

Joint City-County Planning Task Force

December 18, 2013 – 9:30am

City of Springfield Busch Municipal Building, Room L45, 840 Boonville Ave.

Meeting #9

Task Force Members present:

Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager
Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator
Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor
Martha Mundt, Greene County Budget Director
Chief Paul Williams, Springfield Police Department
Sheriff Jim Arnott, Greene County Sheriff's Department
Jerry Moyer, Greene County Court Administrator
Steve Meyer, Director of Springfield Department of Environmental Services
Errin Kemper, Assist Director of Springfield Department of Environmental Services
Phil Broyles, Director of Springfield Public Works

The meeting began at approximately 9:40am with a welcome from Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator, and a review of the meeting agenda. Mr. Smith asked the members to review the notes from the December 4, 2013 meeting and asked if there were any comments or changes. Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor, made a motion to approve the notes. Jerry Moyer, Greene County Court Administrator, seconded the motion. The notes were approved without change.

Mr. Smith directed the discussion to the final draft of the Safety & Justice Roundtable Report. He requested that any changes or additional information be sent to him by Friday, December 20. Mr. Moyer stated that he had sent his information that morning. Mr. Smith confirmed that it had not yet been included in the report but that it would be added.

Mr. Smith presented the Top Seven Priorities from the original 2009 report, including progress through 2011 and the current situation in 2013. The priorities and discussion are as follows:

1. **Solving Police-Fire Pension Fund Shortfall** – Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager, covered the details of this priority, stating that if this fund was not renewed it would result in a \$9 million cut to the City's annual budget. He stressed the importance of fully funding the program because it is a "closed plan" and must be funded 100% through either sales tax or budget cuts. He also noted the recent endorsement from the Chamber of Commerce in support of the renewal of the fund. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Burris to send him additional information to update the "Current Situation" paragraph in this priority.
2. **Reducing Jail Population** – Sheriff Arnott, Greene County's Sheriff Department, explained that there had been no relief in the numbers of the jail population. Expansion of the jail is needed now. Mr. Moyer explained that the judges were aware of the jail population, keeping in mind those that are a flight risk or a danger to society and whether or not the accused should be incarcerated or issued a warrant.
3. **Improving the Family and Juvenile Justice System** – Mr. Smith stated that Greene County Juvenile is in need of additional space and financial support. While additional staff has been hired, it has further increased the need for office space. Some staff have been relocated to the former Hogan Building.

4. **Combining Emergency Response Agency Facilities** – Mr. Smith stated this priority was working very well.
5. **Enhancing Data Sharing and Interagency Communications** – Mr. Smith explained that this priority is a success due to the availability of funding and the willingness of agencies to work together, however there will need to be continued support for the infrastructure. Both the Niche and CAD systems are up and running well.
6. **Increasing Staffing Throughout System** – Mr. Smith explained how the County continues to struggle with attracting employees due to the pay scale. Ms. Stein asked for the number of new hires to be listed in this report. Mr. Burris requested the City be listed as “yellow” if the sales tax is not renewed.
7. **Expanding Facilities** – Mr. Burris stated that there is no funding stream for municipal courts. Mr. Smith explained the County’s need to expand facilities and relocate offices and personnel; however the County is short on funds for leasing, remodeling or building. Representatives from the City and County have met with Senator Dixon and requested assistance with this issue.

After the priorities were discussed, Mr. Smith stated that the two significant threats continued to be the financial situation of the County’s General Fund and the renewal of the City’s Police-Fire Pension Tax. Mr. Burris agreed that these two issues affect everything that the City and County does.

Mr. Smith closed this topic by asking for additional comments on the revised Safety & Justice Roundtable Report. The Task Force requested an electronic copy of the report be sent to the members after the revisions have been incorporated. Once reviewed, it is anticipated that the Task Force will adopt the report at the next meeting.

Mr. Burris reminded the Task Force of the January 10th deadline for feedback on the Public Safety Scenarios. He stated that he would review his notes to be certain, but believed he was still waiting on information from the Sheriff’s Office, the Prosecuting Attorney, the Court Administrator’s Office, and Pretrial Services.

Steve Meyers, Director of Springfield Environmental Services, discussed the next topic, High-Level Overview of Upcoming Environmental Issues. Mr. Meyers explained the improved working relationship between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR). Errin Kemper, Assistant Director of Springfield Environmental Services, explained the Integrated Plan, compiled by the City, County and City Utilities staff, which addresses the environmental issues and regulations faced by the community. This plan encompasses all environmental issues within the community, not just stormwater and wastewater, and has resulted in a better working relationship with the regulating agencies.

Phil Broyles, Director of Springfield Public Works, stated that funding for City stormwater construction projects will likely run out in July 2014, and something would need to be done externally to keep up with costs. Mr. Smith added that the County had already cut all funding for this type of projects in 2012.

Mr. Burris summarized this topic by stating three main points:

1. Springfield and Greene County are model communities for EPA and MoDNR;
2. EPA pulled out of the recent lawsuit against the City; and
3. All environmental items are linked together in a joint effort between the City, County and City Utilities, making the Integrated Plan the first of its kind in the country.

Mr. Burris continued to explain why affordability is such a huge factor. The EPA and MoDNR are aware of this factor and also realize the flexibility component, due to the differing needs within this community. The Integrated Plan was compiled by local staff and used a holistic approach to the community's environmental factors. Mr. Smith requested the City send the Affordability Task Force Report and the Integrated Plan to the Task Force and requested Mr. Kemper make his presentation of the Integrated Plan at a future meeting. Mr. Smith explained the price of compliance could possibly range in the billions of dollars over the next 20 years. For reference, St. Louis recently signed a consent decree for \$4.7 billion and Kansas City for \$2.3 billion.

The Task Force agreed to finalize the Safety & Justice Roundtable Report at the next meeting, continue discussion of the environmental issues, and possibly begin discussion on the funding for the Courts.

Mr. Burris stated that a joint memo was sent to the Mayor and Presiding Commissioner requesting an extension of the Task Force. The extension was approved with no specified timeline or completion date.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45am. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 9:00am and will be hosted by the City at the Greene County Archives and Election Center.