

**CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020  
BANQUET ROOM – FIVE POINTS WASHINGTON  
6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m. in Banquet Room D at Five Points Washington.
Roll Call	<p>Present and answering roll call were Aldermen, Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, and Stevens. Absent was Alderman Yoder.</p> <p>Also present were City Administrator Forsythe, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, P &amp; D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Police Chief Mike McCoy, Deputy, City Attorney Derek Schryer, City Treasurer Ellen Dingledine, and City Clerk Valeri Brod.</p>
Pledge of Allegiance	All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Review	The Agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.
Approve Consent Agenda	<p>Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Items included on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the July 6, 2020 regular City Council meeting and July 13, 2020 Special City Council meeting; Bills and Payroll details, NPDES and Stormwater Permit Fees, TIF Pay Request #1 – Alexander Financial Services and Additional Asphalt Purchase Authorization.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Audience Comments	<p>Dominic Lang and Allison Pauley with the Washington St. Jude Run shared that the Washington Run raised \$355,000 raised. It was their 13<sup>th</sup> year. They reported that they were one of only a few runs that increased their pledge from last year. They are thankful that the community supports this cause. Dominic shared that they had a record number of 170 runners and although they lost a few sponsors, new sponsors stepped up. Mayor asked Chief McCoy to share the final total. Chief McCoy stated that Washington raised the second highest total and their management style was very safe and professional. He then shared that the grand total for all combined runs was \$4,631,751.00</p> <p>City Clerk Brod read aloud 4 comments regarding raising residential poultry at various properties in Washington. She clarified that only parts of each letter that pertain to the poultry permit process will be read. The letters are attached in their entirety and made part of these minutes.</p> <p>A resident who resides at 209 North Street, addressed the audience. He stated that he had seven letters supporting his poultry permit. He feels that he is fighting to keep a promise to his daughter to raise chickens. They have had no complaints with their concerning permit.</p>
Announcements	Mayor Manier shared no announcements
Finance & Personnel Committee	Alderman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, introduced the 2 items; the TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Washington Historical Society at 101 Zinser Place and the TIF Funding Request for Brunk's Sports Center at 122 N. Main Street. Alderman Cobb stated that both items have been discussed through the committee and they support them.
Public Safety Committee	Alderman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, reported that there were no items to report tonight because Amending the Personnel Manual Regarding the Pay Plan was addressed in the Committee of the Whole meeting. There were no reports from chief at this time.
Public Works Committee- Lakeshore Drive Phase 1 Engineering Proposal	<p>Alderman Brownfield, brought forward for consideration the Lakeshore Drive Phase 1 Engineering Proposal. City Engineer, Dennis Carr shared that they previously presented to IDOT, who did not initially give them the approval for the roundabout as presented. He shared the project can move forward without the roundabout. Staff recommends that the Council approves the proposal for Phase 1 Engineering for Lakeshore Drive to take place at the same time as the Phase 1 Engineering for Freedom Parkway.</p> <p>Alderman Dingledine shared that he hadn't heard of the mentioned roundabout and is opposed to the concept of a roundabout in that area. Planning and Development Director, Jon Oliphant clarified that the roundabout was included in the proposal to gain more points, but it is not necessary to include in the final project. Alderman Dingledine feels that a roundabout would be bad for truck traffic. Stevens agrees that she also had not heard of the roundabout and agrees it would be a bad idea with truck traffic. Alderman Brownfield requested more research and exploration with a roundabout. Jon Oliphant clarified that including the roundabout in the proposal doesn't obligate us to construct it. The concept of the roundabout establishes where the intersection would be but the final concept could be a standard intersection. He stated that just considering the roundabout increases our chances to receive funding approval. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve as presented.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>

Public Works  
Committee-  
Freedom Parkway  
Additional Engineering  
Cost

City Engineer Dennis Carr shared that they are considering having a specific meeting about the Lakeshore Drive project allowing the public to give input. They want to discuss where the bike path would terminate, at the intersection of McCluggage or at Route 8 intersection. The proposal is for finishing the bike path design and holding a public meeting. Alderman Dingledine asked for clarification about why the bike path is part of the IDOT plan? Dennis Carr explained that the proposal had to include transit, pedestrians, motor vehicles, and bikes in order to be considered for federal funding and the bike path can be used as a sidewalk as well. Alderman Stevens asked if the bike path can stay the way it is at the intersection at McCluggage and Route 8. Dennis Carr affirmed her idea and explained that it would be more expensive to redo the current intersection than put in a new path. A motion was made to approve the additional money needed for the Phase 1 bike path study. Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to approve as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Public Works  
Committee-  
Sanitary Sewer Lining,  
St. Marks

Alderman Brownfield introduced the sanitary pipe cleaning and lining needed under the St. Mark’s parking lot. Public Works Director, Kevin Schone shared that during the investigation of the West Holland project they found an 18 inch by 180 feet long pipe that needs cleaning and lining. He shared that they installed an access manhole at this time as well. Kevin Schone shared that there was no way to know this issue before the Holland project investigation. Alderman Dingledine asked if this facilitates the west Holland sanitary bed. Kevin stated this will make that project a little easier. A motion was introduced to approve the budget needed to clean and fix the pipe. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to approve as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Change Order #1 Water  
Tower #1 Painting,  
Ladder Installation  
Consideration

Alderman Brownfield introduced the need for a ladder to be installed in the interior of the water tower. Public Works Director Kevin Schone explained that the project has been started. He shared that Seven Brothers Painting of Michigan noticed there was not an interior access ladder needed for safe entry and exit. Kevin stated that they were not aware of this issue until they opened the tower to begin painting. They have identified funds in other under budget areas within this project to cover this expense. He stated that the ladder is not necessary to access the tank but would be recommended due to safety issues. Alderman Dingledine asked for a progress report. Kevin shared that sandblasting had started. They predicted this would take 1 month. Kevin stated that the water supply is fine right now but water has to be wasted (released) to keep the pumps running and the pressure up. Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Butler seconded to approve as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Kevin Shone provided updates that Royal Court is going to finish soon. He also received a call that a private contractor was working on city property at Sunnydale Estates and they will check to see the condition of the area. He shared that they are putting in a valve on Lawndale. Dennis Carr provided updates that they are working on a storm sewer on Lawndale and they are testing the watermain. He anticipates a few more water shutoffs while they work on tie-ins. Dennis Carr shared that a crane was caught in the historic downpour and damaged a piece of equipment. A new piece of equipment is coming soon. He also shared that Dogwood, Firethorn and Peppertree had some pavement tear-out that will need to be patched. A few bid openings are in the works as well.

Mayor asked to clarify response to historic rainfall received during the week. Alderman Brownfield shared that staff and police were working hard and some staff members were actually working in the rain to address issues.

Appointment: City  
Collector, Valeri Brod

Mayor Manier requested Council approval of the appointment of Valeri Brod to fill the unexpired term vacancy as City Collector. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to concur with the appointment as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Mayor stated that he would like to recognize the Wall Dogs Committee. He feels it is a great addition to the City of Washington

City Administrator – COVID-19 Response Plan Update #3	<p>City Administrator Forsythe provided an update on the COVID-19 response. His review included the following: that as of June 25<sup>th</sup> Illinois has entered stage 4; City Hall made an adjustment to provide audio during this phase and we are trying to improve the quality of our audio with a new borrowed system; we had a conservative approach to revenues going into the COVID-19 shutdown; we did better than we had anticipated; the City saw an increase in Home Rule sales tax; we have received more fuel tax; income tax is down but the state pushed the due date back so that may change; with everything back open we anticipate better numbers. City Administrator Forsythe then reviewed temporary and seasonal help at City Hall. These include an Executive Administrative Assistant, a Human Resource Specialist, and a Laborer. He then reviewed various projects requiring additional funding that if delayed could result in higher costs. Joanie Baxter, Director of Finance, shared that the Finance and Personnel Committee is encouraged to see sales tax numbers up; the fiscal year is closed. Alderman Stevens asked about items on that have been deferred such as the newsletter. She suggested that printed newsletters go out to residents. Ray agreed to review that next month.</p> <p>Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to approve as presented.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was:</p> <p><u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens</p> <p><u>Nays: 0</u></p> <p><u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Adopt ord, granting special use to allow poultry, 209 North St.;	<p>City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance granting a Special Use to allow for poultry to be housed at 209 North Street. Adoption of this ordinance would allow for poultry to be housed at 209 North Street. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.</p> <p>Dingledine stated that he abstains from all future poultry voting. Discussion occurred including opposing views regarding the ordinance. Butler noted the timing of the Council discussions, the relative distance between coops and other residences, that three real estate specialists advised that permitting poultry would affect property values, the council has been divided on this topic, and rodents will come after what feed and chicken waste is left behind. Alderman Butler also stated that while we have an ordinance that everyone is following, it is a bad ordinance. Further discussion continued regarding the pros and cons to the ordinance. Alderman Adams suggested the ordinance be amended to not allow poultry but those who currently have chickens should not be penalized.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was:</p> <p><u>Ayes: 3</u> Adams, Cobb, Stevens (Dingledine abstained)</p> <p><u>Nays: 2</u> Brownfield, Butler</p> <p><u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Adopt ord, granting special use to allow poultry, 711 W. Jefferson Street	<p>City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance granting a Special Use to allow for poultry to be housed at 711 W. Jefferson Street. Adoption of this ordinance would allow for poultry to be housed at 711 W. Jefferson Street. Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was:</p> <p><u>Ayes: 3</u> Adams, Cobb, Stevens (Dingledine abstained)</p> <p><u>Nays: 2</u> Brownfield, Butler</p> <p><u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Adopt ord, granting special use to allow poultry, 1001 Wellington Drive	<p>City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance granting a Special Use to allow for poultry to be housed at 1001 Wellington Drive. Adoption of this ordinance would allow for poultry to be housed at 1001 Wellington Drive. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.</p> <p>Stevens acknowledges that this case has had the most neighbor comments both for and against this permit and that she will support code enforcement’s views. Discussion occurred regarding yearly renewals and lack of flexibility if permits would need to be revoked. Jon Oliphant clarified that code violations could result in a revoked permit, otherwise the permit is renewed yearly.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was:</p> <p><u>Ayes: 3</u> Adams, Cobb, Stevens (Dingledine abstained)</p> <p><u>Nays: 2</u> Brownfield, Butler</p> <p><u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Adopt ord, amending Personnel Manual regarding Sergeants pay plan	<p>City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance amending the Personnel Manual of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois regarding the Pay Plan. Adoption of this ordinance would amend certain provisions of the City of Washington Personnel Manual pertaining to Sergeant Benefits. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.</p> <p>There was no discussion at this time.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was:</p> <p><u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens</p> <p><u>Nays: 0</u></p> <p><u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>

Adopt ord, authorizing TIF redevelopment agreement, 101 Zinser Pl.	<p>City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an Agreement for private development with the Washington Historical Society for the redevelopment of a portion of the Downtown Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area. Adoption of this ordinance would approve a TIF redevelopment agreement with the Washington Historical Society for the redevelopment of 101 Zinser Place.</p> <p>Alderman Stevens states that the requested remodeling does not fall under eligible expenses and cannot support it.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 5</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingleline <u>Nays: 1</u> Stevens <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Waive 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading ord, TIF Funding Request, Brunk’s Sports Center	<p>City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into an agreement for private development with Reynolds &amp; Lucas, LLC , for the redevelopment of a portion of the downtown Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area. Adoption of this ordinance would approve a TIF redevelopment agreement with Reynolds &amp; Lucas, LLC, for the redevelopment of 122 N. Main Street. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to second reading of the ordinance.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingleline, Stevens <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Adopt ord, TIF Funding Request, Brunk’s Sports Center	<p>Alderman Black moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.</p> <p>Stevens stated this is the right way to use TIF money and this is needed due to safety issues.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingleline, Stevens <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Aldermen’s Comments	<p>Alderman Stevens reviews TIF situation. She supports the historical society and is a member. She thinks mural is asset to town. She suggested the idea to improve the brick on Zinser Street.</p>
Adjournment	<p>At 8:40 p.m. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adjourn. <u>Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.</u></p>

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Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

**Patricia Brown**

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**From:** Kevin Lundquist <lunks02@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 1:15 PM  
**To:** Patricia Brown  
**Subject:** Chickens

Good Afternoon,

I am contacting you today in regards to Pat and Annette Minasian’s chickens. We have known the Minasian family for many years now and spend a great deal of time at their home. They have always taken great pride and care of their property inside and outside. When my family, which includes my husband and 4 daughters, visit we spend just as much time inside their home as we have out in their backyard where the chickens reside. While there we have never smelled any foul odors coming from anywhere in their backyard including their chicken coop. Besides visually seeing them you hardly know they are there as they don't make much noise. To be honest dogs barking make much more noise than the chickens. In the many years we have known them they have always taken great care of their pets and the chickens are no exception. The coop is kept cleaned and picked up just as their backyard is with their 2 dogs. I would also like to add that I have asthma as well as my oldest daughter and we have never experienced respiratory issues do to being around the chickens. My younger girls have also loved learning about the chickens as well as safe handling/hygiene practices. It has been an added educational bonus as my children have not been able to be in the classroom the last 2+ months of school. As my daughters have, I’m sure Annette’s STEAM students have also benefited from her educational videos with her chickens. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your consideration passing the Minasian chicken permit based on the facts and them following the ordinance and not basing your vote on a disgruntled neighbor who has been using intimidation and bullying towards not only the Minasian family but their surrounding neighbors. I urge the city council to not be allowed to be bullied by said neighbor as well.

Angie Lundquist

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7/4/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

- >
- > These are concerns I have with raising backyard chickens. I feel that all views must be considered. I do not feel that out neighborhood yards are large enough for properly and responsibly raising chickens. These are my views and opinions and mine only.
- >
- > Respectfully,
- >> Dave Quinn
- > 1009 Wellington
- > 309.648.3386

7/4/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

**Re: Chickens in our neighborhood**

**From:** Dave Quinn <daveq63@gmail.com>  
**To:** David Quinn <daveq63@icloud.com>  
**Cc:** Bob Abel <Bmarchbc@aol.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 2, 2020 8:13 pm

Dave Quinn  
Email  
1009 Wellington  
Dave

Dave Quinn

> On Jul 2, 2020, at 8:12 PM, David Quinn <daveq63@icloud.com> wrote:  
>  
> I sent it by mistake before I was finished. This copy should be the finished one.  
>  
> Dave Quinn  
>  
>  
>> To whom it may concern:  
>>  
>> I do not wish to offend anyone with my opinion but I respectfully have a few concerns with raising chickens in our neighborhood. They are listed below.  
>>  
>> 1. Working outside recently in the heat I have sometimes noticed a little of an odor.  
>> I assume it may be the chickens or their cage. While chickens only produce 1-2 ounces of waste a day, the cage must be cleaned daily to reduce smell and the chance of disease, lice, etc.  
>>  
>> 2. As I walk the dogs around the block for the past years I have noticed coyotes, sometimes in a pack of 3-4, roaming the area. I have called the police and they have said they have had other reports of coyotes. I have found rabbits mutilated around our yard and I have seen some in the neighborhood in other yards and the rabbits were torn to shreds. I am afraid that predators may be attracted to any confined animal with unpleasant results. My son brings his 5-6 pound dog over when he visits and we occasionally "babysit" him. A neighbor recently came over to tell me they have seen a hawk sitting on the fence watching him on several occasions. As a result we go out in the yard with him day and night to make sure he is safe. Our neighborhood is on the edge of town and I have seen many animals wandering in and out of the area. This is understandable as we take up more of the animals habitat and diminish their food supply. I am concerned that animals sheltered in an outside facility may gain the interest of predators when the predators become hungry. This could be an unwelcome experience for all, especially children. I understand that roaming cats, dogs and wild animals prey on squirrels, birds, etc as much as what they might on chickens. My thought is to be proactive and not let the issue have a chance to become a problem.  
>>  
>> 3. Our lots are not that large. I'm guessing 80-90 feet by 110-120 feet. If it was a much larger yard, I may have a different opinion. Research I have done says that chickens require more than one acre to be able to roam free during the day then return to roost at night. Are these chickens allowed to roam during the day? If they do roam, does that become a problem with chickens being hit by cars, invading gardens and flowerbeds, etc. Are they being treated humanely?  
>>  
>> 4. I am also concerned with the animals and possible sickness in a small confined area. On the farm, chickens were "free range" and I feel this allowed for healthier animals. With animals cramped in a confined area, that area must be cleaned consistently. Chickens do carry lice and if handled by young children lice can become an issue. I am concerned with illness that may arise especially with the pandemic we are living with now.

7/4/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

**Chicken coop**

**From:** lbaker50 <lbaker50@yahoo.com>  
**To:** bmarcboc <bmarcboc@aol.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 2, 2020 7:27 pm

Lynn and Rick Baker  
Email  
18 Holborn Court

Richard and Lynne Baker at 18 Holborn Court, Washington, IL, oppose the chicken coop at 1001 Wellington, Washington, IL, because of the smell, decreased property value, and noise of the chickens.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



7/5/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

**From:** Greg Ogle <oglemotors@live.com>  
**To:** bmarcbcc@aol.com <bmarcbcc@aol.com>  
**Date:** Sat, Jul 4, 2020 3:59 pm

Greg Ogle  
14. Holburn Ct  
Enail

To whom it may concern,

My name is Greg Ogle, I live at 14 Holborn Ct. Washington, IL.  
Recently a few neighbors expressed concerns in regards to the residents at 1001 Wellington Dr. constructing a chicken coup on their premises.  
I too have concerns regarding this matter. Namely, the offensive odor, sanitary conditions, the potential for unwanted rodents, decreased property values and the simple fact these chickens are caged 24/7 in 90 degree heat and sub zero weather in the winter months.  
Chickens belong in the country, not within the city limits.

Kind regards,  
Greg Ogle

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

To: Washington Illinois City Council  
From: Colleen and Bob Abel  
1005 Wellington Drive  
Re: Chickens 1001 Wellington Drive

Dear Council Members

We are requesting that Council members vote NO for allowing the raising of poultry at 1001 Wellington Drive. Our feelings and concerns are the same as some Council members have expressed over the past few weeks discussions.

Attached is a photo from our lower level master bedroom showing the current chicken coop at 1001 Wellington, the approximate distance is 37 feet from our residence and on nice evenings we like to have our bedroom window open, but because of the smell and noise of the chickens we are unable to do so.

Another concern is health, a recent CDC report dated June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 stated that one person has died, and 465 people have gotten sick from Salmonella from interacting with backyard pet poultry. Of the 465, 86 have required hospitalization with 31% of those being children.

We have contacted (3) prominent realtors in Washington (WRC, Maloof & Joos) and all have stated that a residence having backyard poultry could be a deal breaker on a potential sale. There are many homes for sale in Washington that have been sitting on the market for months with no activity with some of these being in our neighborhood. Prices have had to be lowered drastically to try and create some activity. I know if Colleen and I were looking for a new home and found that the property next door had chickens we would walk away.

We would like to add that Eureka, Metamora, Creve Coeur and Morton do not allow any raising of poultry within their city limits. East Peoria does allow them but if there are any neighbor complaints or concerns, permission will not be granted.

We have attached emails from (3) neighbors expressing concerns and opposition to the raising of poultry at 1001 Wellington. We request that these be read along with our letter.

Respectfully

Colleen and Bob Abel  
1005 Wellington Drive  
Washington Illinois

June 30, 2020

To whom it may concern,

My name is Susan Moloney, of 920 Wellington Dr., and I am writing in regards to the hearing for a chicken permit as it pertains to my neighbors, the Minasian family.

I write in support of their permit application as I have lived across the street from them for over six years and in that time I have known them to be conscientious citizens on several levels – their yard, their pets, their vehicles, and above all, their interactions as friendly, caring neighbors who keep an eye out for others. I would not know that they own several chickens had I not heard from friends – I cannot smell them, hear them, nor see any unkempt materials from or for them. Frankly, I find other neighbors' dogs more disruptive than these chickens. Dogs that bark at inconvenient times, knock around metal food bowls, leave waste in my yard, and at times challenge my safety. In spite of these concerns for my neighbors' dogs, I would never ask that the city disallow these family pets nor fine them. These chickens, which provide many positives, and few to minimal drawbacks should also be allowed - on this Wellington Dr. property. I am confident that the Minasian family, as invested and responsible citizens, will maintain their chickens and I am confident that should these chickens begin to cause unforeseen issues, they would continue their conscientious ways and do what is best for all.

Please consider permitting these chickens.

Sincerely,

*Susan Moloney*

Washington resident, local school teacher, mother of four Washington panthers, and pet owner.

**Patricia Brown**

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**From:** Kathy Capizzi-Shookman <mommy62158@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 2, 2020 1:35 PM  
**To:** Patricia Brown  
**Subject:** Washington City Council Meeting - July 6, 2020

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

We understand that a Washington City Council Meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at Five Points Washington. One of the topics of discussion will be a request made by our neighbors, the Minasians, to raise hens on their property. Due to the pandemic, we are unable to attend the meeting, but do request that the following letter be read at the aforementioned meeting:

We live at 923 Wellington Drive, and have been next door neighbors of the Minasian family since 2013. Over the last seven years, we have found the Minasians to be kind, friendly, and respectful neighbors.

It was during a conversation with Annette Minasian on June 15, 2020 that we became aware of the fact that their family had hens in their backyard. We frequently leave our windows open and spend a lot of time in our backyard. Despite these facts, we had not heard their hens at all! Neither sounds nor odor of hens emanated from their yard.

It is our understanding that the Washington City Council passed an ordinance in October, 2019, allowing chickens in the city's residential areas as long as several conditions are met. Based on the fact that Pat and Annette Minasian have followed all of the regulations outlined in your ordinance, we believe that it is only fair and just that they be permitted to keep their hens.

The burden of proof of any wrongdoing should be the sole responsibility of any complainant, regardless of who the complainant is. We can assure you, however, that any complaint with regard to the Minasian's hens is completely unfounded!

Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss this issue, please contact us at (309) 251-3443 or mommy62158@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Dennis Shookman

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**Patricia Brown**

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**From:** Rosecrans, Kelly <kkrosec@ilstu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** Patricia Brown  
**Subject:** Minasian Letter of Recommendation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of Pat and Annette Minasian. We have lived across the street from them (924 Wellington) for almost 2 years now. During that time, they have never been anything but great neighbors for us. I have never noticed anything on their property to be anything but pristine (usually far better groomed than ours!). Since our shelter in place began, I have been working from home with our three small children. During this time, we spend nearly all of our time outside(whenever possible). Most of this time is spent walking the neighborhood and hanging out in the driveway while the kids play. Until we received the notice in the mail from the city, we didn't even know that there were chickens living across the street as well 😊. There has never been any indication via noise, odors, or excessive/strange garbage from their property. When I asked Annette about the notice/chickens, she was very quick to offer us a tour of the set-up as well as answer any questions we had. From our side of the street, everything has appeared to be consistent on their property from the time we have moved in. I hope that this letter isn't too late, as we do not have any objections (and actually are excited) about the chickens and the learning that will come from them! Thank you for your time, do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any further questions.

Kelly Rosecrans MSN, RN-CEN  
Instructional Assistant Professor  
Mennonite College of Nursing  
222-A Edwards Hall  
Normal, IL 61790-5810  
Office Phone 309-438-2467  
Cell Phone 309-657-2522

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