

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY – MARCH 11, 2019
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM - 380 N. WILMOR ROAD
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 11, 2019 to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington.

Present: Aldermen Adams, Brownfield, Brucks, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Gee, and Moss.

Absent: None.

Also present: Controller Baxter, Public Works Director Andrews, Public Works Manager Schone, P & D Director Oliphant, Police Chief McCoy, Deputy Police Chief Stevens, City Treasurer Dingledine, and City Clerk Brown.

MINUTES

1. Aldermen wishing to be heard on non-agenda item – None.
2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item – None.
3. Approval of Minutes: Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019 regular Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Chamber of Commerce Update – Eric Obalil, past-President of Chamber Board of Directors, provided an update on the recent 60th year annual banquet that was held under a new format this year. He shared the format allowed for a more social and interactive environment where more emphasis was placed on meeting and mingling throughout the evening, which also allowed attendees to arrive and depart as their schedule allowed. He shared they are receiving positive feedback on the new format. He shared that the Chamber has recently launched a new website with more functionality than in the past. Some highlights are receiving online payments, providing feedback, gift certificates for online purchase, mobile responsiveness, easier on back end functions, and will allow for marketing videos. He shared that they also tasked a number of Chamber representatives (23) to track their spending, both personal and professional, for the last quarter of 2018 and the results show that \$160K were spent in local Washington businesses. He shared this effort was to show the impact of reinvestment dollars back into the community by a small group of people. He shared that the Chamber is continuing to do the work they are tasked to do in advocating and promoting local business and thanked Committee for the opportunity to share a brief update, noting that a more formal quarterly update will be coming in April.
- B. Eagle Point Condominium Considerations – P & D Director Oliphant shared that a rough plan has been submitted by a developer for 10 condominium units consisting of 5 duplexes, noting that it would be similar to what they have recently completed along Eagle Avenue. They are proposing 10 units on the only tornado impacted lot left along the stub of Hawk Street and has a current zoning of R-2. He asked two questions of the proposed development: 1) the developer is interested in purchasing the detention basin that is currently under City ownership, allowing them the extra property needed to construct all 5 duplexes. They would retain the basin and adequately downsize it to keep it in conformance to the required detention in the area; and 2) there is also interest from the developer in vacating Hawk Street as it only serves their lots. He shared that this has been discussed at the Public Works Committee and they support the vacation and selling of the basin as long as it is sized adequately. He shared that if there is interest in selling the basin it would require a bidding

publication notice for 3-consecutive weeks prior to considering the sale. Some concerns were raised on resizing the basin appropriately and the worth of the basin. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Committee to move the process forward with both the selling of the basin and vacation of Hawk Street with a minimum amount set on the sale to recoup the City's investment in the property.

- C. Ordinance – Video Gaming Fees & Licenses – Police Chief McCoy shared they were tasked to take a look at the City's fee structures earlier this year. He provided the following regarding a modified ordinance proposal from the original that was moved from the February 11th City Council meeting agenda for further discussion: 1) on February 7th current video gaming establishments were invited to attend a meeting to go over proposed changes, which were not accepted very well, and they were asked to take another look at it; 2) the second proposal was modified to about ½ of what the cost would have been to the establishment owner under the original proposal; 3) on February 11th an ordinance proposing the changes was placed on the City Council meeting agenda for first reading and was subsequently removed from the agenda and moved to this meeting for further discussion; 3) the new proposed fees to the establishment owner under the second proposal are an annual establishment license fee \$250 and an annual terminal sticker fee of \$250 for each terminal. The newly initiated fees proposed to terminal operators are an annual operator license fee of \$100 and an annual terminal sticker fee of \$1,500 for each terminal; and 4) the breakdown of the numbers is from January-December 2018 the eight (8) establishment owners received a total of \$468,744, the terminal operators received a total of \$468,744, the state received a total of \$334,822, and the City received \$66,964. Alderman Adams shared several concerns about increasing fees to the establishment owners who are already paying sales tax and property tax, live in the community, employ people in the community, and using revenues to invest back into their businesses; the proposed fee amounts to the terminal operators being too high; and the recent talk from Governor Pritzger about increasing their tax portion. He shared that by leaving the establishment owners fees the same and proposing terminal operator fees of \$250 annual operator license fee and \$500 annual terminal sticker fee per machine it would add an additional revenue amount to the City of \$19,350 or a 27% increase from where we are now. He also shared concern with the City's revenue portion being higher than the annual average of the top three revenue generating establishments. Alderman Cobb shared his concern with the aggressiveness of the fees to the terminal operators and the potential it could have in machines being pulled out of establishments and that he is in favor of decreasing the terminal sticker fees to a more reasonable \$500 as well, noting that they can always change later if need be. Mayor Manier commented that staff has been directed to find additional revenue sources and have done so and does not see the proposed fees as a burden. Following further discussion on the need for terminal operator fees and what is reasonable, Mayor Manier suggested that he and Alderman Adams meet to discuss it further.
- D. Ordinance – Liquor License Fees – Police Chief McCoy went over proposed increased fees for each liquor license classification, noting that they have not been raised since 1995 and will bring them in line with what other communities are charging. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Committee to move this forward to Council for consideration.
- E. Budget Review – General Fund – Controller Baxter provided a revised review of the General Fund summary after further review and comments and suggestions that were received from Council members. She indicated that operations were reviewed and areas were identified for further reductions, after final transfers and credits we ended up with a MERF transfer lower than anticipated, and reductions total \$278,700 or an 8.5% decrease from preliminary draft budget. She went over the changes from the preliminary review on 3/4/19, provided a review of the fund, and went over a calculation of balance available for discretionary capital. Alderman Cobb thanked Baxter for the discretionary capital sheet indicating that it creates a sense of urgency in finding new sources of revenue. Alderman Butler commented as soon as we can the \$1M note on the W223 property should be paid off as well. Alderman Adams expressed his appreciation for staff's hard work. Further discussion ensued on infrastructure priorities and the need to find additional revenue sources.

5. Other Business – None.

6. Executive Session – for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. At 7:39 p.m. Alderman Brucks moved and Alderman Gee seconded to move into Executive Session. On roll call the vote was:
Ayes: 8: Adams, Brownfield, Brucks, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Gee, Moss
Nays: 0
Motion declared carried.
7. At 8:10 p.m. Committee reconvened in regular session and Alderman Moss moved and Alderman Dingledine seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk