

# SMITHVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMAN

## WORK SESSION

May 3, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers and Via Videoconference

### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Boley, present, called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present: Kelly Kobylski, John Chevalier, Dan Ulledahl, Ronald Russell and Marv Atkins. Dan Hartman was present via Zoom.

Staff present: Cynthia Wagner, Anna Mitchell, Captain Tony Roetman, Chuck Soules, Linda Drummond, Stephan Larson and Jack Hendrix.

### 2. Comprehensive Plan Implementation Progress Update

Jack Hendrix Development Director, gave a brief history of the process for the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan started after the auspices of a Strategic Plan in 2018 when the Board requested staff put together a bid for potential firms. The processes' main goal was community input. That process took a while and we received a lot of input from the community, that then led to a Strategic Plan with the five pillars and from there the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan was implemented when the previous Board adopted it as the policy of the City in November of 2020. We are now seventeen months into the implementation action under that Comprehensive Plan. Jack explained that he laid them out on the [Comprehensive Plan Update memo](#) in the packet including a dash board that shows the progress that has been made. In the plan it lays out the timeframe for the implementation and the priority levels. The progress reports show the priority the first three years of work. Jack noted that the City has been making progress on all of them, some slower than others. Jack explained that this will be one of the topics for the Board Retreat May 25 to get your further direction on how to proceed.

Cynthia noted that staff will also continue to add updates on the Comprehensive Plan on a quarterly basis.

### 3. Transportation Master Plan Update

Chuck Soules, Public Works Director, explained that the [Transportation Master Plan](#) sets up the provision for Smithville for transportation for the next 10 to 20 years. It outlines community mobility, infrastructure and transportation. The Transportation Master Plan builds on some of the work that Jack mentioned with the Strategic Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The project scope included developing guidelines for complete streets, safe routes to schools, functional classification, north-south and east-west connectivity, access management, connectivity with trails. The plan has a prioritized project list.

Chuck noted that a steering committee was established with members from the Board, the public, the chamber, the school district and City staff. The Missouri

Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) were also involved.

The project began in March 2021. The public involvement included a pop-up event in June at Price Chopper, we conducted an online survey that was open for three months. From June through September of 2021, 400 surveys were collected, and we reached 3,100 people on Facebook and Next Door.

A draft Transportation Master Plan was presented to the Board March 3. At that meeting the Board directed that the website remain open for residents to comment until March 31. During that time, the public provide an additional 23 comments on the draft plan.

*In summary, comments fell into the following categories:*

- *Concerns regarding Highway 169 (5 comments)*
  - *Concerns related to speeding, signalization and need for a bypass*
- *Comments expressing satisfaction with plan (5 comments)*
- *Comments noting the plan was missing an element (9 comments)*
  - *Meals on wheels not included*
  - *Fix existing streets / remove downtown bulb-outs*
  - *Signal at Highway 169 and 144<sup>th</sup>*
  - *Remove Metro Green Trail*
  - *3 comments about a N/S collector street East of Hills of Shannon*
  - *2 comments that indicated something was missing however those items were included within the plan (sidewalks on Second Creek and on HWY 92 and Liberty)*
- *General comments indication that the respondent does not like the plan (4 comments)*
  - *Bikes not important*
  - *Does not want a Mega City*

Chuck explained that with all the comments concerning 169, 92, KK or any state highways, staff will continue to work with MoDOT. As traffic warrants staff will look at signals, speed, access management and will continue to work with MoDOT on all of those issues.

One comment requested for removing the Metro Green Trail. Chuck explained that trail is a greater Kansas City MARC initiative and the draft Transportation Master Plan only notes that plan is out there it does not mean that we are going to proceed with that project.

Additional comments referred to a north-south collector east of Hills of Shannon. Chuck explained that this is a long-term plan and it is based on when the development happens. We need to be able to project to development where we need major roads. Chuck noted that the City would not just purchase property to start a maintenance plan is would only be driven by development. He explained the Transportation Plan was established based on the Comprehensive Plan and what development would be occurring in various areas.

Concerning the comments that indicated that items were missing – Chuck explained that they were in the plan staff just had to make sure people saw them. The Second Creek sidewalk, the sidewalk on 92 Highway and the

sidewalks on Liberty Road. Chuck noted that staff did add a connection across the dam based on a comment that was received.

Four comments from residents that did not like the plan, they did not like bikes and did they did not want Smithville to become a mega city.

Chuck explained that the current version of the Transportation Plan is posted on the City's Public Works web page and, pending Board discussion and direction, staff would recommend that this be brought back to the Board May 17 for adoption.

Mayor Boley noted that a mega city is a city of over ten million.

Alderman Chevalier asked Chuck to explain the timeline for this project, when it started, etc.

Chuck went over the timeline:

- *December 29, 2020: RFQ 21 -03 Qualification statements for professional services for a Transportation Master Plan were received and selected Toole and Design*
- *March 2, 2021: The Board approved Resolution 889 authorizing the contract and establishing a Steering Committee*
- *March 30, 2021: Steering Committee Kick Off Meeting*
- *June 22, 2021: Steering Committee Meeting*
- *June 26 2021: Pop-Up Event at Price Chopper to obtain public input*
- *June – September, 2021: online survey*
  - *401 surveys collected*
  - *Promoted on Facebook and Nextdoor*
  - *3,108 people reached*
- *September 9, 2021: Steering Committee Meeting*
- *September 2021 – February 2022: final plan development by consultant*
- *March 3, 2022 Draft Plan presented to Board of Aldermen*
- *March 4 – 31, 2022: website live for residents to access the plan and provide feedback*

Mayor Boley noted that it was first brought to the Board in 2017-2018 but was postponed until the Comprehensive Plan was completed.

Cynthia noted that we have been discussing the Transportation Master Plan for a number of years and knew that it needed to occur. We wanted to make sure we did the Community Strategic Plan to outline a bigger picture for the community and then the Comprehensive Plan update, so we knew what we were looking at as future expectations for what was wanted in the community.

The Transportation Master Plan was just the next piece to complete. Cynthia reminded the Board that this is a conceptual plan, the routes that are outlined are not the specific locations of where things will be. It is a plan to help us through the development process.

The Comprehensive Plan, the Transportation Master Plan the Parks and Recreation Master Plan all work together as new plans submitted to the City for development are reviewed, and we look at those expectations and how the

community will be shaped. If there is a parkland area that might be necessary on a tract of land, or a trail this plan is to help us with the expectations we have in the community for how the developments will fit.

Chuck explained that this is not the end of the public participation process, when a property starts developing, the first in input is going to be through the Planning and Zoning process. That is where the design gets laid out that is when those discussions will happen. The discuss of the transportation network will include items such as: the trails, sidewalks and roads in those areas.

Mayor Boley explained that this plan will help in holding developers accountable for putting in sidewalks and roads and to ensure they do not fall apart like they did in the Rock Creek subdivision, and we have already had to replace them. We want to ensure that this is something the developer has to pay.

Alderman Russell asked to clarify this would mean when a business or a developer comes, we are trying to get away from 169 Highway and toward a new east-west and north-south byway?

Chuck explained that when you think about the layout of communities you have to think of how people going to get around the developments. If an area develops and all you have are residential street and you do not have collector streets or arterial streets for people to get to so they can get to a main highway more effectively, everybody is cutting through the neighborhood just to get to the main highway. He explained that they try to lay the streets out not necessarily in a grid system but in a grid system where you have collector streets every half mile and arterial streets, which is similar to 169 highway, every mile, so that people can get around and have access. So, you are not just pulling traffic as a bypass from 169 Highway but so they can get around to the different areas such as; shopping areas, parks, your service areas, hospitals, city government, etc. Chuck noted that you do not want the traffic to have to cut through all the residential street where kids are playing, and you want traffic slow. You do not want the street your house is on to become the de facto collector street because there is not one available for them to get to easily.

Alderman Russell thanked Chuck and said he had done a great job putting this together.

Alderman Hartman thanked Chuck, the Aldermen and some folks from the community for the input on this. He noted that he read all the public comments and appreciates that we gather those, good, bad and indifferent because we do need to hear from the citizens. This plan gives a roadmap for developers who come to the City for the Planning and Zoning process. Alderman Hartman said that this is a good foundation to have for the future growth of our city.

#### **4. Animal Control – Friends of Megan’s Paws and Claws**

Dawn Adams and Lori Kissinger presented for the Friends of Megan’s Paws and Claws.

Dawn Adams thanked the Board for allowing them to present this. She noted that their goal is to meet the Board and make them aware of what their goals are and where they are wanting to partner with the City.

Friends of Megan's Paws and Claws, ("FOMPC"), is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization founded in 2022 and is comprised entirely of volunteers. FOMPC's primary mission is to financially support Megan's Paws and Claws, the dog pound located in Smithville, Missouri, founded in honor of Megan Kitchen, an avid animal lover. In addition to financially supporting the dog pound, FOMPC promotes the adoption of shelter dogs and supports community outreach and education. Financing is provided through donations and fundraising events carried out by volunteers. FOMPC believes that our entire community benefits from compassion and humanity shown in caring for animals who are lost or discarded.

#### Positive Impact in Three Short Months

- ❖ Formed Board of Directors
- ❖ Actively forming Advisory Board, Fundraising Board
- ❖ Seeking a TNR Committee
- ❖ Acquired MO Business
- ❖ Submitted for 501©3
- ❖ Over 340 Face Members
- ❖ Raised over \$5,000 in donation

#### **Long-term Partnership with the City**

Consistent year-round fundraising benefiting Megan's Paws and Claws and the animals of Smithville

Advocate to prioritize/expand animal services in Smithville

Recruit Volunteers to fill gaps at the Pound

Partner to sell City Licenses at FOMAC events

#### **Pound Wish List**

Irrigational Turf System

Washer/Dryer

Meet and Greet fenced yard

Wood Rot repairs

Security System

Smart Smoke Detectors

Storage/Shelving

#### **Education/Welfare**

Host low-cost Vaccine and microchip clinics

Partner w/NAWS to provide discounted Spay/Neuter services

Establish a Medical Fund for Vet needs for Pound animals that fall out of City Budget

Advocating for a TNR Committee to be formed

Establish Volunteer Scanner groups to assist in reuniting found animals

Alderman Chevalier asked if this topic could be part of the discussion at the Board Retreat coming up and can talk about how we can see about adding an animal control officer in the budget?

Cynthia explained that was one of the reasons we wanted them to present this to the Board prior to the retreat to see if this was something the Board would like to discuss as part of the budget. Included in the retreat will be a number of areas looking at future needs, including staffing and we are going to be looking for Board priorities as well. Cynthia noted that on May 17, staff will bring an update on the FY22 budget and have budget presentation on the initial needs outlined. Staff will ask the Board to start thinking about those priorities that they have not necessarily seen in the staff recommendation based on staff properties and what we are looking at through development of the budget and all of our strategic planning so all of those can be discussed at the retreat. Cynthia noted that we may not have specific details of cost, but it will give us something to start talking about what those priorities look like and give us a work plan in developing the budget and moving forward.

Alderman Russell noted that the City's animal control is handled by our local Police Department so this would help take a load off the Police Department as well.

Dawn asked if there is a time or date that they could come back to get some answers to their questions as far as any plans?

Mayor Boley explained that the budget discussion starts this month, and we will have a first blush for that in probably July.

Cynthia explained the budget process. Staff will bring forward information from the current discussion on May 17, then the retreat May 25 and then staff will take the information from the retreat to build a budget that will be brought forward for the initial discussion by the Board in July. She explained that staff can be in communication with the Friends of Megan's Paws and Claws as to the direction we get from the retreat

Mayor Boley explained that the budget will be approved and adopted in October for FY2023 that starts November 1.

Dawn asked if there would be a possibility to know the status of the volunteer situation prior to that?

Cynthia explained that is internally staff driven, and we have reached out to Chief Lockridge to work with Melissa to come up with a recommended protocol

and SOP for that. She said that once we have that, staff will reach out as we have available.

Lori Kissinger commented that she really appreciated the Board taking time listen to them this evening. She said that this is very close to her heart, and she was elated when Dawn and several people came together keep the animal shelter going. She noted that as a city grows, the population grows and so does the animal population. She believes strongly that there is a strong force for revenue and if we all work together. She said it is going to take time, but they are dedicated and want to see this continue to grow and continue to serve the community.

**5. Adjourn**

Alderman Ulledahl moved to adjourn. Alderman Kobylski seconded the motion.

Ayes – 6, Noes – 0, motion carries. Mayor Boley declared the Work Session adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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Linda Drummond, City Clerk

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Damien Boley, Mayor