

Joint City-Greene County Planning Task Force

Meeting Notes

February 20, 2014 – 8:00 a.m.

4th Floor Conference Room – Busch Municipal Building

Meeting #12

Task Force Members Present:

Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager
Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator
Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor
Mary Mannix Decker, Springfield Finance Director
Martha Mundt, Greene County Budget Director
Jerry Moyer, Greene County Court Administrator

The meeting began at approximately 8:03 a.m. with a welcome from Greg Burris, City Manager, and Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator, followed by a review of today's agenda.

City Manager Burris asked for a motion to approve the notes from the January 27, 2014 meeting. Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor, moved to approve the notes as presented. Mary Mannix Decker, Springfield Finance Director, seconded the motion and the notes were approved.

City Manager Burris made comments regarding the environmental Integrated Plan, which is a citizen-focused approach of the City, Greene County, and City Utilities (CU). He introduced Errin Kemper, City Assistant Director of Environmental Services, who gave a presentation entitled "Integrated Plan Implementation Strategy." *(Please refer to Exhibit A located within the City Clerk's Office for additional information.)*

The following is brief outline of the presentation:

- A. Guiding Principles (Affordable; Effective; Fair; Attainable; Measurable; and Adaptable)
- B. Strategy in Four Phases:
 - a. Phase I – Assessment - Where are we now?
 - i. Collect and summarize environmental data
 - ii. Map regarding Dye Trace Results
 - b. Phase II – Vision – Where do we want to be?
 - i. We Have Achieved Success When: ...
 - c. Phase III – Tactical – How do we get there?
 - i. Finding the most effective solution to address the most pressing concerns
 - ii. Finding the most significant problems (couple slides)
 - iii. Allocation of Resources
 - iv. Finding the most effective solutions:...(couple slides)
 - v. Allocation of Resources
 - vi. Community Priorities
 - vii. Traditional Approach ...
 - viii. A Closer Look...
 - ix. Solution ...
 - d. Phase IV – Adaptive Management – How will we measure progress?
 - i. How will we measure progress?
 - e. Questions?

City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper noted that this presentation was given at the recent National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Annual Conference in which the City received awards for some City-related projects. He noted that it appears that the City is ahead of most communities within the country regarding the issue of integrated planning for environmental regulations.

City Manager Burris commented that the joint integrated plan pertains to water, solid waste, and air quality.

The Task Force, Steve Meyer, City Director of Environmental Services, and City Assistant Environmental Services Director Kemper discussed the Integrated Plan.

During the discussion, City Environmental Services Director Meyer and City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper responded to questions posed by the Task Force.

In response to a question posed by City Finance Director Mannix Decker, City Environmental Services Director Meyer and City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper explained that the City's ultimate goal is a clean environment, and we want to meet the regulatory requirement standards, but with a longer compliance schedule on some guidelines and a shorter one on others from the regulatory agencies.

City Manager Burris discussed that the City, Greene County, and CU have the reputation of trying to be "good environmental stewards."

City Environmental Services Director Meyer explained that there are two types of wastewater systems: a combined system, which collects sanitary sewage and stormwater runoff in a single pipe system; and a single system, which the City has. He noted that this Integrated Plan is the only one he is aware of that addresses a single system.

In response to a question posed by City Manager Burris, City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper discussed that with all of the environmental mandates, which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does change, the costs for compliance to the local community could exceed over \$1 billion dollars, which would have a significant impact upon the local residents, particularly lower income individuals who may have approximately 18% of their income impacted.

City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper noted that he has been invited to conduct this Integrated Plan presentation at a four state regional conference being held in Iowa in June.

In response to a question posed by County Court Administrator Jerry Moyer, City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper explained the process for trying to achieve the mandated goals. He noted that we will start to see success when the next environmental mandate comes down and it is time to negotiate, how much we will spend and where we will spend it.

City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper gave an example regarding a standard for ammonia discharge at wastewater plants to help reduce the toxicity for the aquatic life, such as fish and gill breathing snails, which will be expensive to implement to meet the matrix compared to other standards that would have a greater impact for the monies spent. He discussed how a "one size fits all" solution for the regulatory mandates does not work.

City Environmental Services Director Meyer noted that there are approximately 30 communities within Missouri that have permits issued currently that will cost more than 10% of the MHI (median household income) within their communities to go towards environmental mandate compliance.

In response to a question posed by County Administrator Smith, City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper discussed how indicators are used to find the impacts and the value placed upon the environment (i.e. gill breathing snails) for implementing some mandates for toxicities in water, such as ammonia discharge at wastewater plants. He explained SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow is any overflow, spill, release, discharge or diversion of untreated or partially treated wastewater from a sanitary sewer system) reduction with the Task Force.

In response to a question posed by City Manager Burriss, City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper addressed that he feels citizen input is vital for the Integrated Plan to succeed, because it provides vital information and perspectives back to the three entities (County, City, & CU) about how the plan is progressing within the Community.

Following further discussion, the Task Force thanked City Environmental Services Assistant Director Kemper for today's presentation.

County Administrator Smith reviewed a handout regarding the Continued Joint City-County Planning Task Force meetings thru July 23, 2014. *(Please refer to Exhibit B located within the City Clerk's Office for additional information.)*

The Task Force reviewed Exhibit B.

County Administrator Smith reported that staff members would be notified about the upcoming topics, so their information or presentation can be compiled for the Task Force's review in the future. He added that he has been working on compiling their draft report per their charge. County Administrator Smith noted that draft chapters would be provided for the Task Force's review and input in the near future.

County Administrator Smith and City Manager Burriss noted that a letter was sent last week to several entities involved within the local criminal justice system, such as the Juvenile Center, Public Defender's Office, Circuit Court, and Municipal Court, pertaining to the law enforcement scenarios, for additional information. City Manager Burriss noted that the letter requested that information be provided back by March 24, 2014, so it can be reviewed and addressed at the March 26, 2014 Task Force meeting.

The Task Force discussed that additional meetings may be needed to help address the various issues, such as consolidated functions.

County Administrator Smith reminded the Task Force that they are charged with providing information and to provide options, not recommendations.

City Manager Burriss requested that the Task Force please consider "performance measures," possibly 2 or 3 per major topic, for tracking purposes.

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., which will be held at the Greene County Archives Election Center.

With no additional discussion, the meeting was dismissed at approximately 9:10 a.m.