 2011.

D. OBJECTIVE: Continue efforts to enhance the image of all major corridors, including the South Limestone Corridor Project, Route 40 East entering the corporation limits, and the North/Columbia Street area immediately west of the planned hospital complex.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Southern Gateway Initiative has expanded its efforts and continues to gain support. Phase Two is still underway. Staff members are working with the Port Authority, Chamber, and the Southern Gateway Neighborhood Association to improve the streetscape of eight properties on South Limestone from East Leffel Lane to Lansdowne. Improvements will include trees and a hedge for each of these properties. The Port Authority has offered a grant covering one-third of the cost of improvements for these eight properties. City staff members have developed detailed landscape plans for each lot and Scarff's nursery has prepared an estimate for each lot based on these plans. The Chamber is supposed to work with the property owners to secure agreements for the improvements and Port Authority grant reimbursement. Phase Two should be completed by mid-2010.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Staff members anticipate pursuing a corridor planning effort, similar to the Eastern Edge Plan, along the Columbia/North Street area immediately west of the planned hospital complex in the coming year or two.

E. OBJECTIVE: Continue efforts in developing and marketing the Nextedge technology park; assist in the development of additional industrial park sites; and develop Phase II of AirparkOhio, all in coordination with our community economic development partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The plat for AirparkOhio Phase II was completed in 2009. Fencing and other related projects near AirparkOhio were also accomplished in 2009. In addition, a 40-acre parcel that is contiguous with AirparkOhio was acquired and cleared in 2009. The City provided assistance to Nextedge Development Corporation in reviewing the RDP zoning for Nextedge and processed a request for a potential change in the language that might accommodate a wider variety of technology related companies. The item was requested to be held, pending further review. The City assisted the Chamber in requesting the reallocation of Army Corp funding to aid in the development of PrimeOhio II. In addition, the City provided much assistance in the pursuit of an EDA grant for the same purpose, as well as assisting the Chamber in gaining township support for the development.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: The Chamber estimates moving forward with construction of Prime Ohio II in 2011. The City has some concerns regarding the utility capacity, especially gas and the potential lack of project management capacity at the Chamber due to the number of projects underway.

F. OBJECTIVE: Create a development strategy for transitional areas in our City, such as old school sites, vacant hospital sites, etc., and plan for future redevelopment of these areas.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Wittenberg University has a continued strong interest in the Mercy campus upon vacation. The City has committed to pursue Clean Ohio funds for demolition once vacated. We have applied for \$200,000 in USEPA funds for environmental studies of the site. We continue to work with the Springfield City Schools on former school sites but the slow economy has not helped.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: We will need a plan for the Community Hospital High Street campus. We have met with hospital officials and toured the facilities.

G. OBJECTIVE: Initiate a dialogue throughout the community regarding “green initiatives” including the identification of opportunities where alternative energy sources can be beneficial.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: We are nearly ready to roll out an energy-efficiency program for the public. We have several projects in the works to increase energy efficiency of City facilities, including replacement of elevators in City Hall, upgrading traffic lights with LED lighting, updating internal light switches to motion detected sensors in all buildings, energy efficiency improvements at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport, including windows and doors, and public education programs coordinating with utility, building, and transportation partners.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: The projects funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant will be completed in 2010. Workshops (developed with the assistance of Columbia Gas and First Energy), transportation partners (TCC), and others will be filmed and promoted through Springfield5 on an on-going basis.

H. OBJECTIVE: Continue efforts to enhance general aviation investment at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport, including strategies for securing funds to construct new T-hangars.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Improvements at Springfield-Beckley in 2009 include completion of the wildlife/security fencing project, purchase of two lots at the north end of Runway 6/24, and milling of the pavement on Runway 6 to eliminate safety issues. An ODOT grant to make repairs to Runway 6/24 was acquired and Engineering work is underway. The OANG has undertaken an engineering contract to develop plans for Taxiway A repairs in advance of requesting FAA funding. Other projects coordinated and funded with OANG include the removal of trees affecting their TACAN, seeding along Runway 15/33 (a wildlife hazard resolved), and some pavement repairs. We are very near a concept plan for partial T-hangar replacement. Work has begun with the Airport Advisory Board T-Hangar Subcommittee working in tandem with an airport consultant to prepare pre-design sketches and layouts for the redevelopment of the T-hangar area at Springfield-Beckley.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Work on Runway 6/24 and Taxiway A (north end) are expected to be complete by the end of 2010, depending on FAA funding. Several parcels of land identified in the noise compatibility study will be acquired with funding specifically set-aside for such purposes. With information developed from the airport consult and in coordination with the Airport Advisory Board T-Hangar subcommittee, it is expected that a workable phased plan will be created with budget and timetables to redevelop the T-hangar area.

I. OBJECTIVE: Continue to promote the Air National Guard Base in an effort to gain additional units and missions and encourage the current Dutch pilot training mission to remain at the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Singapore flying mission was not secured in Springfield. The future of the Dutch flying mission is not completely certain, although we hope to know more in the near future. Both the Dutch and the US F-16s are here through September 2010. We hope the Dutch stay beyond that date. Other non-flying missions are also being pursued. Work on securing a funding source for State Route 794 continues. The Armed Forces Center is nearing completion and the Combat/Communications Facility is still in the planning stages.

J. OBJECTIVE: Create and continue to develop new website strategies in an effort to enhance and strengthen external communications.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: A new more customer-friendly website was developed and rolled out late 2009. The new format has been well received by the public. Staff will continue to modify department sections of the site to ensure it provides information and resources that are useful to the public.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: City staff will continue to look for new innovative ways to utilize our website in sharing information with the public.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH

Mr. Bodenmiller, Police Chief Moody, and Fire Chief Beers spoke to public safety issues.

A. OBJECTIVE: Continue to promote police relations within the community, enhance the diversity/community relations skills of the Police Division, and develop a plan to stabilize police staffing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Open and honest communication continues to be the benchmark by which we serve our community. Policing with transparency is key in fostering cooperation and trust. The Police Citizen Review and Advisory Group, SCLC, NAACP, Coalition for Justice and Equality, and the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association all play a vital role, ensuring that we serve our community with compassion, integrity, and respect.

After two years of planning and development, a 100 year-old vacant firehouse has now become a police substation/community center. This landmark is a foundation on which stronger community relationships will be forged.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: With the success of securing a federal Cops Hiring Recovery Program Grant, the manning level of 131 sworn officers will be achieved. The eleventh Citizens Police Academy will be held this spring. Two hundred citizens who live and work in our community have graduated from this initiative. The third law camp will be held this summer. This initiative provides

junior high school students in our community a five-day in-depth look at state and local public safety entities.

B. OBJECTIVE: Develop a plan to address the criminal justice overload including crime rate, alternatives to adult confinement, youth issues, and overall impact on the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Through the initiative of the men and women of the Police Division and the Safe Streets Task Force, a 9.2 percent decrease in Class I index crime (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and auto theft) was noted in 2009. Additionally, since the high reported in 2005, Class I crime in the City has decreased by 21.9 percent. The average population at the Clark County Jail decreased by 4.6 percent in 2009. The Police Division's collaborative effort with the U. S. Marshals Service (Southern Ohio Fugitive Strike Team) continues to reap benefits as well as further ensuring the safety of our community on a daily basis. Approximately 211 criminal warrants were served by SOFAST within the City in 2009.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: The Police Division will further enhance the use of intelligence lead policing concepts. Predictive analysis of crime trends, trend forecasting, and crime mapping will allow beat officers and community resource officers to efficiently address crime and disorder hotspots.

C. OBJECTIVE: Continue to promote interoperability among public safety entities via countywide radio communications and future consolidated or co-located 911 dispatching. Explore Fire/EMS partnering opportunities with neighboring agencies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: We were successful in extending our agreement for fire/EMS dispatching with the City of New Carlisle through June 30, 2012. We entered into a cooperation agreement with Bethel Township giving them permission to transmit radio signals to and from the City's radio transmission facilities located at standpipe hill in Springfield. We continue to work with our radio service contractor to request that the State of Ohio program MARCS into our radio's thereby allowing us to communicate with the Health Department and the State Highway Patrol.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Ohio re-banding is currently in progress for 800 MHz users. We anticipate the Downs Army Center being turned over to the City in late 2010 or perhaps 2011. We will be receiving an upgrade to our Catalyst (radio over internet IP) system at no cost to the City. This will be in cooperation with Catalyst Communications Technologies and the City of Beavercreek that will provide a more user friendly application.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT

A presentation was made on neighborhood enhancement by Ms. Meadows and Service Director Mann.

A. OBJECTIVE: Continue partnering with Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Springfield Metropolitan Housing Authority, and other service providers and employers to enhance coordination and cooperation for improving housing and increasing homeownership. Continue to address predatory lending/foreclosure challenges facing the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Community Development staff continue the partnerships established with housing providers including NHP and SMHA to improve the quality of housing and homeownership in Springfield. Programs were readjusted in 2009, and plans focused on creating homeownership within the community. A greater focus on foreclosure prevention and credit counseling was needed during the year in response to the housing market collapse. Efforts to improve housing in the Lincoln Park Hope VI project wrapped up in 2009 and the development is up and running. With awards of Neighborhood Stabilization Program I and II funds, Community Development staff members will continue to focus on enhancing neighborhoods hit hard by the foreclosure crisis, improve housing stock which has remained vacant due to foreclosure, and address slum and blight caused by disinvestment perpetuated by foreclosures in neighborhoods.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Staff will continue to coordinate with NHP on all housing programs which we currently partner to provide. Staff will continue to work closely with NHP to evaluate and update plans associated with the Clifton Court Mixed Income Housing Development in light of the current market. Staff members will continue to coordinate efforts associated with NSP I funds and will continue to partner with NHP, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Hospitality Network, St. Vincent DePaul, and Housing Connection to carry out programs associated with the funds. Finally, staff members will implement plans and programs associated with NSP II funds and will continue to grow established partnerships with NHP and Habitat in these joint efforts.

B. OBJECTIVE: Monitor efforts of the Solid Waste District in their developing programs to combat neighborhood issues such as illegal dumping, graffiti reduction (i.e., Keeping Clark County Beautiful program), evaluate, and act on the community solid waste proposals. Actively enforce the existing bench billboard policy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The City helped in the design and funding for a graffiti trailer and assisted in lettering and labeling the trailer through our Service Department Sign Shop. The Service Department has used the unit on a few occasions with good results. Through KCCB, the Service Department worked

with multiple partners to rehab a neighborhood park in the area of Park and Lagonda avenues. The bench billboards policy was revisited and compliance letters for same were initiated in December 2009.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: A spring of 2010 neighborhood event is being planned to promote the Park Avenue and Lagonda Avenue areas. We will need to address the single solid waste hauler issue in early 2010 and determine an appropriate direction.

C. OBJECTIVE: Continue efforts to maximize the dollars received through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program including the fulfillment of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program plan submitted by the City to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: NSP I funding has been received from HUD and the program is underway. The City of Springfield has awarded contracts to four partner agencies to build new or renovate homes in the Grand Avenue South Area of Springfield to serve the very low income populations of our community. Efforts will focus on the construction of single-family, owner-occupied homes by Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, homes will be renovated to serve tenant occupied residents by Interfaith Hospitality Network, St. Vincent DePaul, and Housing Connection. Housing Division staff continue to invest in homes in the Highlands Southgate Area. Homes which have been foreclosed are being purchased and renovated by the City of Springfield and will then be marketed for sale to residents meeting up to 120 percent of Area Median Income. Demolition of blighted structures in both the Grand Avenue South and Highlands Southgate area continue as appropriate and necessary, as well as in the Lagonda Corridor and the McGuffy School area when necessary.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Construction and renovation in the Grand Avenue South area will commence and conclude in 2010. Homes will continue to be purchased and renovated in the Highlands Southgate area during the same period. Homes which have been renovated will be marketed and sold during 2010. During renovation, staff members hope to coordinate open house events and special workshops in the neighborhood to provide opportunities for neighbors to learn about energy efficient upgrades and other renovation techniques they may undertake in their own homes. Demolition will continue as necessary and appropriate

INFRASTRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL STRATEGIES

Discussions on the City's infrastructure and financial strategies were lead by Messrs. Bodenmiller, Beckdahl, Mann, Heck, Mrs. Richards, City Engineer Shanayda, and Mr. Tim Smith, chief executive officer of National Trail Parks and Recreation District.

A. OBJECTIVE: Work cooperatively with NTPRD and the County to explore funding options and services for parks and recreation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: NTPRD funding and board composition remain a significant issue, although the Board composition was amended in late 2009. The Clark County Commission provided \$166,000 for funding during 2009. Previous years funding levels were at \$282,000. The Clark County Commission indicated that they had diverted \$83,500 in 2009 of NTPRD funding to the Clark County Park District, an agency that had previously never received direct funding from the County Commission.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: NTPRD has requested that funding for 2010 be restored to \$282,000. The County Commission has only appropriated \$83,500 for NTPRD in 2010, but has not committed to actually giving these funds to NTPRD. Stable funding remains a significant challenge to NTPRD operations. Future organizational options discussed at a recent NTPRD retreat included continuing the status quo, redrawing the district boundary, or coming back under the city (although still identified by name as NTPRD). No actual recommendations along these lines have been made yet.

B. OBJECTIVE: Develop a plan for funding the Combined Sewer Overflow program (storm water utility) and initiate Phase I of the City's CSO compliance projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Black & Veatch has been hired to design improvements at the City's WWTP which includes a High Rate Treatment Facility. These proposed improvements are all part of the City's Long-Term Control Plan involving our CSO's and were initially listed in Phase I of the LTCP. Black & Veatch has also been hired to initiate and develop a program and rates for a storm water utility. This proposed utility will be the primary source for funding future CSO improvements. A Storm Water Advisor Committee has been formed and will hold its first meeting on February 18, 2010. By late summer, the committee should be in a position to update the Commission and make some recommendations.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: The design improvements for the WWTP are expected to be finished by the end of 2010. The proposal to Commission for the storm water utility should take place in the fall of this year with the idea of implementing the utility in the first quarter of 2011.

C. OBJECTIVE: Examine alternatives for enhancing the neighborhood streets program and other equality important capital initiatives, and explore operational expense reductions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Although we have no neighborhood streets

funding this year, we were successful in receiving \$1.1 million in recovery dollars for streets and approximately \$600,000 in CDBG-R dollars for neighborhood streets (\$1.7 million total) . We were also successful in receiving stimulus dollars for streetscape improvements on Fountain Avenue from the bridge to McCreight Avenue (\$1.2 million). The streetscape project includes decorative streetlights, trees and shave-and-pave. In addition, we will be paving and replacing curb on Home Road and partnering with ODOT on an urban repaving project of State Route 4 (Lagonda Avenue). With all these projects, we will put nearly \$4.4 million into improving our streets in 2010. Continue to look for other sources of funding besides stimulus and OPWC to improve our roads.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Continue to look for alternate funding sources for road programs, including a dedicated streets levy or something similar.

D. OBJECTIVE: Continue to track the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Package) to maximize the amount of funding that the City receives; develop goals and strategies for the City to maximize the benefits of monies received and assure compliance with regulations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: To date, we have received nearly \$16 million in recovery funds with more applications pending.

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There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting was adjourned.

Yeas, Mmes. Chilton, Duncan, Messrs. Martin, O'Neill, and Copeland.
Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie J. Chappell, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission