

CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Library in Five Points, Washington

Call to Order	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Tuesday, September 7, 2021 to order at 6:30 p.m. in 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, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder.
Also Present	<p>City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Zoning Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Utilities Superintendent Brian Rittenhouse, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar and City Attorney Derek Schryer.</p> <p>Mayor Manier asked all those in attendance to stand have a moment of silence to recognize thirteen service men and women who were recently killed in action in Afghanistan and the 20th Anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center.</p>
Pledge of Allegiance	<p>All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Mayor asked if everyone speaks up so they can all be heard.</p>
Agenda Review	<p>Mayor Manier shared that Agenda Item XII-B, is for up for renewal not reconsideration as written on the agenda.</p> <p>Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Stevens seconded to remove agenda item XII-B, Preliminary Plat - Trails Edge Sections 9 and 10 Reconsideration, from the agenda.</p> <p>On roll call on the motion to approve was: <u>Ayes: 5</u> Adams, Blundy, Cobb, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 3</u> Brownfield , Butler, Dingledine <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Approve Consent Agenda	<p>Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Approval of minutes of August 16, 2021 City Council MeetingB. Business 24 and Eagle Avenue Intersection Signalization FundingC. Hilldale Pay Request #4 – Change Order #1D. 2021 MFT UCM Chip Seal Pay Request #1E. Pay Request #10 – Change order 4F. Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 Demo Phase I Bid AwardG. Mutual Aid Agreement with Multi County Enforcement Group (MEG)H. Mobile Radar Replacement Purchase

Announcements and
Proclamations

Police Chief Mike McCoy swore in Lyle Baele as Sergeant. Sergeant Baele was present with his wife and son.

Audience Comments

Walter Rupman of Washington came forward. He passed around a handout and stated that he started a Facebook page for citizens of Washington about the city government. He read aloud a comment he posted on his new social media page about the upcoming open Alderperson seat in Ward 4.

Joyce Bloomenshine came forward and passed around a handout. She stated that the national issue with health is not Covid related but air quality. She stated that is concerned about the decisions with Farm Creek and the impact on the forest. She asked Council to think about if tree removal was necessary, what are the time frames, who does the work, what is the cost. She described her handout and the photos on it. She stated that Farm Creek dispenses tons of silt per year into the Illinois River. She noted the location of the old sewer and the location of Farm Creek.

Pat Wagner asked for clarification on "repairing forest". She gave statistics about climate change. She noted a concern with the reliance on retaining ponds due to a limited capacity. She stated that Farm Creek drains most of Washington, south of the Bypass. She stated that the forests have been along the creek for hundreds of years. She also shared that the tree root systems extend two times the spread of the tree crown and roots are the memory of the changes in climate. She noted the impact on soil, and stated that they don't know how long it will take the area to recover but thinks it will be more than 100 years. She mentioned the storm water survey and said the best time to conserve is now.

Shelly Heinze, stated that she is not opposed to residential development and wants to make sure the city is reevaluating current ordinances which makes sense until the stormwater study is done. Ms. Heinze shared that she backs up to the creek behind Kelsey and stated that they were flooded twice. He noted that the creek has been at the bank often and it is more than 100-year events.

Beth Black asked if Trails Edge Preliminary Plat would be discussed tonight. Mayor Manier stated that to the best of his knowledge, it was removed from discussion.

Tom Gross, who lives on Main Street, came forward to address the trunkline. He stated in 2019 the City approved the route of the trunkline. He stated that a FOIA request gave no cost estimates for this route or alternate routes. He also stated that there are no cost estimates for future sewer rates. Mr. Gross stated that the trunkline crosses Farm Creek six times and includes a pump station and feels other routes are less expensive. He stated that Council only had information from the City Engineer and Strand and that five members of Council approved having a third-party firm evaluate the line. His also stated that his citizen's group is asking for the city to have transparency and asked that the City share if the third-party recommends another route. Mr. Gross stated that if Council is not satisfied with the third-party recommendation, they should reject it. He stated that whatever route is chosen, it will increase sewer rates for 30 years. He asked everyone to join his new Facebook page. He noted that the RFQ deadline is tomorrow, and asked Mr. Carr to tell him how many firms have requested the information. He also asked how many people asked for all the presentations given to council in the past and asked who will be present in the interviews.

Jennifer Swanson, came forward concerning the Trails Edge Preliminary Plat. She stated that she is frustrated as she thought this subject died with Council, but it is showing up again. She stated that she doesn't have time to attend all the meetings and feels like she has to stalk every meeting to see what is on the agenda.

Gary McIntyre, from Trails Edge, stated that he understands the Preliminary Plat has been removed from the agenda. He shared information from City Code 152.010(F). He said they are frustrated because they have been told the developer would have to provide the code in order to submit the preliminary plat.

Beth Black stepped forward to provide a handout with a photo collage. She stated that this has come to Council many times and she would like to address that government is ignoring the residents. Ms. Black stated that the alderpersons are being forced to approve a plan. She read a part of the City Code regarding subdivisions, stating that development “minimizes impacts...” and this proposal does not “minimize impact” She noted the five Alderpersons rejected the Plat and listened to their residents. She stated that Alderpersons Stevens, Adams, Cobb, Yoder and Blundy are appreciated by residents for voting no. Doesn’t want it approved.

Attorney Joseph Gilfillan of the firm Cusack and Gilfillan asked the City Attorney if he would accept service.

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, introduced Police Chief Mike McCoy to provide items his Traffic Report and Mutual Aid Agreement details. Chief McCoy said it is encouraging that we only had 22 property damage accidents and one personal injury accident. He warned everyone that driving fast on Main street is not advised. He also stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement will come to the Public Safety agenda next week.

Standing Committee-
Public Works
Committee

Chairman Mike Brownfield, Public Works Committee, introduced City Engineer Dennis Carr who shared the Bobolink Construction Engineering Agreement Supplement is part of the Safe Routes to School project that started this spring. He noted that the weather became hot when the sod was placed and it died. Mr. Carr stated that since this is an IDOT project with grant funding, they need approval to proceed. He is going to have Ross help which will cut costs. Mr. Carr went on to provide the following updates: Public Works is getting ready to begin sodding again, Holland is finishing private side projects, They are running sanitary connections through back yards near St. Pat’s church with two really long laterals that will have to make sure it doesn’t hit trees or tile, the Centennial Rec Trail is going out for rebidding next month and the Third-party RFQ has about 10-11 who have reached out. Mr. Carr stated d that the City is hearing more about storm water issues and noted that it was discussed in the past the the City will need to find a way to pay for storm water issues. Public Works Director Kevin Schone, stated that the cemetery looks great with the help of two new employees. He also shared that the concrete on Cruger Road is almost finished and more concrete work will be done at the fire station. He stated that hydrant flushing will start next week, weather permitting. Utilities Superintendent Brian Rittenhouse shared that they had bid opening for CCTV Camera Retrofit. He stated that they will Reevaluate some sewer lining projects to re-allocate money. He also shared that a concrete pad will help the excess spillway.

Mayor

Mayor Manier stated that there will be a 9-11 Ceremony at Washington Park on September 12th organized by Tom Berlett.

Executive Session	<p>At 7:13pm a motion was made to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting per section 2(c)(11) of the Illinois Open Meeting Act.</p> <p>Aldersperson Brownfield moved and Aldersperson Adams seconded.</p> <p>On roll call on the motion to approve was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Adopt Resolution: <i>Temporary Closure of a State Maintained Roadway for a Public Event</i>	<p>Mayor Manier read a resolution, by title only and brief synopsis, granting the partial closure of the Washington Square and Illinois Business Route 24, from 4:00pm to 9:00pm on Saturday, September 25, 2001.</p> <p>Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded.</p> <p>On roll call on the motion to approve was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Adopt Resolution: Preliminary Plat – Trails Edge Sections 9 and 10	<p>Mayor Manier provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: A Resolution Approving the Preliminary Plat for Trails Edge Subdivision, Sections 9 & 10.</p>
2 nd Reading Ordinance: <i>Annexation 1103 N. Main Street</i>	<p>Mayor Manier provided the second 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.</p> <p>Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Cobb seconded.</p> <p>On roll call on the motion to approve was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Aldersperson's Comments	None

Executive Session

At 8:11pm a motion was made to go into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Brownfield seconded.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingleline, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Adjournment

At 8:22 p.m. Aldersperson Brownfield moved and Aldersperson Cobb seconded to move.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri Brod, City Clerk