

MINUTES
METRO PEORIA COMMITTEE
January 13, 2016
2:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Ryan Spain, Chairman Tim Riggerbach	Andrew Rand Tom O’Neill
MEMBERS ABSENT	W. Eric Turner	Steve Morris
STAFF PRESENT	Patrick Urich, City Manager Chris Setti, Asst. City Manager Scott Reeise, City Engineer	Scott Sorrel, County Administrator Mark Rothert, Asst. County Admin Amy McLaren, County Engineer
OTHER ELECTED	Patrick Nichting, City Treasurer	Jason Hauer, Recorder of Deeds Carol Trumpe, County Board

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Spain at 2:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2015, meeting was made by Member Rand; seconded by Member Riggerbach. The motion was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve Joint City-County Legislative Agenda

Chairman Spain outlined the 2016 joint legislative agenda. He noted the City Council approved the agenda at its January 12 meeting and the County Board will take up the issue at its January 14 meeting. Assistant City Manager Setti stated that the Council added one item since last year regarding creating greater flexibility in the hiring of firefighters. County Administrator Sorrel stated that the County added one new item regarding the Hanna City work camp. As currently arranged, there are too many restrictions on how the property can be used, making it difficult to be productive. The County is seeking to loosen those restrictions. Mr. Setti also stated that two projects were added to the capital requests: Glen Avenue and Western Avenue reconstructions.

Member Rand asked if legislators were being asked to protect the local share of the Local Government Distributive Fund. Mr. Setti stated that it was part of the larger point on Illinois fiscal concerns.

Member Riggerbach moved to adopt the joint City-County legislative agenda; seconded by Member O’Neill. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Spain reminded the Committee that the legislative breakfast would be held Friday, January 15 at the Gateway Building. He stated that all the local legislators had confirmed their attendance, other than Senator Koehler who would be attending his daughter’s wedding.

DISCUSSION

Electronic Transactions for Real Estate Transfers

Record of Deeds Hauer discussed recent changes that improve the efficiency of his office. Previously, real estate transfers required paper forms either mailed or completed over the counter. Now, “e-recording” allows user-based entry with County staff reviewing and approving. While this change impacted most transfers, it could not be done in the City because the City required certain forms to be

completed regarding owner occupancy. A software change allowed City forms to be submitted electronic too.

Chairman Spain complimented Mr. Hauer and stated this was a more efficient system and offered better customer service. Mr. Hauer commented that Peoria was only the second county in Illinois directly connected to Springfield. City Treasurer Nichting added that it was a good partnership between the City and County. Councilman Spain asked if this new system will improve compliance with the rental registration program. Mr. Nichting reported that rental registration was now a function of the Finance Department where it would have much more force.

Partnership with County Treasurer to Place City Garbage Fee on Real Estate Tax Bills

Chairman Spain reported that the City Council had recently approved an agreement that would allow the City garbage bill to be placed on the real estate tax bills. Mr. Nichting commented that this was another great example of cooperation between the City and County. He recounted that the effort started with a conversation with the County Treasurer nearly a year ago. The City originally thought it needed legislation passed to make this possible, but the State's Attorney clarified the ability to do it without legislation. The new system will decrease the City's expenses by 50% to \$150,000 and should dramatically increase compliance. Chairman Spain expressed gratitude for the partnership. Mr. Nichting commented that this was not a new fee, but rather a new way to pay the fee.

Potential Expansion of Committee Membership

Member Rand suggested that the Metro Peoria Committee be expanded to reflect the greater interest in this issue. He asked if the charter could be amended to add two members: one citizen each from the City and from the County outside of City limits. Chairman Spain appreciated the idea. He suggested that both City Council and County Board could approved the amended charter and appoint their new representatives in time for the next meeting.

Member Rand made a motion to amend the charter to add two new members as outlined; seconded by Member Riggerbach. The motion was approved unanimously.

Update on Willow Knolls Road Improvement and Intersection with Allen Road

Chairman Spain thanked County Board Member Carol Trumpe for being in attendance at the meeting. He asked the County to provide an update on its plans to improve Willow Knolls Road, recognizing that the intersection with Allen involves the City.

County Administrator Sorrel reported that the 2016 County budget included \$800,000 for the mill and overlay for Willow Knolls from Allen to War Memorial, but not inclusive of the railroad bridge. Since the County will be using motor fuel tax funds, they will need to follow IDOT rules which often increases cost. Mr. Sorrel discussed a few issues with the project including a debate over retaining the open ditch vs. a closed storm sewer and the high cost of moving a 12" gas main and high-voltage electricity lines. Mr. Sorrel stated that the County was looking for non-local sources of funding for the intersection of Allen and Willow Knolls, which he estimated would cost \$2 million. He also stated they were waiting for better traffic data based on a fully opened Allen Road.

Regarding the full reconstruction of the road, Mr. Sorrel stated that the City and County needed to figure out how to approach a jurisdictional transfer. Staff estimates the cost of a total reconstruction would approach \$11 million. He stated that pedestrian facilities might be difficult to include because of the utilities present and that lack of pedestrian facilities might preclude a jurisdictional transfer.

Member Riggerbach commented that there were other sections of County road within the City that had problems, namely Glen, Lake and Sheridan. Member Rand commented that Carol Hornickle has been a great champion for this project. He also stated that he was very concerned about the intersection with Allen Road, especially the approaches. Mr. Sorrel stated that the concrete composition of the road made it more expensive to fix and also expressed concern about PROWAG and pedestrians. Chairman Spain asked about recent City work in the area. City Engineer Reise reported that a small joint repair project had been done in the area. In response to a question from Chairman Spain, Mr. Reise stated that the entire project would be less expensive if motor fuel taxes were not used. County Engineer McLaren stated that the mill and overlay project would be let in the spring and constructed over the summer.

Chairman Spain asked that this project remain on future agendas. Member Riggerbach asked that other County road sections also be discussed. Member Rand stated that the County Board has been discussing road conditions and their improvement. He suggested there may be a referendum held to consider additional revenue. Mr. Sorrel stated that current funding levels barely maintain existing roads. The County has identified \$200 million in road improvement projects and estimates improving the 13 miles County roadway in the City will cost \$47 million.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Rand commented on a recent Journal Star article that was critical of City-County cooperation efforts. He questioned whether the Committee was doing a good job of communicating its work and suggested maybe co-authoring an article in response. Chairman Spain suggested that City and County communication staff attend the next meeting. Ms. Trumpe stated that the Committee needed to spread the word to the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Riggerbach; seconded by Member O'Neill. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Spain at 3:35 PM.