

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

July 19, 2023

12:00 p.m.

Councilman Denny Whayne Conference Room (Bush Building, 4th floor)

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Heather Hardinger, Chair; Craig Hosmer; Derek Lee; and Callie Carroll.

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None.

COUNCIL

PRESENT: None.

STAFF

PRESENT: Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager; Maurice S. Jones, Deputy City Manager; Erick Roberts, Assistant Director of Environmental Services; Sharon Smith, Executive Assistant; Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; and Lauren Fischer, City Clerk Administrative Specialist.

GUESTS: None.

Councilwoman Heather Hardinger, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m., and roll call was conducted. Present: Craig Hosmer, Callie Carroll, Derek Lee, and Heather Hardinger. Absent: None.

Councilman Hosmer moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023, meeting as presented. Councilman Lee seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Carroll, Lee, Hosmer, and Hardinger. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of priority topics for the Committee and the next steps for the Committee to take towards these topics. She further noted the discussion would help provide the historical context of these topics for the new Committee members.

She began with the clean air and environmental protection topic. She noted this topic was presented and discussed in June of 2022 and February of 2023, and the Committee did not take any action.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked Councilman Hosmer for an overview of the topic. Councilman Hosmer explained the topic of clean air and environmental protection was brought before the Committee by former City Councilman Schilling. He noted the intent of this topic was to find a

long-term plan to electrify City vehicles to help with fuel savings and to find long term-plans to improve the environment. He noted the presenters of this topic provided the Committee with information from Kansas City, Columbia, and St. Louis, and reviewed strategies for the City of Springfield to become more environmentally conscious.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked for a summary of the previous presentation for the new Committee members. Anita Cotter, City Clerk, replied she would provide copies of the previous Committee minutes with the corresponding presentations for review.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted the next topic as alternative incarceration and community work service agreement. She noted the Committee discussed this topic in December of 2019 and again in February of 2023, and there was no action taken.

Councilman Hosmer noted this topic was brought to the Committee by his suggestion. He explained Greene County uses inmates to complete community service projects that are beneficial to the inmate and to the County. He expressed his intent was to discuss implementing a similar program through the City that would allow those facing incarceration or fines to use work programs and community service programs, such as neighborhood clean-ups, to benefit the City. He spoke about a program in Connecticut which uses a similar project for inmates who have minor offenses.

Councilwoman Carroll asked why there was no action taken by the Committee on this topic. Councilman Hosmer noted there were some concerns regarding the legality of the matter and liability to the City.

Collin Quigly, Deputy City Manager, explained there are programs administered through Municipal Court that work towards this goal. He noted Jenny Deppe, Probation Officer, presented statistics and information to the Committee regarding the different programs available for completion through Municipal Court. He further noted there were concerns about the logistics and possible liability issues with the City running its own program.

Councilman Hosmer asked if there were any statutes that protect the City from liability with this type of program. Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney, replied she would look into the topic. Councilman Hosmer expressed his opinion this type of program would help repeat offenders suffer the consequences of their actions before it escalates to the Department of Corrections.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked if the Connecticut model was a state model or if it was a municipal model. Councilman Hosmer noted it was a state model. He noted this program worked in Connecticut to reduce the prison population, reduced crime, and reduced prison time for repeat offenders.

Mr. Quigley noted most incarcerated people are those who failed to complete their sentencing or community service. He noted the City wants to ensure there are multiple ways for an individual to satisfy the terms of their judgements. He discussed the possibility of revamping the current

programs and practices in place by the City and Municipal Court, such as the Community Alternative Sentencing Program.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked what the Committee wanted to achieve from this topic. She suggested reviewing the City's current program model and other municipalities' program models for restorative justice to help gain an understanding of how to execute these types of programs for community alignment.

Mr. Quigley suggested reviewing probation practices in Independence, Missouri. Councilwoman Hardinger agreed and asked for more information on the Independence probation practices for Committee review. She noted the next discussion should include information on the City's options for implementing this type of program. Mr. Quigley noted he would ask for an update from Ms. Deppe on the current probation information and see in what areas her department may need additional support.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted the next topic as adopting a local business preference program for City contracts.

Councilman Hosmer explained the intent of this subject was to encourage the City to enter into contracts with local companies rather than non-local, but there were concerns due to the possibility of increased cost.

Maurice S. Jones, Deputy City Manager, suggested the Committee look at best practices and different opportunities, and evaluate what the City is already doing to enhance the current practices to avoid driving up cost when using local preference. Councilwoman Hardinger agreed the Committee should review this topic and ways to improve the local preference priority without driving up cost.

Mr. Quigley noted a local preference ordinance was adopted.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked if there was a specific goal in mind with this topic. Councilman Hosmer replied the intent was to add more local contracts to help businesses in Springfield.

Councilman Lee asked what types of contracts involve local preference. Councilwoman Hardinger noted this topic referred to contractors.

Councilwoman Hardinger reiterated the priority for this topic was to review best practices. She suggested an overview of the presentations to have context of understanding of the local preferences with a focus on contracts. She added if the Committee members would like to expand the topic, it could be added as a separate agenda item for further discussion.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted the next topic for review was an update regarding the Sexual Assault Task Force. She noted Chief Williams, Police, provides updates on this topic periodically for the City Councilmembers.

Councilman Hosmer asked if this task force was still active. Mr. Quigley responded there was a resolution for this topic when the Sexual Assault Task Force presented its final report in 2019. He noted the remaining task was satisfied this year with a campaign conducted by the City's Public Information and Civic Engagement Department.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked if it would be possible to receive an update on this topic. She asked about retiring the topic if all components have been satisfied. Ms. Lewsader replied she would send the resolution to the Committee to review to ensure all items have been satisfied before retiring the topic from the Committee.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted the last topic was prevailing wages on associated projects to the City's workable program. She noted there was one meeting and presentation in June of 2022 for this topic, and no action was taken by the Committee.

Councilman Hosmer explained this topic was brought to the Committee to discuss concerns that some contractors were not paying prevailing wages.

Councilman Lee asked for clarification on prevailing wages. Ms. Lewsader explained the topic referred to the Committee was whether the City should require a prevailing wage on projects connected to the City's workable program, which typically does not require prevailing wages to be paid. She noted prevailing wages are required on projects such as those bid out by Public Works. She noted some cities have adopted code sections that suggest if the developer is benefiting from the city's workable program, the city would require prevailing wages.

Ms. Cotter noted she would work with the Law Department to obtain information for the Committee to review regarding the topic of prevailing wages.

Councilwoman Carroll asked what topics come before the Community Involvement Committee. Ms. Cotter explained the areas of responsibilities for the Committee are legislative issues, neighborhood issues, and environmental issues. She noted each Committee has a set list of responsibilities. She explained if one Committee has an abundance of topics for discussion, the item may be referred to a different Committee.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked for clarification on process for bringing items before this Committee for discussion. Ms. Cotter explained if a topic is brought before the City Council that requires more information or additional discussion, it may be referred to a Committee for evaluation. She added a Councilmember can request a topic of their liking to be brought before this Committee for discussion if it falls under the responsibilities of the Committee. Ms. Lewsader noted the City Code encourages complex Council Bills to utilize the Committee process.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked about the process for resolving items during the Committee meetings. Ms. Cotter explained items referred to the Committee must result in some form of action such as a recommendation to go forward to a resolution or suggestions regarding City Council action.

There being no further business to come before this Committee, Councilman Lee moved to adjourn. Councilwoman Carroll seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lee, Carroll, Hosmer, and Hardinger. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by Lauren Fischer