

Committee of the Whole

Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

Banquet Room at Five Points, Washington, 360 N. Wilmore Road, Washington, IL

Mayor Manier called the regular Committee of the Whole meeting of June 14, 2021 to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: Police Chief McCoy, Finance Director Baxter, P & D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Carr, and Public Works Director Schone

MINUTES

1. *Aldermen wishing to be heard:* none provided
2. *Public Comments:* Pam Tompka with Heart of Illinois Bee Keepers Association and Washington resident sent a packet for Council to provide educational information on the topic of beekeeping. She shared that Chillicothe and other communities are working on including beekeeping in their ordinances. Ms. Tompka shared a few concerns including inspections can be difficult without trained eye, she thinks the 50 feet distance might be too large because not very many people could accommodate that depth in their yards, and she noted that it costs about \$300 to start the beekeeping process. She asked how many have stood within 20 feet of hive and Alderperson Stevens was the only response. Ms. Tompka stated that it is a very safe hobby and that she only suits up when she is working directly with the hive, not when she is walking/mowing near hive. She went on to invite everyone to visit her hives. Ms. Tompka noted that bees are everywhere and can come from up to 5 miles away and shared that a 6 foot fence around yard would be too expensive and bees don't stay below 6 feet. She shared that bees do not smell or make loud noises and that inspections are used to keep the bees healthy. She also stated that she likes that local honey can help with allergies.
Kurt Reynolds and Brandi from Brunks and Brandi's bees shared that they would like to have an observation hive for the community and suggested a bee club/outdoorsman club. He stated that this can be used as science and horticulture education and people can make money on selling local honey. Mr. Reynolds also noted that if a person has 200-400 hives, they can sell 100 of them to California for national pollination program. He reminded Council that honey bees are not wasps or hornets and offered to let anyone borrow a hive for observation purposes. He noted that larger like Peoria, Chicago, Springfield, etc., cities allow for bees. Mr. Reynolds also stated that he would like to involve the high school and stated that all the byproducts are sellable and this could teach kids how to run their own business.
3. *Approval of Minutes:* Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. *Washington Chamber of Commerce Update:* Chris Hasten shared that Good Neighbor Days will be at Rove + Ramble this week with activities. Alderman Dingleline asked what the July 30th activities at Five Points will be. Chris noted that they are also in contact with the high school and are waiting for an update to get details. She also noted that the response from the community has been good and they are hoping to do fireworks at the end of the summer.
2. *GPEDC Update:* Chris Settee shared a handout and stated that this is an abbreviated economic strategy that has been in the process for the last year and half. He shared that over 1000 people contributed thoughts and input. He also noted that as a region, we need to create a strategy to work together and that we are part of a greater regional community that helps the communities around us as well. Mr. Settee noted the first area focused on small business development and it's a key to resilience and noted that work force development is also important with the third area being "quality of place". He stated that Washington has the third area nailed down and we are making the right investments in the community center and downtown area. Mr. Settee shared that we have the valuable natural resource of the most fertile soil in the country. He noted that a local business is taking an invasive natural resource, the Asian Carp, and learning how to capitalize on it and noted that the important role of public health plays on a workforce. He noted how difficult the last year has been during shutdown and stated that they are trying to help communities get grants to heal and move forward from Covid. He shared that Career Spark is open to area 8th graders to show them all the local businesses and industries in the area that served nearly 6000 students this year. They are working close with Distillery Labs in Peoria to create businesses that are scaleable and partnering with OSF and focusing on business attraction due to it's important to communities. Mr. Settee shared that they are researching with Biomade to see if the Peoria area can be the next Biomanufacturing center of commerce due to the good engineering and medical facilities. He shared that they invited Mayor Manier to the board of directors and said kudos to Jon for his contributions to the city. Mr. Oliphant stated that Chris and his staff have been tremendous to work with.
3. *American Rescue Plan Act Discussion:* Mr. Oliphant share that the ARPA was signed into legislation by the President and we should receive funds from it on a per capita basis at around \$2.04million. Mr. Oliphant state that the funds are not approved at the state level yet but we should get the first half soon then the second half about a year later. Mr. Oliphant shared that there are four categories for the funds and streets are not eligible for the program. He asked for feedback on how to use the funds. Public Works Director Schone asked if pipes affect the roads, could the road be replaced after the sewer was completed. City Engineer Dennis Carr noted that Water Tower #3 as well as the North Cummings water main project might be considered projects. Alderperson Cobb noted these would need to be done by the end of 2026 or we would lose the funds. Alderperson Blundy asked if this could include stormwater projects. Mr. Oliphant shared that it appears that some may be cover stormwater. Alderperson Stevens asked about assistance to small businesses and households. Mr. Oliphant said it might be dependent on the type of business. Mayor asked if we could bring this back at a later date to allow for more consideration.
5. *Eagle Avenue/Bus24 Intersection Signalization:* Mr. Carr shared that there are traffic issues with school drop off or events at Central School as well safety concerns as kids that area. He also noted that with the new gas station and possible new road, this warrants consideration. Mr. Carr said there is potential that once the business is in IDOT could say no to the signal but feels that this may be the right time for it. He also stated that the supporting memo said it could cost up to \$500,000 but thinks, due to size of the intersection, it will most likely be closer to \$300,000. At this time he is looking for feedback, if Council is interested in a signal at that location. Alderperson Brownfield stated that they have discussed this at Public Works and they get 1-2 calls per month about the safety of that area. He stated that he would like to get feedback from the school. Alderperson Adams said that safety is the major concern and if we wait too long we could loose it. Mr. Oliphant noted there is extra unused TIF money that could be used. Alderperson Cobb noted that he gets a lot of phone calls from the area as well and asked if we have approval form IDOT. Mr. Carr confirmed that we have approval. Alderperson Cobb noted that the previous light, near Hillcrest, that was removed, used to slow down traffic and asked about the cost of signals controlled for emergency vehicles. Alderperson Dingleline wondered if there is an option to put a turn lane in and if we

could acquire property to fit a turn lane. Mayor Manier noted that when Kern Road went in, it gave better access to the stoplights. Alderperson Butler noted that this is a Public Safety issue not a Public Works issue. He stated that this would be nice but we have many other concerns. Alderperson Stevens shared that she remembered when Becks started to build, the construction crew had issues getting out of property. Mayor Manier noted that the first traffic study was done at the start of shut-down when there was deceased traffic and noted that this is a business that will bring in tax revenue to the City and that Beck's agreed to give up their right of way. Many feel in favor of it for safety reasons. Mr. Carr noted that the first study was also done when the school was in ½ session. Alderperson Yoder finds it hard to believe that it won't be warranted and noted that there is not a sidewalk on either side. Mayor Manier noted the Secretary of Transportation said this is a good time because the lights can be reused if they need to be moved. Mr. Carr shared that IDOT said, this will be 100% local city funded. Alderperson Cobb asked who received the insurance money for the light that was removed after the tornado. It was noted that the funding source will be discussed in more detail at Finance and Personnel

6. *New City Administrator Hire Update – GovHR:* Mark Peterson VP of GovHR shared that he has worked in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois and preforms executive recruitment for municipalities both large and small. Has also worked with city councils for goal setting and works mostly downstate IL. He shared that GovHR is almost exclusively municipal work and noted that it is the City's hiring responsibility as he is just the advisor. He shared that typically they start with a kick-off meeting to talk about the schedule and who needs to be involved. He can do the legwork to bring in other groups from the community. He will create a profile of the perfect candidate and that is what we will look for. He then creates a job posting/announcement and uses websites, social media, brochure, etc. Mr. Peterson stated that we want the largest pool of candidates but also want quality over quantity and shared ideas about the type of people in the "pool". He shared that we should allow about 30 days for applicants to apply and that they preform background checks. They will also do a preliminary interview to see if candidates fit our profile. Then he presents the candidates divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2 groups. Group #1 has more traits desired. He shared that once in a while we come up empty handed but he will start over with no additional fees and if for any reason the candidate doesn't last a year, they will start the search again with no fee. Alderperson Blundy asked about how long the whole process, his response was about 120 days. He explained why it takes time including schedules, interviewing, etc.
6. *Mobile Vendor Fee Increase Discussion:* Mr. Oliphant shared that existing ordinance started in 2019 for the Rove + Ramble and noted that brick and mortar locations have commented. He asked for feedback from Council. Alderperson Cobb asked how many mobile vendors have applied. Clerk Brod estimated about eight. Mayor Manier noted that the license is for the year. Alderperson Butler is concerned that we shouldn't use this to scare the people off. Alderperson Cobb noted the importance to verify if vendors are paying their sales tax. IDR says the sales tax should be charged at the point of sale. It was noted that Charlotte Beck from Goldenfinch is helping contact the vendors to get the registration information to the vendors. Alderperson Adams said as long as they are paying their sales tax, the \$25 is an agreeable fee. Mr. Oliphant stated that we might look into changing the code to allow us to verify that they are paying the tax. Mayor Manier noted that other cities do this.
7. *Final Residential Beekeeping Discussion:* Mr. Oliphant requested final feedback to see if we should amend the code allowing beekeeping. Alderperson Yoder asked if there will be permission needed from the neighbors in the code. There was a brief discussion regarding the use of a special permit. Alderperson Cobb asked what happens if the house sells three months after. Alderperson Blundy stated that he has had some residents express concern. It was noted that a large chunk of properties is eliminated due to distance requirements. Alderperson Blundy thinks the fence might be excessive to be around the whole yard but it is needed for safety reasons. Alderperson Brownfield stated that he would be okay with it but thinks permission from neighbors should be needed. Discussion clarified that if the number of hives changed, a person would have to reregister. Alderperson Butler expressed concern for the effect on the value of the property when selling a home and prefers a special use permit. He also stated that the city should have the right to remove a hive if it is a nuisance. Alderpersons Butler and Blundy expressed favor but with certain restrictions. Alderpersons not in favor are Dingledine, Cobb, and Adams. Alderperson Stevens stated it is irrelevant what she thinks due to lack of consensus.

8. *Property and Liability Insurance Renewal*: Dennis Herman presented and shared that the renewal includes an 8.5% increase, they are using the same carriers as the existing policy. He stated that the renewal quote is for \$151,835 and the prior term was \$139,995. He shared that our two-year loss runs are about 62% that this is not attractive. He shared that we are still below the premium that we had with Travelers three years ago even with the 8.5% increase. Mr. Herman shared that the quote on Cyber is through BCS and is \$8558. Alderperson Cobb asked for coverage clarification for the cyber and it was explained that it is a \$1 million policy and covers may different breakdowns. Ms. Baxter shared, with respect to the budget, this total is still under budget. Alderperson Dingleline expressed his disappointment in the 100% increase when we have had no claims. Discussion took place regarding specifics as to why the increases may have taken place.
9. *Message Board Purchase Consideration*: Mr. Schone shared that he can't find the original owner of the message board but noted that we don't own the current one. He shared that this is a budgeted item. He is bringing it forward because it is above the City Administrator's approval rate and that this is a difficult process. Alderperson Brownfield noted the direction from Public Works was to bring it for discussion. After a brief discussion the general consensus to move forward with the purchase.
10. *Cold Planer Purchase Consideration*: Mr. Schone stated that we rent this item every year, it is \$1,500 and feels that we will save money for as much as we use it. Alderperson Brownfield asked for the pricing to be brought forward for consideration. Alderperson Cobb asked the life of the project. Mr. Schone stated maybe 10-15 years. Alderperson Butler shared concern for the length of time to see a benefit. Mr. Schone stated that we rent twice per year for a week at a time. Alderperson Dingleline noted that it is about \$3000 per year but we limited to only two weeks per year. Alderperson Stevens asked if there was a milling aspect to the paver. Mr. Schone said no. Alderperson Butler express concern for leasing vehicles but purchasing equipment. After a further brief discussion the general consensus was to move forward.
11. *Illinois American Water - Potential Future Bulk Water Sale*: Mr. Carr shared that we had previously discussed doing an emergency connection to help Illinois American customers in a time of emergency and if so, at what rates. Mr. Carr noted that there is a long list of charges shared in the memo. He also noted that the price is created by adding them to a group of other municipalities of their size and we would need to make it fair to our current residents. He noted that there are 432 local accounts and items to consider are; we don't have to do any repairs, we need to make money because we treat the water and customers will save money on salt, if we provided this how can we make sure they don't pass any increases on to them, and do we have enough water. Ms. Baxter shared that part of the ordinance states if our rates increase, IL American would also see the increase. Alderperson Adams reassured the capacity of our system is good and that we consider a one-time per customer connection fee. Alderperson Dingleline asked that once connections are made, if their one well goes down, are they out of water and wondered if there is any backflow protection so their well doesn't migrate back into our system. Mr. Carr shared that the valve would be closed unless there is an emergency. Discussion took place concerning the logistics of protecting systems using pumps, valves and shut-offs. Alderperson Cobb noted that he is on IL American water and he clarified some fees. Alderperson Stevens stated that IL American bought the company knowing what they were buying and if they use us, we would be doing them a favor so they don't have to redo their system. Alderperson Butler noted the previous engineer required large study and Mr. Carr noted that when that study was done, there would be aged water because we are not adding residents. Mayor Manier asked to bring a rate back for further discussion and noted that it could be about \$200,00 per year in revenue.
12. *Concrete Considerations at Waste Water Treatment Plant #2 - Excess Spillway*: Mr. Schone noted that last spring the Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 was deconditioned and can't receive contaminated soil. Mr. Schone noted the concrete is deteriorating. He shared that they sought information and Lone Wolf was the lowest bidder. They recommended bringing this to Council for consideration. Mr. Schone shared that this is specialized work that was not in the original bid and Lone Wolf is the lowest bidder for this project but CNG still has the other projects.
13. *Waste Water Treatment Clarifier Catwalk*: Mr. Schone shared that this is a safety consideration. It is a platform for them to walk on as they are performing cleaning. He noted that they hang on to the railing to clean and it is not safe. Mr. Schone would like direction to bring this to Council. Alderperson Dingleline

asked if all three quotes are based on the same specifications. The reply was confirmed and noted that Heartland has done work at our plant in the past.

14. *Public Works Projects Update:* Mr. Carr shared updates including that Hilldale is finishing the laterals then the watermain, Holland will begin after, the Southeast side of the Square is spray patched, the edge mill and fill has started, Lawndale is still trying to decide between seed and sod, Knollcrest is waiting on the block manufactures for review, the Centennial project is over bid, ITEP will only cover \$200,000. Alderperson Dingledine expressed his concern about the length of the project. Alderperson Brownfield asked about the cost of the project. Alderperson Butler feels it's too long. Alderperosn Cobb asked about shortening the project to save money. Discussion took place as to what drives the cost of the projects.

Other Business: Alderperson Stevens asked if we are looking for another city representative for the Fire Board.

Alderperson Dingledine added that with IL American water, we need hard numbers.

5. *Adjournment:* At 7:19 p.m. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Dingledine seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk