

JOURNAL MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio, was held on Saturday, February 20, 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 resumed its two-day retreat.

City Manager Bodenmiller provided a brief *State of the City* address, reviewing the City's financial challenges, the downtown hospital project, Buck Creek Whitewater Project, Amtrak station, Center City Park, ice arena, Bushnell Building, International Lagonda plant site, aesthetic improvements to Veteran's Bridge, intermodal parking garage, and closing with the Red Light Program where violations have been reduced by approximately 70 percent and accidents by 34 percent.

Mr. Bodenmiller then reviewed a written report on the City's stimulus funding, including the agency providing the funding, the amount received, and proposed activities for the funding. To date, the City has received \$46,094,718. Four road projects are included under the *Request* column:

(1) State Route 794, a project proposed jointly with other entities;

(2) North Fountain Avenue rehabilitation and Veteran's Bridge enhancements;

(3) Lagonda site redevelopment: a 65-acre brownfield with utility needs; and

(4) the multimodal transit facility at Fountain Avenue and Columbia Street, on the east side of the Center City Park: the \$5 million request would start construction, but not complete it.

Finance Director Beckdahl provided a history of the City's income tax percentages from the first tax withheld in 1948 to the current two percent in place through June 30, 2015. After that date, it will roll back to 1.5 percent.

Mr. Beckdahl stated that based on revenues of \$28 million in income tax, a quarter-percent increase would equal \$3.5 million with a one-half percent credit for reciprocity. The City has seen a declining balance in property tax assessments going into the Police Levy Fund due to foreclosures and delinquencies.

Continuing discussions centered on the use of a sales-tax option through cooperation with the County Commission and placing a specified issue or purpose on the ballot to raise funding.

II. 2010-2011 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Discussion continued on the goals and objectives of the City Commission for 2010-2011. The following summary represents the results of the 2010 Commission retreat.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

C. Work to develop new industrial sites within the city, including the Lagonda and Sheridan-Kenton areas.

D. 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 area immediately west of the hospital complex.

E. 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.

F. Create a development strategy for transitional areas in our city, such as vacant hospital sites and South High School (in partnership with school board members) and plan for future redevelopment of these areas.

G. Initiate a dialogue throughout the community regarding Green Initiatives including the identification of opportunities where alternative energy sources can be beneficial.

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

I. Continue to promote the Air National Guard Base and new Armed Forces Center in an effort to gain additional units and missions. Encourage the current Dutch pilot training mission to remain in Springfield.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH

A. Continue to promote police relations within the community and enhance the diversity/community-relations skills of the police division.

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

C. 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.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT

A. Continue partnering with NHP, SMHA, Habitat, 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 and fulfill Neighborhood Stabilization Program commitments.

B. Monitor efforts of the solid waste district in developing programs to combat neighborhood issues such as illegal dumping and graffiti reduction. Evaluate and act on the community solid waste proposals. Actively enforce the existing bench billboard policy.

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES/INFRASTRUCTURE

A. Explore funding options, organization, marketing, and services to be provided for parks and recreation. Continue recent efforts at revitalizing Snyder Park, making golf self-supporting, and managing green space.

B. Develop a plan for funding the CSO program (stormwater utility) and initiate Phase I of the City's CSO compliance projects.

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

D. Continue to track the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Package) to maximize the amount of funding that the City receives from Federal, State, and private entities.

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On motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting adjourned into executive session on litigation and personnel evaluation.

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

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Martin, the executive session was adjourned.

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

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Duncan, 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