

# Committee of the Whole

Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

Library at Five Points, Washington, 360 N. Wilmore Road, Washington, IL

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Mayor Manier called the regular Committee of the Whole meeting of December 13, 2021 to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

*Present:* Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Boyles, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder, City Administrator Snider, Police Chief McCoy, Attorney Schryer, City Treasurer Strubhar and City Clerk Brod

*Also Present:* P & D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Carr, and Public Works Director Schone

## MINUTES

1. *Aldermen wishing to be heard:* Alderperson Adams shared that he will be adding an agenda item for discussion under “Other Business”. It is regarding the purchase of two police motorcycles.
2. *Public Comments:* None at this time.
3. *Approval of Minutes:* Alderperson Brownfield moved and Alderperson Adams seconded to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

## 4. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. *Chamber of Commerce Update:* Chris Hasten of the Chamber of Commerce shared that the Candlelight stroll went well but they will make a change with the horse and carriage next year and add a little extra lighting or try to close off part of The Square. She shared that The Chamber has been working with a lot of local business to navigate grants and Covid related issues. Chris also shared that the marketing plan for the holidays is underway and the Prayer Breakfast was success.
- B. *TIF Scoring Model and Guidelines Discussion:* Planning and Zoning Director Oliphant shared that they are providing a draft of a revised scoring model and they are looking for feedback on it. He noted that this is a work in progress and would like to produce something that is supported by Council. Their goal is to take as much of the subjectivity out of the scoring process as possible. Mr. Oliphant noted that there is a draft category on the second page containing multiple improvements and these focus on some of the bigger cost items. Scott Black from CIVIC SERVE provided explanation that they are trying to take the subjectivity out of the TIF process and welcomes any feedback. Alderperson Stevens shared that she didn’t get to look at this as much as shed like but wanted to note the clearer language needed for where a person is applying from. Alderperson Stevens shared that some may own

a business here but not live here. Mr. Black suggested we could do a radius. Alderperson Brownfield shared that if it is in the town or TIF area he feels it should be acceptable and he thinks the list is strong. Mr. Oliphant noted that review of our eligibility list versus ineligibility list shows one example is the difference between funding for major versus minor electrical work. He also noted that painting is currently not eligible but doing a major project that requires repairs with painting, he feels the painting should be covered. He shared the need for guidance for determining major versus minor work. Mr. Oliphant recommended they put a maximum TIF contribution into the proposal. Alderperson Butler expressed the need for a sliding scale based on investment amounts. Mr. Oliphant shared that they trialed this proposed scoring model on the 104 North High project and it determined it would be eligible for 30% exterior funds and 15% interior funds. He also shared the need for a separate category for major catalytic projects that contain a minimum investment. Alderperson Blundy expressed that this is a good start. Mr. Oliphant shared that they are trying to put more weight on more fiscal impacts, exterior over interior improvements and retail over service/office businesses. Alderperson Yoder asked if staff can run a few past projects for comparison. City Administrator Snider asked what other Central Illinois cities that CIVIC SERVE is working with. Mr. Black shared they are working with Pekin, Peoria and looking at adding Benton. Mayor Manier asked if staff could bring back the examples and Mr. Oliphant felt that is a good idea.

## 5. OTHER BUISNESS

Alderperson Adams brought forward the discussion item regarding the purchase of two Harley Davidson police motorcycles, that was reviewed in the Public Safety meeting. He read a synopsis of the presentation provided by Chief McCoy. The presentation noted that Walter Brothers, Harley Davidson is willing to sell the leased motorcycles for \$18,000 each and they are valued at just under \$20,000 each. He noted that the motorcycles have created involvement in the community. Alderperson Adams shared that several people came forward in support of the purchase. Chief McCoy had provided information stating since 2019, we have invested \$21,400 for equipment and training. Alderperson Brownfield asked about the cost of buying new motorcycles. Chief McCoy stated about \$36,000 each and \$15,000 for training and equipment. Chief McCoy also noted that these have about ten more years of additional life expectancy. It was noted that one motorcycle has 3,000 miles on it and the other 5,000 miles. Alderperson Blundy asked about the ongoing expenses with these including storage, maintenance, training, etc. It was shared that they are about \$800 to maintain and \$1,600 for training officer. Chief McCoy shared that the lease is up on December 27, 2021. Alderperson Boyles acknowledged the significant investment and added the positive impact to the community, the attraction to the City, investment already made, the positive impact on the kids, the positive conversations and creating good rapport with Police Department. Alderperson Stevens asked should about buying versus leasing new motorcycles. Alderperson Adams shared that it is \$10,500 per motorcycle per year and is not sure there is an option to lease brand new ones. Alderperson Boyles stated that motorcycles are slow to decrease in value as long as they are maintained and have a low insurance cost. Alderperson Blundy asked about the need and if officers are better protected in a squad car. He also shared that he didn't see them in the parade. Chief McCoy shared that the Police

Department is currently six people down and those who are trained to ride were working on that day. Alderperson Blundy asked about the usage and stated that state of Illinois is not conducive to motorcycles. He shared that these were taken to Memphis for an event. Chief McCoy clarified that several communities provided motorcycle escort to Memphis and shared that they are a huge recruiting tool. He also shared that every person who has applied to the Police Department has asked about the motorcycles. It was noted that we have four officers trained on them and these are something that makes officers want to come to Washington. He also shared that it is \$1,600 to send someone to school.

Mayor Manier asked for a straw-poll which provided the following: Alderperson Yoder disapproved, stating that most of the miles went to Memphis, although he understands they are a recruiting tool. Alderperson Adams approved, saying he's gone back and forth with this idea but notes they are great for the community and as a recruiting tool. Alderperson Stevens said she does not have enough information and the Chief couldn't answer questions about costs. She would like to know how long an officer has to be here before they are trained. She stated that she cannot support this. Alderperson Brownfield approved stating that these are a great tool. Alderperson Dingledine stated he thinks it is a luxury and not necessary. Alderperson Butler stated that he is proud of our Police Department, thinks these are good, shared that this is part of the strategy of the Police Department and doesn't want new or leased motorcycles. Alderperson Blundy disapproved. Alderperson Boyles fully support these stating we are invested, so we should keep them in service and move forward.

Alderperson Stevens brought forward for discussion the glass recycling container that was recently emptied again. She asked if we are tracking that information. Mayor Manier shared that the City was contacted about the full container and it was discussed whether we would continue with the recycling test. Mayor noted they are likely going to pull the container and discontinue it as there has been broken glass and City workers have had to go out several times for cleanup. Stevens shared that it had been emptied and replaced today and broken glass happens when it is full and glass falls out. She noted the only containers left behind were a few plastic tubs that were cleaned up. Alderperson Stevens said the Police can verify it has not been abused. Mayor Manier stated that it was pulled because it was full and this can be discussed at the next meeting.

Alderperson Stevens asked about the maintenance of the viaduct. Mayor Manier shared that the Bicentennial Committee may help cover it since the steel cannot be sandblasted. Alderperson Dingledine noted that the structural engineers with the railroad states that it is structurally sound even with the crumbling concrete and exposed rebar and noted that we have tried to reach them for years. He agrees it is an eyesore but they say if we go too far, they can take over the land and not allow traffic under.

6. *Adjournment:* At 8:22 p.m. Alderperson Steven moved and Alderperson Dingledine seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk