



Small Cities Council Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 | 9:00 AM
Pulaski County Regional Center | Little Rock
Approved April 24, 2024

Meeting PowerPoint slides available at www.metroplan.org/small-cities-council

SCC Members Attending

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| 1. Mayor Mike Kemp, Chair | City of Shannon Hills |
| 2. Mayor Charles Gastineau, Vice Chair | City of Ward |
| 3. Mayor Sammy Hartwick | City of Greenbrier |
| 4. Mayor Crystal Herrmann | City of Alexander |
| 5. Mayor Danny Hester | City of Mayflower |
| 6. Mayor Butch House | City of England |
| 7. Mr. Keith Keck | Hot Springs Village |
| 8. Mayor Terry Don Robinson | City of Wooster |
| 9. Mr. Brady Zweifel | City of Vilonia |

Additional Attendees

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| 10. Mayor Rhonda Sanders (interim) | City of Bryant |
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Metroplan Staff

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| 11. Ms. Lynn Bell | Graphics Specialist |
| 12. Mr. Casey Covington | Executive Director |
| 13. Mr. Hans Haustein | GIS Analyst/Planner |
| 14. Mr. Jonathan Lupton | Senior Planner for Publications |
| 15. Ms. Bernadette Rhodes | Senior Regional Planner for Partnerships |

I. Call to Order

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed participants and asked participants to introduce themselves.

2. Introductions & Announcements

Participants introduced themselves. Mr. Keck volunteered for the next Community Spotlight on Hot Springs Village. Mr. Zweifel volunteered to spotlight Vilonia at the July 10th Small Cities Council meeting. He also shared that Vilonia is moving forward with adopting Metroplan's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) within the next 2-3 years. The City is focusing on passing an updated commercial zoning ordinance first.

Mayor Kemp introduced the topic of Animal Control and asked attendees to share their budget considerations for Animal Control. It was estimated that hiring two Animal Control officers would cost

\$200,000-\$300,000 per year. Interim Mayor Sanders shared that that Bryant's budget was \$850,000/year for 10 Animal Control officers. Hot Springs Village has two full-time and one part-time Animal Control employees with a budget of \$150,000 annually. Ward offered to share its animal control ordinance with the group.

3. Summary of Previous Meeting

Mr. Zweifel made a motion to approve the summary of the August 23rd, 2023 meeting. Mayor Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Metroplan Update

Updates were tabled for the full Board meeting.

5. Discussion of 2024 Small Cities Council Topics

Ms. Rhodes asked members to suggest topics to be included on 2024 Small Cities Council agendas.

Topics included:

- Stormwater drainage
- FOIA and First Amendment Auditors
- Options for meeting grant match requirements
- Energy savings through solar

6. Act 605 of 2021: Oversight of Retail Water Providers

Information included in agenda packet: City & Town article, rules implementing Act 605, City of Ward resolution establishing the Ward Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee.

Required elements and member recommendations:

- Advisory Committee – include expertise on committee
- Rate study
 - Option for inverted water rates (higher usage, higher rates)
 - Identify fees added outside of rates

Questions:

- Who has to pay to upgrade hydrants to ensure enough pressure?
- How to compare rates apples to apples

7. Preview of Upcoming Meetings

- January Board of Directors meeting at 10:00 AM following the SCC meeting
- March SCC & Board of Directors Meetings: Wed., March 13 (*note: March SCC meeting was not held due to Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application workshop*)

8. Adjourn

Mayor Kemp adjourned the Small Cities Council meeting at 9:52 AM.