

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES

October 22, 2019

6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, O'Neill, Rue and President Copeland; Acting City Manager Hicks, Fire Chief Miller, Community Development Director Meadows, and Planning, Zoning and Code Administrator Thompson.

GUEST: Teri Johnson, AccuMed Group.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, October 2, 2019, were:

1. Teri Johnson of AccuMed Group and Fire Chief Miller presented Commissioners with an EMS Revenue Overview which included fee recovery options for EMS runs made by the Springfield Fire Rescue Division. Ms. Johnson explained the fees associated with Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls which are 30 percent of Springfield's EMS runs and Basic Life Support (BLS) calls which are 70 percent of the runs. Ms. Johnson detailed various billing strategies that include fee structures, insurance only billing, incarcerated patient policies, contractual agreements, and nursing home billings.

Mr. Rue asked for additional detail on nursing home billing. Chief Miller cited an example of an inappropriate call to a nursing home for transport that could have been handled by a medical transport provider.

Mr. O'Neill asked about Medicare billing. Ms. Johnson stated EMS runs for patients with Medicare have their fees billed to Medicare. A patient's insurance is billed for calls, but the patient is not billed directly.

Possible collection strategies were reviewed and include hardship policies, third-party debt collection, credit cards, and payment obligations. Carrier fee schedules were also reviewed.

Chief Miller described working with the local hospital on a partnership to share patient insurance data for billing purposes.

Mr. Copeland reminded citizens that taxpayers are not billed for emergency calls, but their insurance will be billed to recover some of the expense.

Dr. Estrop thanked Fire staff for looking at ways to balance the expenses.

2. Mrs. Meadows and Mr. Thompson presented information on the Engaged Neighborhood Plan and described the process thus far which included several workshops and conversations with residents and stakeholders. The study area is defined as Limestone Street to Center Street, then Pleasant Street to Perrin Avenue. This area is a legacy neighborhood connected to the downtown area with a diverse group of residents who are actively engaged in their community.

Mrs. Meadows reviewed the many initiatives planned for the area. One initiative includes Code Enforcement efforts in the neighborhood for positive changes in exterior compliance. Ms. Meadows cited 376 exterior code orders in this area with 111 orders completed and 136 in process.

Dr. Estrop commented on Code Enforcement staff's flexibility and willingness to work the owners on compliance. Dr. Estrop also commented that a plan must be in place to gain funding for investments in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Meadows reviewed ideas for the historic district, vacant spaces, pocket parks, and existing infrastructure. Mrs. Meadows noted using the historic Gammon House as a neighborhood anchor to give the area a focal point.

Dr. Estrop commented that the planning process for this area would be used as a template for other neighborhoods.

Mr. Copeland commented that improvements in this neighborhood will also help the surrounding neighborhoods.


On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Adj. 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce
Clerk of the City Commission