

CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Meeting
Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Library in Five Points, Washington

Call to Order Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, September 20, 2021 to order at 6:30 p.m. in the library 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 City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Zoning Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, Police Chief Mike McCoy, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, and City Attorney Derek Schryer.

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

Agenda Review The agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.

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

- a) Approval of minutes of September 20, 2021 City Council Meeting
- b) Bills and Payroll
- c) CCTV Camera Van Retro Fit Bid Award

Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Brownfield seconded.

Aldersperson Stevens noted that the minutes should say "St. Marks Church" instead of "St. Pat's Church"

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Announcements and Proclamations Gold Star Mother's and Family's Proclamation, see attached.

Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Audience Comments Katie Blanklieve, the Director of the Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association came forth to comment on the Transportation Grant agenda item. She shared that they are a cooperative made of four park districts and they provide recreation programming for residents who have special needs. She explained that transportation

is an issue with her participants and with limited funding, they cannot provide transportation for everyone.

Christina Norris came forward to ask Council to imagine what it would be like to be disabled and have no independence. She stated that transportation is a basic skill and privilege. She went on to share that crossing The Square is hazardous due to lack of yielding cars. Ms. Norris shared that some residents have to choose between their job or staying at home to help their adult child. She shared that kids go from the high school setting with friends and resources to the home setting with no independence. She also shared that families with no means, may be left home alone. She shared that even our park district ages out at 12 years old and this refers to an actual year, not a mental year. She introduced her son who she said was a miracle, born at only one pound. She shared that he finished high school but cannot get to basic programs or to get groceries due to the lack of transportation. Ms. Norris asked for Council to support the transportation program which would include “even these residents”.

**Standing
Committee-
Finance &
Personnel
Committee**

Chairman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, introduced Mr. Oliphant to share details about Section 5310 Transportation Grant Program Local Funding Contribution Consideration. Mr. Oliphant shared that they have sought grants to help fund this consideration and applications are due on October 1st. He also shared that the township started a similar transportation program for residents ages 65 years old and older and noted that Washington is a gray area because it lacks alternative transportation needs. Mr. Oliphant shared details about the way the program is to be funded and shared that the township has asked if the City would share in the funding expenses.

Washington Township Supervisor, Jim Bremner was present and shared that they have a transportation program for residents who are 65 years and older and who can get into vehicle unassisted. He shared that they receive calls for transportation for seniors and this can also include those with disabilities. Mr. Bremner shared that the Township has spoken to area medical facilities and they also identified this as a need. He shared that AARP notes that a lack of transportation leads to physical and mental deterioration. He went on to explain that We Care is the rural transportation program that is available only if either their start or destination is a rural location. He shared that CityLink follows the transit route which ends at Washington Plaza and the Agency on Aging Program is the only one who picks up anywhere and drops off anywhere but they only have one passenger van to serve three counties. Mr. Bremner also shared that the Township decided to work with the Morton/Washington taxi service and they seem to be the best because they are cost effective and will help with some mobility issues. Mr. Bremner stated that the Township is sharing a brochure in the community to help everyone understand the need and they are starting to get a response. He noted that they are partnering with CityLink/CityLift to see if they can come up with a grant to help. He shared that CityLink/CityLift can provide two buses each for 50 hours per week for an annual expense of approximately \$285,000. Mr. Bremner explained that enough funding can be found to get through this fiscal year and that the Township Board as approved this. He also noted that they can customize the program and limit days or hours to fit the community’s need.

Mayor Manier expressed disappointment in the WE CARE program who does not come into the City. He also shared his support for this consideration.

Alderpersion Stevens shared her support of the program.

Alderpersion Cobb and other Council members would like to move forward with this program and explore funding options.

Mr. Oliphant shared that he will look at several funding options.

Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Adams seconded.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

**Standing
Committee-
Public Safety
Committee**

Chairman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, introduced Police Chief Mike McCoy who shared that last week they signed an agreement with Tazewell County for a Mutual Aid Agreement. Chief McCoy introduced Deputy Chief Jeff Stevens to review a recent vicious animal hearing. He noted there were recent false claims against the Mayor, Police and City.

Deputy Chief Stevens referenced Chapter 91 in the City Code that explains if a dog that has bitten a person or animal without provocation, then there will be a required hearing. At this hearing, a judgment will be made. If they find the dog to be vicious, they will be required to have warning signage, a confinement structure, a muzzle when walked but not to be worn inside a residence, a one-time \$50 license fee to the City and insurance coverage of \$50,000. If a family doesn't want to do these requirements, they can rehome the dog with proper notifications given. Deputy Chief Stevens shared that there are recent social media posts regarding a vicious dog claim and feels they are acting out of emotion. Deputy Chief Stevens explained that fines given for a violation of a vicious dog ordinance are set by a judge in Tazewell County court and they range from \$100-\$500. He noted that the fee that was stated on the social media post was a fee for someone who wanted to let their vicious animal run free and the fine that was given to this case was \$100 and it was paid.

**Standing
Committee-
Public Works
Committee**

Chairman Mike Brownfield, Public Works Committee, introduced City Engineer, Dennis Carr to share details about Centennial Rec Trail. Mr. Carr stated that they brought this to Council in June and the low bid was approximately \$418,000 which was over budget. He noted at the time, they had decided to turn down the bid but worried that by turning down funding, it could hurt future job funding. Mr. Carr shared that they put the project out for rebid and received eight bids. The low bid was provided by Knapp Concrete for \$388,163. He noted that they would have until July to complete the project and this is similar to other projects where IDOT pays for it, then the City will reimburse IDOT after the job is completed. Mr. Carr stated that staff is asking if the City would want to continue this project.

Aldersperson Brownfield noted the extra funds needed and the risk of losing future funding if we turn this down.

Aldersperson Brownfield moved and Aldersperson Dingledine seconded.

Aldersperson Dingledine echoed Aldersperson Brownfield's sentiments. He noted that although we are almost doubled the initial estimates, he fears if we don't complete the project, it will hinder future projects. He also stated the need to be more diligent on future projects.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Mr. Carr provided updates on several projects which included the replacement of dead sod on Bobolink, delivery of sod on Lawndale, three remaining laterals on the Holland Project, laterals on Market and Main Streets, removals and grading on Hilldale, the gas shift on the North Street Culvert, discussions with Cullinan regarding last year's aggregate loss, the data gathering for the Stormwater Study, the Water Quality Study, and the Phase 2B Alternative Analysis which received five bids and will move forward to interviews with the selection committee.

Mr. Oliphant shared that the Core and Main project should break ground any day. Mr. Schone shared that Public Works has a watermain project that will require Spring Street to be closed. He shared that they will take the affected resident's garbage out to Spring Street to help. He also shared that they will address the alley leading to Parr Hue Street. He noted that they have received permission to use the alley but the barriers will go back to block the alley once the improvements are completed. Mr. Schone also shared that they will be putting in a hydrant at the lane. He shared a few details about the job process and stated they don't know what they will find when they start to dig. Mr. Schone also shared the Public Works is waiting for asbestos abatement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Manier stated that the Fogging process was done well to help fix issues from last year and hopes this will help eliminate some of the old issues.

Chief McCoy shared that they used Code Red to alert the residents of Spring Street closing.

Mayor None provided at this time.

Adopt Resolution:
District 50 Safe Routes to School Local Match Commitment

Mayor Manier provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: A resolution accepting an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to provide a local funding match for the Safe Routes to School Program projects on Grant Street.

Aldersperson Brownfield moved and Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

Aldersperson Butler asked for clarification about the entire cost of \$535,000. Mr. Oliphant shared that this would be the case if the sidewalk was taken all the way to School Street and noted that they are proposing to complete about half the length. Aldersperson Butler noted that there is a good sidewalk already on Washington Road and shared that he cannot support this due to lack of need. Aldersperson Brownfield explained that the direction from the Committee was for staff to include all three schools in the Safe Routes to School projects and staff did what they were asked. Aldersperson Butler noted that we shouldn't spend this money for 1/10 of a mile of sidewalk. Aldersperson Stevens stated the original conversation was referring the sidewalk that does not have a crosswalk. She noted the safety concerns for a safe way to cross the road. Aldersperson Stevens also noted that the original crosswalk sign was taken down when school street was redone because there wasn't a landing at the crosswalk and she feels this is needed for safety.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 1 Butler

Motion declared carried.

Adopt Resolution:
District 51 Safe
Routes to School
Local Match
Commitment

Mayor Manier provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: A resolution accepting an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to provide a local funding match for the Safe Routes to School Program projects on Eagle Avenue from BR 24 to just south of Central Intermediate School.

Alderpersion Stevens moved and Alderpersion Adams seconded.

Alderpersion Butler stated that he feels this is a sidewalk to nowhere and noted that schools can provide transportation to those who cross Business Route 24. He also shared that he would prefer to look at areas on Grandyle and Eagle Avenue. Alderpersion Stevens stated that since we provided the traffic lights, the City needs to provide a safe way to cross at them.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 1 Butler

Motion declared carried.

Adopt Resolution:
District 52 Safe
Routes to School
Local Match
Commitment

Mayor Manier provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: A resolution accepting an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to provide a local funding match for the Safe Routes to School Program projects on North Street from N. Main Street to just west of West Street.

Alderpersion Adams moved and Alderpersion Yoder seconded.

No comments were provided.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Adopt Resolution:
CivicServ TIF
Program Scoring
Model Agreement

Mayor Manier provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: A resolution accepting an agreement between the City of Washington and CivicServ for professional services to create and annually maintain a TIF project selection platform.

Alderpersion Cobb moved and Alderpersion Adams seconded.

Mr. Oliphant shared that this will provide a platform to help facilitate TIF guidelines and will help eliminate subjectivity on some of the larger TIF projects.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

2nd Reading
Ordinance:
WCHS Resource
Officer Agreement

Mayor Manier provided the first reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would approve the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Washington, Illinois and Washington Community High School District 308 to continue a School Resource Officer Program.

Aldersperson Adams moved and Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

Aldersperson Dingleline asked if Officer Westbrook was resource officer, Chief McCoy confirmed that he is.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

**1st Reading
Ordinance:
Annexation of 910
S. Main Street**

Mayor Manier provided the first reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would annex a parcel of 910 S. Main Street totaling 1.32 acres into the City of Washington Corporate Limits.

**Aldersperson's
Comments**

Aldersperson Stevens stated that at last month's Finance and Personnel she brought up that the City Clerk does not have a Deputy Clerk. She is asking to discuss this at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Aldersperson Cobb, shared that he is moving to Georgia. He stated that it was a hard decision but noted that it is time for the change. He shared that he has gained many skills during his Council terms and has learned from each person on Council. He stated that even with misunderstandings, he would like to move on positively. Mr. Cobb shared that late night phone calls had caused him to miss family obligations. He shared that he will remember all that everyone has done and wished everyone success.

Adjournment

At 7:29 p.m. Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Adams seconded to move.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri Brod, City Clerk



City of Washington, Illinois Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1936, the 74th Congress declared that the last Sunday in September shall hereafter be designated and known as “Gold Star Mother’s Day;” and

WHEREAS, in 2016, President Barack Obama Proclaimed that beginning on September 25, 2016, the last Sunday in September should be known as “Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day;” and

WHEREAS, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces represent the very best of our Nation, matched only by the families who walk beside them in their service, and on this Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day, we solemnly honor the memory of every lost Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman and humbly grieve with their families who persevere with remarkable courage, strength, and grace; and

WHEREAS, we hold in our hearts the Gold Star Mothers and Families who deserve our utmost respect, admiration, and support for their tenacity and resilience, and for the work they do to preserve the memory of those who gave their lives for our country; and

WHEREAS, the true strength and success of our Armed Forces is found in the love, support, and unity of our Nation’s military families, and this is reflected best in our country’s inspirational Gold Star Mothers and Families whose ability to overcome, persist, prevail, and in turn, enrich the lives of others, exemplifies the true American Spirit; and

WHEREAS, Americans of every generation owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who gave their lives in service to this Nation and to their families, so that on this day of remembrance, we may hold these families in our hearts, remember them in our prayers, support them in our words and deeds, and join them in honoring their hero’s ultimate sacrifice;

Now, therefore, do I, Gary W. Manier, Mayor of the City of Washington, hereby proclaim Sunday, September 26, 2021, as

Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day

and I do further encourage the Citizens of Washington to display the United States Flag as a public expression of our gratitude and respect for our Gold Star Mothers and Families.

PROCLAIMED this 20th day of September, 2021.



Gary W. Manier, Mayor

ATTEST:



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk