

A. CALL TO ORDER:

A Special Meeting of the Troy City Council was held on Monday, July 11, 2016, at City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Mayor Slater called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL:

- a) Mayor Dane Slater
- Edna Abraham-Absent
- Ethan Baker
- Jim Campbell
- Dave Henderson
- Ellen Hodorek
- Mayor Pro Tem Ed Pennington-Absent

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

C-1 Transportation on Big Beaver

Mayor Slater welcomed Robert Kramer with SMART to the meeting this evening. He turned the meeting over to City Manager Brian Kischnick.

Mr. Kischnick introduced the topic of Move Across Troy. He called on Maggie Hughes, Coordinator of Continuous Improvements, to discuss the history and current status of Move Across Troy. Ms. Hughes provided a brief overview of the major aspects of Move Across Troy including the 5K run/walk planned for October, 2016.

Mr. Kramer discussed the Troy Big Beaver Corridor Business Shuttle concept. He said that this shuttle service would be a partnership between SMART and the City of Troy to provide transportation along the Big Beaver Corridor and also would include a stop at the Transit Center. He said that the initial partnership would eventually bring in partnerships with businesses and entities along the routes. Mr. Kramer said that with the initial schedule frequency of 5-days a week, 4-hours per day, would cost the City approximately \$100,000 per year plus administration, drivers and fuel costs. He said that SMART would provide the buses as well as the shelter upgrades.

Mayor Slater commented that Mr. Hertel from SMART also had indicated his enthusiasm for this project but he was unable to attend this meeting.

Council Member Campbell asked who covers the insurance costs. Mr. Kramer answered that the City would most likely be required to carry the insurance on the vehicles. Council Member Hodorek asked who would be the maintenance staff for the vehicles. Mr. Kramer answered that the option is for SMART to maintain them or the City to maintain them, depending on the City's preference. Mr. Kischnick answered that there have not been any decisions made on maintenance.

Council Member Henderson asked if there was any plan include the section of Corridor from John R to Dequindre. Mr. Kischnick answered that at this time there isn't a plan to include that

section. Mayor Slater answered that this proposed route is a starting point and if this works, the routes can be expanded to include all of Big Beaver as well as Maple Rd, for example, to the movie theater. Mr. Kischnick answered that there was also talk to just focus on the red line, and really the question is what to focus on initially to get the project going.

Council Member Henderson asked how to advertise the service to visitors and businesses in the City. Mr. Kramer answered that the mobile app is the best way to get the schedule and service information out to the potential riders of the shuttle.

Council Member Henderson asked who would drive the buses. Mr. Kramer answered that the administrative structure would be similar to how Medi-Go works, but the City would find the drivers and employ them. Mr. Kramer continued that the City would also have control over hours of operation and the flexibility in hours, for example extending hours for special events.

Council Member Baker asked if there is an example of another municipality not experienced with public transportation that has been successful with this type of service. Mr. Kramer answered that Grosse Pointe has used SMART millage funding to start up a service similar to this proposed service. He said that the service in Grosse Pointe has three routes although the service area is much smaller than in Troy, but it has been very successful. He said that there has been talk in Novi from the business community to connect the mall, convention center and the hotels in a similar route.

Council Member Baker asked if the City has statistics about the number of people in the area of the Corridor who don't have their own transportation who would potentially use this service. Mayor Slater said that in discussions with the hospitality community in Troy, he has heard a consistent message that they need help in moving hotel guests around the City. He continued that for example, Altair does not bring employees into Troy to stay because of the lack of transportation options. He said there are plenty of people here in Troy who want this type of transportation. Council Member Henderson said that there have been requests from employees who are in town over weekends for this type of service as well. Mr. Kischnick said that since the City is administering the service, the schedules can change. He said that the hospitality committee of the Chamber of Commerce could put together information about potential ridership.

Council Member Baker said that it seems like a lot of time and resources would be wasted by including the Transit Center in the loop. Mr. Kramer said that the Transit Center should be treated not just as a train station and having a shuttle from there to popular points along the Corridor would be advantageous to train passengers from out of town. Mayor Slater said that when he goes to the meetings of the hospitality committee, he hears their requests for transportation that will get train riders to the airport.

Council Member Henderson asked about the costs of wrapping the buses and advertising. Mr. Kramer answered that not all of the funding has to come from the City but could come from sponsorships from businesses. Mr. Kramer also said that SMART will cover the upgrades to approximately three bus shelters along the routes on each side. He said that maintenance of the shelters would be a partnership between SMART and the City, with major repairs being handled by SMART.

Council Member Hodorek asked if there is a pilot phase or what the time frame is for the timeline and if there is an out for the City if the program doesn't work. Mr. Kramer answered that

if the vehicles along the route are just wrapped buses, the City can withdraw from the program with very few issues. Mr. Kischnick said that it would take time to get the word out and get the app up and running, but he thinks at about 2 to 3 years, it should be evident whether or not the service is successful.

Council Member Henderson asked if there would be a new City department dedicated to this service. Mr. Kischnick answered that the question hasn't been answered exactly, but most likely it would be something that Public Works or Recreation would oversee.

Mayor Slater commented that the sooner we can get this service started, the better, while the weather is still nice.

Council Member Campbell said that he thinks the logical test case would be the red (west) loop with the blue (east) loop to follow at a future time. He said he likes the tie-in to the Transit Center. Mayor Slater commented that he thought only including the red line in the initial route would be a mistake because it would exclude Automation Alley and the Sports Center. He said that a bus system along the east loop might encourage more business development along that stretch of the Corridor. He asked for consensus of City Council to do this presentation to the Chamber of Commerce. He commented that he sees a consensus of City Council to pursue the idea of trolley vehicles for the service. Mr. Kramer said that SMART is in the process of switching their vehicles to propane fuel.

Council Member Hodorek commented that the City is family-friendly and residential which is why the trolley vehicles would be more appealing here. Mayor Slater said he would like to see what the hospitality committee has to say about vehicle preference. Mr. Kramer said that the City could potentially use the vehicles as a Medi-Go fleet to replace the standard Medi-Go vehicles after a few years of service. Mr. Kramer commented that the vehicles are all able to handle snow and ice the way other SMART buses handle both. He said that the trolley vehicles are very close in maintenance needs as the current Medi-Go vehicles used in the City.

Mr. Kischnick commented that he hopes everyone tonight feels very positive about our experience with SMART, especially since Mr. Kramer became involved in this partnership.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

E. ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 6:59 PM.

Mayor Dane Slater

M. Aileen Dickson, MMC
City Clerk