COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 12, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
Council Chamber - City Hall

A Council work session was held to discuss the Urban Mission Project with service providers.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Madison Davis, Russell Moore, Brian Myers, Marty Novak, Kent O’Dell and Gary Roach.

J. Bruce Woody, City Manager; Tom Mahoney, Administrative Services Director; Debra Bradley, Health Director; Chris Connally, Police Chief; Kendra Bundy, Assistant Health Director; Commander Mike Wilson, Patrol Division/Police Dept.; Carol Flury, Neighborhood Services Coordinator; Mary Robertson, Asst. to City Manager/Communications & Public Relations Manager; Ed Schilling, Multimedia Planner; and Rita K. Domini, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

J. Bruce Woody, City Manager, gave some background information on the Urban Mission Project.

Debra Bradley, Health Director, went over a power point presentation entitled “Urban Mission Project” (copy attached).

[Councilmember Madison Davis arrived during the presentation.]

Mr. Woody said the City is contracting with Mosaic to provide the administrative oversight only. There is an ordinance on tonight’s City Council agenda for first reading and consideration for passage two weeks from tonight only for those administrative related services. Mosaic will contract directly with the service providers and pay the bills associated with those service providers. The City doesn’t have a contractual relationship with the service providers.

Ron Allen, 3501 Nickell Drive, said he owns property at 729 S. 9th St. The Crossing was the worst thing that could have happened to midtown; it is slowly destroying that neighborhood. It's a public nuisance and a sanitation hazard. These are hard core homeless people. He talked about items that have been stolen from and cleaning up human waste at his business. He distributed some pictures showing people sleeping on private property.

Jennifer Baxter-Higgs, 424 South 9th Street, said she lives one block from The Crossing and she did not receive a letter that was sent out to surrounding home and business owners that this meeting was going to happen. Several others in the area did not receive letters. Her concern is that there is going to be a group of people that will not fit into this program. This situation has grown out of control and she wonders who will protect the property owners. They didn’t get to vote for this facility. This was not thought out at all.

Councilmember Brian Myers asked Mr. Woody to provide the City Council with the criteria for who received the letters.
Lisa Rock, 2209 Felix St., asked if there are any long-term plans for dealing with any possible epidemics due to health issues with these people. She talked about a 90-year old woman who lives in her own house. The roof is leaking and she has two liens on the house. She has tried to get her help and no one will help her. Mayor Bill McMurray asked her to provide the lady’s contact information and he will check into it.

Greg Filardo, 710 S. 9th St., said he thinks this is a great plan but the property owners have rights and they are sure getting trampled. Together we can address these problems. Due to health issues he can’t keep cleaning up the trash on his property.

Paul Riley, 301 S. 12th St., said there are four tent cities along the riverfront where he works and the fences have been cut through and items stolen. He has noticed the homeless drifting onto the streets more now than ever. He has concerns about the protection of his employees.

There was discussion on tracking or requiring identification from the individuals using the services of The Crossing and other facilities.

[Councilmember Gary Roach arrived during the discussion.]

Barry Woodhull, Magoon’s Deli, 638 S. 8th St., asked if there were any provisions to home and business owners regarding lost business compensation. Mayor McMurray said there was not.

Krista Kiger, Executive Director of Community Mission, 700 Olive St., said the homeless can’t be lumped together. Some are situational homeless and others have mental health and addition issues.

Whitney Lanning, Executive Director, Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph (CAP), listed the things CAP is doing.

Pat Dillon, Chief Government and Community Relations Officer with Mosaic Life Care, said there are six funding partners and listed other social service agencies that have reached out because they are excited about this project and see the collaboration and the focus on this issue. It’s all in an effort to help these individuals and to also stabilize and make the situation better. Danny Gach took on the shelter when there was kind of a crisis a year and a half ago.

Councilmember Myers said he would like to see a long-term strategic plan in place regarding this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by Rita K. Domini, Deputy City Clerk.
Urban Mission Overview

- Mosaic developed Community Connect grants to address areas of need as outlined by their Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA).

- Urban Mission Collaborative is a program that will support the top three findings of Mosaic’s most recent CHNA, utilizing their Community Connect grant funding.

- It is a coordinated effort to build a strong relationship between healthcare and public health, while making progressive strides in need areas identified in our local community.
Urban Mission Goals

- Coordinate services focusing on persons who are homeless.

- Assist individuals to achieve housing, education/training, employment and other identified needs.

- Utilize existing service agencies and programs to help homeless persons to become self-sufficient, contributing members of our local society again.
City of St. Joseph Health Department

The Health Department is committed to providing citizens with health care programs that promote healthy lifestyles, education, disease prevention and assessment and are committed to the development and maintenance of a healthy environment.

Project expectations:
1. General administration and oversight of project
2. Coordination of service and support agencies
3. Assurance of statistical collection, review and data dissemination
4. Implement improvement measures through duration of project as pertinent and feasible
5. Ensure stakeholder engagement to continually improve community relations
Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph (CAPSTJOE)

Provides assistance with utility payments, bus passes, hygiene supplies, emergency food boxes, children’s clothing, ID/SS card attainment, Head Start/Early Head Start early childhood education and workforce development. Intensive case management services are available for low-income individuals, including homeless persons.

- Will offer case management and referral services to participants.

Project goals:

1. Increase access to stable and affordable housing.
2. Increase economic and health security for residents.
3. Reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
4. Increase the number of residents that earn income.
Pivotal Point Transitional Housing

Provides transitional housing with supportive services for families and individuals to help them become self-sustainable members of the community.

➢ Will offer case management and supportive services to participants.

Project goals:
1. Move households from homelessness to self-sufficiency.
2. Provide transitional housing to homeless households while working toward stability.
3. Provide supportive services (such as bus passes, referral to medical or mental health services).
4. Increase the number of members in the community with income above poverty level and help them achieve a level that allows them to sustain their families independently.
The Crossing Outreach

A ministry dedicated to helping individuals cross the threshold to a new life. Whether homeless, a homeless veteran or an ex-offender, all are welcome.

➢ Will offer a 24-hour sheltering model.

Project goals:

1. Provide high quality, 24-hour per day care for men and women needing emergency housing.

2. Provide space to community agencies for on-site meetings with their clients who are utilizing The Crossing shelter.

3. Reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness.

4. Track shelter use through data collection.
St. Joseph Police Department

The police department strives to protect and serve the St. Joseph community through the operations of its administration, detective patrol and support divisions.

➢ Off-duty officers, working as part of the Homeless Outreach Team, will conduct directed patrols and responses, while utilizing specialized training in behavioral health tactics and public outreach.

Project goals:

1. Act as a resource to service recipients to promote individual accountability and compliance.
2. Improve community relations with clients and residents through a multi-faceted service approach:
   ▪ Visible, directed patrol efforts with an emphasis on problem-oriented policing
   ▪ Participation in community outreach events and communication with stakeholders
   ▪ Crime prevention assistance and training
   ▪ Enforcement of state and local laws, and criminal investigations
Thank you!