



Small Cities Council Meeting Summary

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 | 9:00 AM
Jacksonville Community Center
Approved December 14, 2022

Meeting PowerPoint slides available at <https://metroplan.org/small-cities-council>

SCC Members Attending

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| 1. Mayor Sammy Hartwick, President | City of Greenbrier |
| 2. Mayor Bernie Chamberlain | City of Austin |
| 3. Mayor Butch House | City of England |
| 4. Mayor Allan Loring | City of Wrightsville |
| 5. Ms. Nicci Rummel | City of Ward City Clerk |

Metroplan Staff

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| 6. Mr. Casey Covington | Deputy Director/CARTS Study Director |
| 7. Mr. Hans Haustein | GIS Analyst/Planner |
| 8. Mr. Daniel Holland | Transportation Planner/Program Manager |
| 9. Ms. Bernadette Rhodes | Community Planner |
| 10. Ms. Cindy Segebarth | CFO/Administrator/HR Representative |
| 11. Mr. Allen Skaggs | Planning Technician |
| 12. Mr. Tab Townsell | Executive Director |

1. Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor Hartwick called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He welcomed participants and asked all the participants to introduce themselves.

2. Introductions & Announcements

All participants introduced themselves, then Mayor Hartwick asked for any announcements.

Mayor Hartwick announced the ribbon cutting for Greenbrier's new coffee and car wash business. The business is housed in a brand new building on Highway 65.

Mayor Chamberlain announced Austin's tree lighting and festival from 5-7pm on December 3rd.

3. Summary of Previous Meeting

Mayor Loring made a motion to approve the summary of the September 28, 2022 meeting. Mayor Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Spotlight on England

Mayor House presented information on the City of England, including the police department, volunteer fire department, and City Hall. England has a 16-year-old fitness center, which features an indoor gym, walking track, and Pickleball. The bond for the fitness center will be paid off in 2023. England also has an outdoor skatepark and basketball courts, as well as other parks with greenspace and walking paths. The England School District opened a new school in January 2022.

The Swamp Barbecue restaurant is family-owned and a popular spot to eat in England. England's economy is heavily agricultural and has several farm equipment vendors and services. Cotton, rice, corn, and soybeans are grown. Brantley Farming Company runs a large farming operation in the area.

There is a 9-hole golf course at the England Country Club. Game and Fish runs a popular fishing pond. Leno County Public Library operates a 1,500-square foot branch in England. In the first three quarters of 2022, 14,249 people visited the library and 93,012 visited its social media. The library held 123 programs with 1,603 total attendees and provided children's story times, bingo, and gaming stations for teenagers. A landowner has donated buildings to the library, and it is the process of being moved. The City Council will consider proposals for the future use of the current building. Sidewalks funded by Metroplan will serve the new library branch, allowing children to cross Hwy. 165 and use sidewalks to access the library.

5. Metroplan Updates

Ms. Rhodes reminded participants to stay for the full Special Board meeting at 10:00 AM.

6. Nomination of 2023-2024 Small Cities Council Officers

Nominations for SCC Chair and Vice-Chair are made in November of each even-numbered year. The two SCC officers represent the SCC membership on Metroplan's Executive Committee. Mayor Hartwick suggested that Mayor Kemp be nominated as Chair. Mayor Chamberlain made a motion to nominate Mayor Kemp as Chair, and Mayor Loring seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hartwick opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair. Mayor House made a motion to nominate Mayor Gastineau as Vice-Chair. Mayor Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations will be subject to confirmation at the Metroplan Board's December meeting.

7. Grants Update from Caran Curry, Senior Grants Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League

Ms. Caran Curry provided an update on usage of American Rescue Plan Act Funds, broadband internet funding, and additional recommendations for grant applications and administration. The Municipal League can assist jurisdictions with grant searches and training. Presentation slides are available on Metroplan's website at <https://metroplan.org/small-cities-council/>.

8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings

The December Small Cities Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 14th at 9:00 AM and will focus on the Metroplan Unified Development Ordinance. Ms. Rhodes encouraged members to bring their questions about the UDO.

The December Board of Directors meeting will take place on the same day at 10:00 AM. Both meetings will take place at the Jacksonville Community Center.

9. Adjourn

Mayor Chamberlain made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Loring seconded. Mayor Hartwick adjourned the Small Cities Council meeting at 9:55 AM.