



**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 21 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**In the library at Five Points Washington, 360 N. Wilmore Road, Washington, Illinois**

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**Call to Order** Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, February 21, 2022 to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

**Roll Call** Present: Adams, Blundy, Boyles, Brownfield, Butler, Dingedine, Stevens and Yoder  
Absent: None

**Also Present** City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Planning and Zoning Director Jon Oliphant, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Utilities Superintendent Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Mike McCoy, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, and City Attorney Keith Braskich

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**Approval of Remote Attendance** None

**Pledge of Allegiance** All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Mayor Manier.

**Citizens Wishing to be Heard** None at this time.

**Review Agenda** The agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of February 7, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Bills and Payroll
- C. Accept & Place on File: Monthly Financial Reports for period ended December 31, 2021
- D. Bus. 24 /Eagle Stop Light Pay Request #3
- E. TIF Pay Request #2 - Jake Webber, Country Financial, 105 Washington Square
- F. TIF Pay Request - Washington Historical Society, 128 Washington Square

Aldersperson Brownfield moved and Aldersperson Adams seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Boyles, Brownfield, Butler, Dingedine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

**Announcements and Proclamations** City Administrator, Jim Snider introduced Howard Hamilton and his staff to provide their report regarding the Farm Creek Trunkline. The full report can be found on the website: [www.farmcreeksewerproject.com](http://www.farmcreeksewerproject.com) under "Reports" or on the City of Washington website at: [https://www.ci.washington.il.us/egov/documents/1645468448\\_10704.pdf](https://www.ci.washington.il.us/egov/documents/1645468448_10704.pdf). Mr. Hamilton noted that this is a draft report and not a finished report and was produced to seek feedback. He shared that it is a brief overview of their findings and recommendations and clarified a list of acronym definitions. He highlighted some specifications involving the

gallons of fluid and times of peak flow. Mr. Hamilton shared questions that were asked in the online questionnaire which included: where people live, sewer performance issues, ranking of priorities, how the City should respond to I/I from public sources, and how should the City respond to private I/I costs. Mr. Hamilton noted that 380 people have viewed website, 148 people have started the questionnaire and 51 people have completed the questionnaire. He provided the specific responses, including that “real estate taxes” was chosen as the top priority by residents. Mr. Hamilton noted that the questionnaire will close on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Alderperson Brownfield and Mr. Hamilton clarified that there are only ten questions on the questionnaire and the public can rank those concerns however they like.

Mr. Hamilton shared the following findings:

1. Sewage flows show wet weather causes flow into the City sewage system and into the Farm Creek Sewer and they are excessive. He noted that a three-inch rain fall event shows we had equal peak flow similar to a town with a population of over 90,000 in population. It was noted that this flow was coming from the side sewers.
2. Maps show there are nine basins with basin #7 being the worst. Basin #9 has concerns as well.
3. The existing sewer is in generally good condition but general maintenance is needed. It has two bottle necks which cause manholes to overflow. These are South of Timber Rail Drive. If they are corrected, they would have greater capacity but still not enough for peak flow. Alderperson Blundy asked why they used the three-inch rainfall event and Mr. Hamilton said the it was the largest rain event occurring while they conducted measurements. Alderperson Butler noted the numbers on page 21, stating the flow is four times the capacity of the sewer. Mr. Hamilton shared exact measurements on flow and overflow including that the flow going out of basins #7 and #9 is more than what water is received at STP #1 which shows overflow issues at the manholes. He noted there is additional area that can impact the sewer and Farm Creek. It was noted that this would be stormwater mixed with raw sewage. Mr. Hamilton noted other areas of concern south of the rail line that did not appear in Strands report.

Mr. Hamilton shared that they evaluated seven alternatives even though they were only asked to evaluate five. Following are his findings:

1. Pump station improvements are needed at STP#2 regardless of chosen alternative. He noted when “CE” appears next to a number, this means “City Engineer”.
2. Stand Alternate B shows a 42-inch sewer that abandons the existing sewer. It is 90% designed, easements are required, does not reduce excess flow and is estimated at over \$12 million.
3. Alternate B/Pudik L-1 shows a 42” sewer, also abandons existing sewer, the report does not have cost of abandoning the sewer, easements are required, also does not reduce excess overflows, does not serve areas south of railroad, and is estimated at \$15,378,706. Mr. Hamilton noted they used the Tazewell County Lidar to try to minimize the depth of the sewer and created a design that can be done.
  - Alderperson Brownfield asked if we are already 90% into the design of Option #1, do we only have 10% left and noted that all but Option #1 will require more for design. Mr. Hamilton noted that they are looking at relative costs at this time. Alderperson Blundy asked how we got to the 169,000 PE and Mr. Hamilton replied that state law states it has to be at a certain rate unless a flow study has been done. He also explained that the slope of the pipe is factored into the flow. A brief conversation took place regarding the use of certain size pipe and it was clarified that they used the same size specified by Strand to compare costs.
4. Alternate Pudik E-3 shows a 42” pipe, also abandons the existing sewer, also requires easements, does not serve south of railroad, and is excessively deep. Mr. Hamilton noted that waivers would be need from the state for the distance between manholes and extra equipment would be needed if a blockage were to happen. The estimated cost would be \$17,139,317.
5. Alternative D includes building a lift station. It takes extra water that the system can’t handle and pumps it around the sewer, uses a gravity sewer, can open additional areas for future development, will bore a twelve-inch sewer next to Timber Rail Drive, does have easements, keeps the existing Farm Creek sewer, does not reduce

excess flows, improves surface area north and south, is estimated at \$11,679,844.

Mr. Hamilton doesn't recommend this option because it is only a temporary fix.

Alderson Butler noted any additions and improvements would be above and beyond the projected costs and noted this is close to four miles of line to maintain.

6. Option STP#1 Bypass Sewer has a 30" sewer around STP#1, it could be a 42" which is in the first phase of Alternatives A, B, C, is an easy permit to obtain, no easements needed, eliminates the two manholes that overflow, does not reduce excess flows, anyone having basement issues will continue to have them in all cases, eliminates two manholes and is estimated at \$719,500. Mr. Hamilton noted that none of the options will eliminate the basement issues.
  - Alderson Butler noted that the Strand report differs in that they reported there are some manhole grids that could be leaking.
7. Timber Rail Relief Sewer is a 30" sewer shortcut, connects manhole 229 to manhole 219, would need to be accessed through a very nice landscaped property, would require additional money to repair property, two easements are required, there are already four manholes in the yard, estimated up to \$3,000,000.
8. Alternative F is to perform a sanitary sewer evaluation survey and repair all identified sources of I/I. This will look for connections that are not supposed to be connected to the system like downspouts, sump pumps, drain tiles with hope to end overflows but it is not guaranteed.
9. Alternative G is also a no build option and only evaluates and repairs the Farm Creek Trunk Sewer. This would be a long-term approach towards eliminating I/I. Mr. Hamilton did not recommend Alternatives F & G.

Alderson Blundy asked about the existing life of the current trunkline and Mr. Hamilton shared that it is a concrete pipe which should not be failing. He stated that the issues are the need to lower the exposed areas of pipe in the creek and concrete pipe in warmer areas can get damaged due to gasses. City Engineer Dennis Carr shared that lining the sewer would put a brand-new pipe in the old pipe. Mr. Hamilton recommends Alternative A or E and shared pros and cons of both including the size of project and costs.

Alderson Blundy asked if Alternative E is simply disconnecting sump pumps from houses. Mr. Hamilton shared that some houses may have hooked up their footing tiles, which may make an issue of using state money for private property and sometimes the issue could be worse due to the condition of the pipes on private property.

Alderson Stevens and Engineer Carr briefly discussed the process of lateral replacement and hook-ups using a SSA on Lawndale and West Holland. Alderson Stevens shared the experience with a developer hooking up sump pumps to sewers and asked how the City might know if that happens. Alderson Brownfield noted that this might be newer code than when the houses in question were built. Alderson Dingleline shared that when Devonshire was smoke tested twenty years ago, it was required to disconnect, but some residents did not do it. It was noted that smoke testing is the only way to identify issues in most cases and Strand has identified that there is a problem which was the cause for a large sewer line. Homeowner burden was briefly discussed. Alderson Brownfield noted that the older homes were hooked on in Devonshire because lines cannot discharge into the road. Alderson Dingleline noted that the stormwater study can look at these in the long term and noted that some sump lines discharge into neighbor's yards in Devonshire. Alderson Stevens noted that people may not realize they are connected incorrectly and they would probably want to do the right thing. Alderson Brownfield asked how the City would pay for Alternative E and would this put the responsibility on the homeowner. Mr. Carr stated there were over 2300 parcels that may be affected, but not all are homes. Alderson Stevens expressed the need to educate the homeowners. Alderson Brownfield shared an urgency to get started and stated that we could address the I/I now and move forward. Alderson Butler asked if estimates as to the types of violations could be determined. Mr. Hamilton explained that when he sees a surge, it is likely coming from downspouts and sump pumps. A brief discussion took place regarding estimates on the level of flow to gain more information. Mr. Hamilton clarified that the City is currently paying to treat extra water that is flowing to the treatment plants.

A brief discussion took place regarding the application of a smoke test. Alderson Dingleline noted the timing of inspecting repairs now that we have code that allows access in

the event of an issue and he feels smoke testing would be a good place to start. Mr. Carr shared that late spring is the best time to do smoke testing and said this will need to be approved soon to make that deadline. Council consensus was to work on quotes to bring back for review for areas #7 and #9. Alderperson Brownfield expressed his concern about the burden on some homeowners once the results of the smoke testing are completed. Alderperson Adams stated that the City doesn't have to penalize people if only few items need to be addressed. Mr. Hamilton shared that there has been talk that the EPA loans may be forgiven so the more expensive options, may be free in the end. Mr. Schone shared that he has spoken with many professionals who advise that we will never eliminate all the I/I. Alderperson Dingleline and Mr. Rittenhouse discussed how the recent laterals that were replaced will help eliminate the some of the I/I. Mr. Hamilton stated that there are recommendations in the report that detail certain areas and the additional attention that they would need. Alderperson Butler asked that if the manholes were eliminated, would there continue to be issues with I/I. Mr. Hamilton noted the water would still continue to go somewhere else. Alderperson Adams clarified that even with a brand new trunk line, the City will still be treating more water than we need to because of the I/I issues. Alderperson Blundy questioned the ideal capacity and Mr. Hamilton said we also need to consider growth. It was determined that the City pumps about 2 million gallons of water per day. Alderpersons Yoder, Stevens and Adams favored budgeting for a smoke test for areas #7 and #9. Alderperson Adams expressed the desire to be fiscally responsible by resolving areas #7 and #9 then reevaluate. Alderperson Brownfield is expressed his concern for the citizens on that side of town if they have to pay for the issues but thinks we need to move forward with the sewer. Alderperson Butler referred to a memorandum about the closing of a STP#1 and noted the possibility of abandoning the line. Mayor Manier concluded that the majority seems to favor getting a quote on smoke testing areas #7 and #9. He also shared that he recalls the past smoke test and the issues it caused within homes. Mayor Manier asked if everyone agreed with the presentation and that it helped gain clarity. Alderperson Butler said the most important thing is that there is no direct route between STP1 & STP2 without going through private property and the City has bent over backward to get the data and now it is time to do something. Alderpersons Dingleline and Brownfield agreed with Alderperson Butler. Alderpersons Yoder and Adams recommend Alternative E. Alderperson Stevens recommends Alternative E but has more questions. Alderperson Blundy recommends Alternative E and thinks the smoke test could help to see how big issue is. Alderperson Boyles feels there are too many what ifs with Alternative E and that it is a band-aid.

<b>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee</b>	Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman Butler shared that there are no business items to bring forward at this time.
<b>Public Safety Committee</b>	Public Safety Committee Chairman Adams shared that there is one ordinance that will be presented and introduced Chief Mike McCoy to provide updates. Chief McCoy shared that there is nothing to share at this time.
<b>Public Works Committee</b>	Public Works Committee Chairman Brownfield introduced Utilities Superintendent Rittenhouse to provide information about the Wastewater Treatment Skid Steer Purchase Consideration. Mr. Rittenhouse shared that the current skid steer is due to be replaced, so they sought bids with Sourcwell to satisfy the competitive bid process. He shared that Bobcat was the lowest at \$26,878.88. This was budgeted at \$43,600. They would like to order this now to be delivered in the next fiscal year knowing it will take longer due to supply chain issues.  Alderperson Adams moved and Alderperson Brownfield seconded.  Alderperson Brownfield noted there may be a few attachments. Mr. Rittenhouse said we have about six different attachments.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

The following staff updates were provided:

Mr. Rittenhouse shared that the guys are still working on snow removal as well as televising. Mr. Schone shared that they are working on their budget and cleaning his office as he plans to retire. Mr. Carr shared that he has a meeting on Friday regarding the stormwater study and should have cost estimates soon. He also shared that they are finalizing MFT work and hope to get it to IDOT. Mr. Oliphant shared that they are finalizing the TIF scoring model.

Aldersperson Brownfield shared that they received kudos over the weekend regarding snow removal and salt amounts are still good.

**Mayor** Mayor Manier recognized the Washington Middle School Boys Basketball team on their recent State Championship and shared that the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys basketball teams will be recognized at the March meeting.

**City Administrator** None at this time.

**Adopt Resolution** None at this time.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance** None at this time.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance:** City Administrator Jim Snider provided the first reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would amend Chapter 136 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois regarding the regulation of licensed video gaming.  
*Gaming Terminal Fee Adjustment, Required by P.A. 102-0689*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance:** City Administrator Jim Snider provided the first reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would authorize the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois, to enter into and Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Washington and County of Tazewell for a county approved recycling collection program.  
*Intergovernmental Agreement with Tazewell County for a County approved Recycling Collection Program*

**Aldersperson's Comments** Aldersperson Dingledine recognized the Washington Community High School wrestling program for several winners at the state competition including one State Championship. He stated that it is an exceptional program and offered his congratulations. Aldersperson Adams stated that bulk item pick-up is starting Monday and we need to check to see when recycling is to determine the pick-up day.

**Adjournment** At 8:18 p.m. Aldersperson Adams moved and Aldersperson Brownfield seconded to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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Valeri Brod, City Clerk