

March 30, 2014

News Release

For Immediate Release

Director of Public Works Phil Broyles passes away



It is with great sadness that we must share the news that Phil Broyles, the City of Springfield Director of Public Works, has passed away. He was diagnosed with cancer three months ago.

“Our hearts are heavy at the City. It is unfair that Phil has been taken from us,” said City Manager Greg Burris.

“Phil possessed a 'can do' spirit, but with the easy-going style of a long-time friend that made people want to work with him. Whether it was accomplishing the APWA accreditation or achieving the recognition of Top 10 Public Works professional of North America, Phil stood for honesty, transparency, and excellence. He was a champion of transportation, neighborhoods, and doing things right. Phil will be missed within our City family, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.”

“Heroes do walk among us, and Phil was one of mine. Our community lost a good man.”

Mayor Bob Stephens praised Broyles for both his expertise and positive outlook.

“Phil Broyles was an extremely knowledgeable and respected Director of Public Works,” Stephens said. “But beyond that, he was a class act and a gentleman. He truly served the citizens of Southwest Missouri and Springfield cheerfully, and well,” Stephens said.

Phil Broyles was named Director of Public Works July 1, 2011, after previously serving as Co-Interim Director of Public Works and Assistant Director - Operations.

The Department of Public Works includes several divisions: Transportation Engineering, Storm Water Engineering, Street Maintenance, Traffic-Operations, Traffic-Transportation Management, Construction Inspection, and Internal Services. Within these divisions is the responsibility for Maintaining and Operating the City's Streets, Rights-of-way, Buildings, and Vehicles.

The department employs about 220 people responsible for street design, construction and maintenance, traffic engineering, storm water management, solid waste and recycling efforts, and maintaining publicly owned trees and grounds.

Springfield Public Works professionals maintain 1,935 lane miles of streets, 138 traffic signals and 38,000 traffic and street signs, 100 public buildings (nearly 1,200,000 square feet), 70 bridges and waterways.

They also run Hazelwood Cemetery, and service 800 City vehicles. It is work that has drawn national and international attention, both for innovative project design and leadership in the field of public service.

Broyles also oversaw the emergence of the newly created Environmental Services department, managed by Director Steve Meyer. The new department maintains over 1,200 miles of sanitary sewers with 28,000 manholes, two waste water treatment plants processing an average of 40 million gallons of sewage each day and manages Springfield's solid waste management and recycling programs, including disposal of household chemicals and operation of the Springfield Municipal Landfill.

Broyles served the people of the state of Missouri in local, regional and statewide roles for over 40 years. Broyles came to the City after a 30-year career with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT). Twenty of those years were spent in the Springfield District office in several Maintenance and Operations positions. He also served as District Engineer in the Northeast District in Hannibal, and completed his career with MODOT in Jefferson City as the Director of Operations over the state's activities in Maintenance, Construction, Materials' Testing and Traffic Engineering.

Dave Nichols, Director of MoDOT, recounted, "Phil Broyles was a consummate public servant. He could bring out the best in people. He and I worked quite a lot on re-engineering of MoDOT. Many of the strategies we deployed as best practices in our Bolder 5 Year Direction, Phil had thought of many years before. But as good as Phil was at process improvement, his best skill was working with people. As a leader, he related so well to field staff. He could converse with any MoDOT Maintenance Supervisor about chip sealing roads or plowing snow and they respected him for his expertise. My fondest memories of Phil were of him as a coach and mentor to me. He was someone I could talk to about the inner workings of MoDOT and he would give me candid, yet honest advice. He was a friend and I can hear his unique voice as I write. I will miss him very much. To his family, all of us at MoDOT offer our heartfelt sympathy and sorrow in Phil's passing. Know that he touched us all."

“Phil was a true public servant,” said Becky Baltz, District Engineer, MODOT Southwest District. “He was smart, kind and had the respect of everyone who worked with him. He touched many lives both during his career at MODOT and his time with the City. We will miss him greatly.”

After retiring from MoDot, he resumed service to the people of Springfield as the Assistant Director of Public Works, and he replaced the retiring Director of Public Works on an interim basis in 2010. Broyles was confirmed in the position permanently in 2011.

He was a member of several professional and technical organizations including the American Public Works Association, National Society of Professional Engineers, Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the Transportation Engineers Association of Missouri. He held a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla and was a registered Professional Engineer.

Phil Broyles Major Accomplishments

- **Named one of the Top 10 Public Works Professionals in the country in 2012.** APWA annually recognizes ten of the most outstanding public works professionals from across the U.S. and Canada for their career-long dedication and service, professionalism, and expertise in public works infrastructure. Phil was recognized by City Council in Springfield and at the APWA 2012 International Public Works Congress & Exposition in Anaheim, California.

In a two-year period (2010-2011) he effected a complete reorganization of one of the largest departments in the City and continued a tradition of award-winning excellence," said President of the APWA Missouri Chapter, William L. Schwer, P.E. Broyles also sanctioned and supported the creation of Neighborhood Traffic Committees to work with neighborhood associations and area stakeholders to solve small-scale, traffic problems that might not otherwise merit attention from traffic engineers. He placed engineers and neighbors into a cooperative committee, and they all worked together to go beyond the textbook in creating workable, maintainable, and effective solutions to satisfy the needs of the neighborhood.

"Public Works activities touch our citizens' lives every day in many ways they may not even realize," Broyles said when receiving the award. "The vital infrastructure, services, and programs that our employees provide 365 days a year range from where the water goes when you brush your teeth in the morning, to the sidewalks and streets you travel on."

- **Public Works received accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA) under Phil's leadership.** (less than 1% of Public Works agencies qualify)

APWA accreditation program recognizes governmental agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry.

The APWA accreditation indicates that Public Works and Environmental Services staff are dedicated to concepts of continuous improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices.

- **Oversaw the creation of the nation's first diverging diamond intersection** (Kansas Expressway and I-44) Then, added one at James River Freeway; Kansas and Republic Road and Hwy. 65 and Chestnut Expressway.
- **Received the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Bicycle & Pedestrian Federation.** Under Phil's direction, Springfield has added bicycle lanes to nine miles of Springfield roads and shared lane markings to another nine miles.

An innovative project called "The Link" is underway to create an eight-mile bicycle boulevard type connection among key destinations in the city.

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