

# CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

## City Council Meeting

Monday, August 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Library in Five Points, Washington

Call to Order Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, August 16, 2021 to order at 6:30 p.m. a banquet room at Five Points, Washington, 360 N. Wilmore Road, Washington, Illinois.

Roll Call Present and answering roll call were Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Stevens and Yoder.

Absent was Alderperson Dingledine.

Also Present City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Zoning Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, City Clerk Valeri Brod, and City Attorney Derek Schryer.

Present Remotely none

Pledge of Allegiance All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor provided an announcement asking for everyone speaks up so they can all be heard.

Agenda Review Alderperson Stevens asked to pull Consent Agenda Item B, Bills and Payroll, to be voted on separately. Alderperson Cobb asked to pull Consent Agenda Item A, Approval of the Minutes, to be voted on separately.

Approve Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:

- c) Pay Request – Accounting Software Maintenance & Support – Tyler Technologies
- d) 2021 MFT D&D Sweeping Pay Request #2
- e) TIF Pay Request – Brunk’s Sports Center, 122 N. Main Street

Alderperson Brownfield moved and Alderperson Cobb seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 7 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Alderperson Stevens stated that she has a personal FOIA situation and she will not vote for the Bills and Payroll until it is resolved.

Alderperson Cobb moved and Alderperson Adams seconded to approve Bills and Payroll.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 6 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 1 Stevens

Motion declared carried.

Aldersperson Cobb asked to amend the August 2, 2021 Council Meeting minutes under the Adopted Resolution of the Preliminary Plat for Trails Edge Sections 9 & 10. He asked to remove the notation "for a water study" from the motion.

Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Brownfield seconded to approve the amended minutes.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 7 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Announcements and  
Proclamations

None provided.

Audience Comments

Joyce Blumenshine from Washington provided her comments regarding the Farm Creek project. She stated that Farm Creek is life giving, important and a drainage system for almost 40,000 acres. She stated that the creek cleans the water but it is sick due to daily life factors. She urged council to think about the creek for at least seven generations. Ms. Blumenshine shared photos and information provided by the State. She remarked about the size of the trees on the south side of the railroad and said that the creek is essential for local birds and a healthy forest. She went on to provide comments concerning the stability of the land being held together by the trees. She shared a page from the comprehensive plan and stated that the document is a guide.

Pat Wagner came forward and stated the importance of comprehensive plan that was developed in 2001. She read from the comprehensive plan about the geographic details of the area. She shared specifics about the water resources in Washington including flood plains and lakes. Ms. Wagner noted that the major flood planes are near farm creek. She continued to share information about the wetlands around Farm Creek. She stated that this information was found on the City website.

Gary McIntyre provided comments regarding the Trails Edge Preliminary Plat. He stated that he feels the changes bring many issues and many residents have brought forth concerns. He stated that the new plan directs water to the street or to the back of development and that hardscape is to be increase 30% from original plan. He provided comments regarding the water that is directed to a private lake. He stated that the developer spoke of integrity and feels that doing minimal sizes is not integrity. He shared that he has a petition with more than 180 signatures on it. He stated that sorghum is currently being farmed on the land and it is two times more absorbent than corn. He went on to state that the developer should not receive a free pass because the built a park in the neighborhood. He asked for Council to vote not to accept the plat.

Don Bevenour from Kingsbury Road told Council that Central school scheduled their Parent's Night at this time and Trails Edge is made of these young families. He requested that the vote be postponed because families could not attend this meeting.

Clerk Brod read an email received by Beth Black. It is attached and made part of these minutes.

Dave Jane from Trails Edge stated that he appreciates all those who have come forward and wants Council to know that it is not only those that have spoken up to but also many others.

Mike Cochran of Austin Engineering shared that this has been a long process and it has been their goal to engage city staff, Council and residents to build a development that brings everyone together. He stated that they listened to concerns from neighbors and invited them to provide more input but wasn't contacted by anyone. He stated that they proceeded by using what was said during the previous meeting and reduced the number of duplex lots, hired a traffic engineer and changed the drainage flow. He noted that there was a tie vote at Planning and Zoning meeting. Mr. Cochran shared that they invited the City Engineer and the Planning and Zoning Director to provide information and it was determined that what is being presented meets code. He stated that they are going above and beyond to provide the detention area and this will provide more water retention than pre-developed site. They feel this is the maximum they can do and hopes that Council can see it and approve the Preliminary Plat. He concluded by stating that this is a good example how everyone can work together.

Sam LaHood stepped forward and provided a timeline. He stated that they understood that they had to address the drainage issues and brought a solution forward. He noted that it was asked to be presented to the Committee of the Whole meeting for an open discussion and they brought four options to discuss. He stated that they were directed to work with City Engineer to come up with an acceptable solution. They did but the vote was tabled allowing the neighbors an opportunity to be involved but no one reached out. Mr. LaHood noted that the vote at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was tied but a tie counts as a no vote. He stated the reason was drainage so they brought a solution to the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and it was again delayed so then they decided to go above and beyond the code which they are here to present tonight.

Jessica Barr from Patricia Street addressed Mr. Cochran saying that no one reached out because it was deeply personal to them, so they wrote letters to Council instead. She asked if Austin Engineering did current drainage system which they replied, yes, however they cannot control how a homeowner develops their lot. He gave the example of constructing a walkout basement when the lot should be a flatter, causing drainage issues.

Standing Committee-  
Finance & Personnel  
Committee

Chairman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, shared no items at this time.

Standing Committee-  
Public Safety  
Committee

Chairman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, shared no items at this time. Mayor Manier asked about the back up of traffic at the new traffic light, after school. It was noted that this was a temporary issue.

Aldersperson Stevens asked the Chief McCoy if there was a traffic study on Kingsbury. He replied that they are on his desk and he will share them. He noted that there were less speeders than any other study.

Standing Committee-  
Public Works  
Committee

Chairman Mike Brownfield, Public Works Committee, shared no items at this time and invited the staff to provide updates.

Public Works Director, Kevin Schone shared that concrete work is being done on Cruger as well as work on parking lots. He noted the street sweeper is down and awaiting parts. He also shared that a few hydrants are being completed and they are working with the new cemetery worker.

City Engineer, Dennis Carr shared that there is a boil order in effect and they are working on Crestview. He also noted that he is preparing the RFP for the Phase 2B review.

Planning and Zoning Director, Jon Oliphant stated that he has nothing to present at this time.

Mayor

None provided.

Adopt Resolution:  
*Preliminary Plat -  
Trails Edge Sections 9  
and 10*

Mayor Manier presented the Preliminary Plat for Trails Edge Subdivision, Sections 9 & 10.

Aldersperson Butler moved and Aldersperson Cobb seconded to remove the tabled resolution from the previous meeting.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 7 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Manier provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: A Resolution Approving the Preliminary Plat for Trails Edge Subdivision, Sections 9 & 10.

Aldersperson Brownfield moved and Aldersperson Cobb seconded.

Aldersperson Brownfield asked for clarification regarding this item meeting all guidelines and what would happen if this doesn't pass. Attorney Schryer referred to a written memo that was provided to Council. Aldersperson Butler stated that he agreed with Mr. Cochran about the number of units that was brought in April and agreed with the concern but noted that there was a revision to the Plat reducing the number. He also noted that there was a proposal to help redirect water floor to street and direction for the City Engineer to come back with a solution. He feels that tonight's plan seems to provide that solution. Aldersperson Butler share that in the August 2nd meeting there was concerning language and the motion was tabled. He shared that Austin Engineering went back and now they are going above and beyond city code. He shared that he doesn't think City Council is in the position to deviate from the advice of the City Engineer. He clarified how the water would be diverted to the street to wait its turn for drainage and noted this is a better solution than the water that is standing in the field today. Aldersperson Butler went on to state that although he doesn't like the duplexes, the developer owns the property and these meet the R-1 Zoning regulations. He noted that Council needs to respect the rights of the owners of the property and the plans are meeting requirements.

Aldersperson Adams stated that he doesn't disagree with some of the things Aldersperson Butler, but he looks at it as multiple property owners, not just one. He stated that he heard what was expressed and has to vote his conscience as if this was his neighborhood. He stated that with the drainage issues and people who were told this will all be single family, he cannot support this.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 2 Brownfield, Butler

Nays: 5 Yoder, Adams, Blundy, Cobb, Stevens

Motion declared failed.

1Reading Ordinance: <i>Annexation 1103 N. Main Street</i>	Mayor Manier provided the first reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would approve the annexation of a parcel at 1103 N. Main Street, Washington, Illinois, into the City of Washington, Illinois corporate limits.
Aldersperson's Comments	None provided.
Adjournment	At 7:17 p.m. Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Brownfield seconded to move.  <u>Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.</u>

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Valeri Brod, City Clerk

**From:** Beth Black <[blbkkg@gmail.com](mailto:blbkkg@gmail.com)>

**Date:** August 16, 2021 at 12:51:28 PM CDT

**To:** Gary Manier <[gmanier@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:gmanier@ci.washington.il.us)>, Mike Brownfield <[mbrownfield@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:mbrownfield@ci.washington.il.us)>, Lilija Stevens <[lstevens@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:lstevens@ci.washington.il.us)>, Brian Butler <[bbutler@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:bbutler@ci.washington.il.us)>, Todd Yoder <[tyoder@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:tyoder@ci.washington.il.us)>, Dave Dingledine <[ddingledine@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:ddingledine@ci.washington.il.us)>, Brett Adams <[badams@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:badams@ci.washington.il.us)>, John Blundy <[jblundy@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:jblundy@ci.washington.il.us)>, Daniel Cobb <[dcobb@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:dcobb@ci.washington.il.us)>

**Subject:** Trails Edge Sections Nine and Ten

Dear Members of City Council~

Thank you for taking time to hear the residents of Trails Edge concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the plat for Sections Nine and Ten of our neighborhood. Although I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a family emergency, please know that I am every bit as passionate about this issue as I have been since I learned of the proposed development.

I have shared with you photographic evidence of the extreme drainage issues that the residents of Trails Edge and adjoining neighborhoods have faced for the past several years. The amended plat as proposed by the developer will only serve to exacerbate this problem, which will affect the 350 families in Trails Edge and additional families in Devonshire, on Elgin Avenue and on Dallas Road.

We are counting on you to vote against the newly proposed plat for Sections Nine and Ten of Trails Edge to help the existing homeowners protect our property.

Thank you.

Beth Black  
624 Patricia Street  
Washington, IL 61571