

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Mari E. Macomber, City Manager *MEM*
SESSION DATE: December 5, 2011
TIME: 4:30 pm
PLACE: City Council Chambers

AGENDA:

- **MEETING WITH MODOT**
- **PRESENTATION ON DAY CARE SURVEY RESULTS**
- **REVIEW CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**
- **REVIEW NEWSLETTER (includes miscellaneous topics)**

MEETING WITH MODOT

On Monday, Kevin James, Assistant District Engineer for our region will be in attendance to introduce, the new Area Engineer Amy Crawford, whose office is located at the local MoDOT facility. Ms. Crawford will be able to explain what her role and responsibilities will be for our area. This will be a good opportunity to discuss how the new highway is working and to also discuss any future transportation issues that are of interest to the Council.

As a reminder a significant portion of the new roadway opened at the end of October. Since its opening, MoDOT has done a number of things to address safety concerns:

- * First two days flagged traffic at the 3 key intersections, alerted drivers to changed pattern.
- * Adjusted Traffic Signals
- * Installed rumble strips
- * Installed red flashers on stop signs
- * Did a speed study on Highway 63, verified 60 mph speed limit is appropriate
- * Added guard rail on south interchange

The final section of roadway, to complete the connection of Baltimore Street to the new Business 63 interchange, was completed around the 9th of November.

As the Council is aware, Representative Wyatt has assembled a group of citizens to serve on a Highway 63 Alternate Route Traffic Safety Commission. They held a community meeting on November 22 with about 50 citizens present. Fire Chief Randy Behrens serves on this Commission and did highlight an issue for emergency responders.

The Fire Chief noted that regardless of other factors, there would be wrecks on the highway. He explained that during a recent incident involving a semi with brakes on fire that emergency responders had to go all the way to Dogwood to turn around and come back to the incident, some type of emergency vehicle access is needed on the south end to travel between lanes.

He also noted that the switch in designation between Highway 6 and 11 has been confusing to dispatch and emergency responders.

For the City, using the named roadways (Illinois and Shepherd) for dispatching purposes is something that we have implemented.

There were other points that were made, of which several were issues that the City had previously identified and began discussing with MoDOT.

Truck Traffic on Route P – we are trying to work through what can legally be done. The portion of Route P that connects to the new 63 is wholly located in the city limits. Earlier requests to prohibit truck traffic were denied. Discussions concerning limiting weight have taken place but with Route P serving as a farm to market route, there is a concern that we would limit this use.

Signage – The Council is aware that MoDOT is working on the signage to identify that the Baltimore exist is also an exit for Kirksville. There are concerns regarding business referral signs. This may require the City and Chamber to work with MoDOT. Could a last major services in Missouri sign be added south of the alternate route to inform travelers?

Zoning – There appears to be confusion regarding the City's interest in zoning the property. Citizen's referenced the desire to "limit development" as there would be no development. This can be cleared up with a press release and Council action to establish the zoning. The Planning and Zoning Commission did meet and discussed the implementation of planned development which is the direction the Council is interested in going.

City Roadways – We have loving referred to Patterson east of Jamison, Lincoln north of Emmett Street as annexed roadways. They were, but they have clearly been in the city limits for 10 years now. After the annexation, the City completed overlay improvements on the roadways. We learned overtime that the base (foundation) of these roads was inadequate and that they were failing. We worked this summer to rebuild the base on Patterson Street. With the construction that took place and the reconfiguration of traffic, we have seen both Patterson and Lincoln (especially between the service road and Benton Way) take a beating. We will need to work on them as soon a possible.

Emergency Cross Over - An emergency cross over, as suggested by Fire Chief Behrens, is needed. This is something that we will need to discuss with MoDOT.

Final Note: There has been a lot of discussion since the road opened up that there need to be overpasses constructed. These are very costly to construct and were not a part of the original plan. The City Council has been working with MoDOT for a number of years on getting a third lane added to Baltimore north of Wal-Mart. The work to build both Emmett and Cable was part of that plan. If MoDOT refocuses resources to add overpasses, this could affect ever having a third lane added to this stretch of roadway which services residents and business of Kirksville directly.

Recommendation – This is an opportunity to meet Ms. Crawford and learn more about her responsibilities and focus. It is also an opportunity to visit with MoDOT about the items outlined above regarding the alternate route. Finally, it is important that staff understand the priority interest of the City Council, as we push the third lane addition on Baltimore every chance we are given.

PRESENTATION ON DAY CARE SURVEY RESULTS

In February, during the City Council/School Board meeting, the City Council learned about the child care services offered at the public school. This inspired the Council to take a tour of the new early childhood learning center on the Kirksville RIII School campus.

Around the same time, a presentation was made to a local employers group regarding day care needs. The presentation made to this group was made by representatives of the Community Action Agency and Department of Family Services.

In their presentation they discussed the daily cost of day care compared to the income made by the parents. For those individuals who receive assistance in this area, it was explained that the state support programs had not been adjusted to meet the increase in minimum wage or the increase in day care costs. They also explained that there was a waiting list for child care services for the 0 to 3 years of age.

The employer group decided to investigate the need for child care (particularly odd hours for shift employees). The Center for Applied Statistical Evaluation (CASE) at Truman State University agreed to work with the group to complete the evaluation of day care needs.

A survey instrument was developed and distributed to the community through various methods in early fall including on line access through the City's website and direct mail through the Kirksville Connection. The City also helped to advertise the survey using Cable Channel 3.

The survey has been completed and the results have been compiled by CASE, who will be at the Council Study Session to give the Council a report on their findings.

Recommendation – After meeting with the school board, touring the facility and hearing of the possible survey, Council asked that this be added to a future Study Session agenda. Council will need to listen to the results of the survey and determine if there is a need and if so, is there a role for the City to play.

REVIEW COUNCIL AGENDA

After the last Council meeting it seemed like it might be a good idea to go over the agenda items prior to the meeting to see if there are any questions and make sure that the items found on the agenda are ones that are ready for Council consideration.

If this is agreeable with the Council, this will be an item on all future Study Session agendas.

Recommendation – Review agenda.

REVIEW NEWSLETTER – December 2, 2011

Attachments

Staff Report – Childcare Survey

KIRKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ATTACHMENT

SUBJECT: Childcare Survey Results

STUDY SESSION MEETING DATE: December 5, 2011

CITY DEPARTMENT: Economic Development

PREPARED BY: Melanie Smith, Assistant City Manager

Over the past year, a group of citizens and agency representatives came together to review and discuss the availability of childcare within our region, with particular emphasis on Adair County. Their goal was to determine if adequate facilities are available and to address additional needs, costs and other potential areas of concern if they do in fact exist. The group partnered with the Center for Applied Statistical Evaluation (C.A.S.E.) to develop a survey focused on childcare needs and this survey was distributed in August. The intention was for the survey to gather valuable information that would help investigate current resources, as well as address any weaknesses or additional childcare needs that may exist.

Surveys were collected until the end of October both electronically and via paper version. There were 135 completed responses submitted electronically and 10 responses using the paper survey. The C.A.S.E. students have been evaluating the data and presented their initial findings to the committee on November 10. The C.A.S.E. evaluation team will be at the Study Session on December 5th to present their findings.

Contributing committee members included: Truman State University (Truman Institute: C.A.S.E Office), City of Kirksville, Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency, Early Childhood Development Center, Kirksville Family Support Division, Missouri Career Center (Kirksville), Missouri Employer Committee. Special thanks to the Truman Institute for their generous support and also to the C.A.S.E. Office for their dedication and expertise in creating our survey materials.