

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
Monday – August 10, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.  
Five Points Banquet Room B & C  
360 N. Wilmore, Washington, IL

Mayor Manier called the regular Committee of the Whole meeting of August 10, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Aldermen Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, and Yoder,  
City Administrator Forsythe, Police Chief McCoy, City Attorney Derek Schryer, and  
City Clerk Brod

Remotely Present: Director Baxter, P & D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Carr, Public Works Director  
Schone and City Treasurer Dingledine

Absent: None.

**MINUTES**

1. Aldermen wishing to be heard – None.
2. Citizens wishing to be heard – No emails received. Jack Lark on Walnut Street shared concern over interrupted water service. He explained that he received notice about the initial shut off, then a boil order extension, then a boil order lift, then received water bottles with no explanation. He was not notified when the water was safe to drink again.
3. Approval of Minutes: Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Officer Recognition and Awards – Due to the cancellation of their annual awards ceremony due to COVID-19, Washington Police Chief Mike McCoy presented officers, with Council present, the following awards:

- Distinguished Service Award to The Washington Rotary Club
- Distinguished Part-time Officer Award to Carl Muller
- Life Saving Award to Dan Foster
- Distinguished Police Duty Award to Ashley Clare and Ron Moore
- Part-time Officer of the Year Award to Sargent Brad Marshall
- Police Officer of the Year Award to Lyle Baele

Mayor Gary Manier acknowledged all those who received awards.

- B. Chamber of Commerce Update – Kristy Howell provided a summary of recent Chamber activities that included a quarterly meeting discussing how to maintain members who might want to drop and giving businesses a year of reprieve to help buffer the economic downturn. Alderman Stevens asked about a shift in focus from businesses to community events. Kristy responded that the Park District is helping focus on events, allowing The Chamber to focus more on businesses. Kristy also shared that the Annual Fine Arts Fair is cancelled due to COVID-19. Discussion was held in efforts to brainstorm new ideas. Alderman Brownfield recognized the challenges at this time and commended the effort. Mayor Manier acknowledges that many businesses are not seeing as many people come back yet but hope that will change with vaccine.

- C. Update on Amending the Rules of Procedure – City Administrator Ray Forsythe brought forward for discussion The City’s COVID response. He noted the previous Rules of Procedure were updated in 1983. Due to COVID, resolution 1305 concerning remote attendance was added. During this time, language for the order of business was also in need of updating. The new language specifies: The Mayor or City Council may change the agenda order during a meeting; a 24 hour notice is needed to attend remotely; votes will take place in a rotation alphabetically; legal opinions cannot be sought outside of Council. City Attorney Derek Schryer shared that a Council Member can seek advice during a meeting and a verbal response can be given at that time or a written opinion can be given outside of the meeting however, requests should not be asked outside of the meeting as a Council Member has no decision making power outside of Council. Alderman Cobb expressed concern with keeping subjects confidential. Derek explained the process to use the written request option through the Mayor or Administrator. Discussion continued in regards to proper procedures when seeking legal advice using the City Attorney. City Attorney Derek Schryer stated a need to comply with the open meetings act and individual Council Members do not have an individual agreement with the City Attorney. Alderman Butler stated that individuals cannot seek legal advice at the expense of the City. Derek shared that The City’s Legal agreement is to represent the City not individuals. City Administrator Ray Forsythe shared that this is Council Goal #5 and that he will seek guidance from Illinois Municipal League. Ray will report back to his findings.
5. Other Business – Alderman Stevens brought forward discussion concerning Zinser Place. Ray is going to follow up with City Engineer Dennis Car and Alderman Brownfield’s committee to gain more information. Alderman Adams acknowledges the citizen’s concern about the water communication stated earlier in the meeting. He stated good job for the city to give bottled water but maybe increase communication with residents. Alderman Cobb received calls from resident about fallen trees. Ray stated that the City Staff will look into it.
6. At 8:14 p.m. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk