



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
In the library at Five Points Washington, 380 N. Wilmore Road, Washington, Illinois

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

Roll Call Present: Adams, Butler, Stevens and Yoder
Remote: Dingledine
Absent: Blundy, Boyles and Brownfield

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, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, and City Attorney Derek Schryer

Approval of Remote Attendance Mayor Manier shared that Alderperson Dingledine requested to participate remotely due to an injury or illness. Attorney Schryer clarified that a motion could be made to allow Alderperson Dingledine to participate remotely because injury and illness meet the Rules of Procedure.

Alderperson Adams moved and Alderperson Butler seconded to approve Alderperson Dingledine's remote attendance.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Stevens, Yoder and Mayor Manier

Nays: 0

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

Announcements and Proclamations None at this time.

Citizens Wishing to be Heard Jim Bremner, Washington Township Supervisor, came forward to present information regarding the recent transit item that was approved in September 2021. He noted that \$50,000 was approved by both the City and Township each, to share in the expense for a trial period. He shared that he was made aware of a proposition from the Greater Peoria Transit District today that would provide longer term financing for a term of approximately three years. He stated that he would like to come back in April with an Intergovernmental Agreement for this three-year plan as well as a cost which would provide more options.

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 March 7, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Bills and Payroll
- C. Financial Reports for Period Ended January 31, 2022

D. Lawndale Private Utility Pay Request #5

Alderson Adams moved and Alderson Butler seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder

Nays: 0

Finance & Personnel Committee

Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman Butler shared that there are no business items to bring forward at this time.

Public Safety Committee

Public Safety Committee Chairman Adams shared that there are no business items to bring forward at this time and introduced Police Chief Mike McCoy who stated that there was a Friday report that was sent out.

Public Works Committee

City Engineer Dennis Carr to share details regarding the Hilldale Reconstruction Project - Phase 2 Bid Award. Mr. Carr shared that bids were put out for the area where the project left off. Mr. Carr shared that they had anticipated higher costs, so they budgeted \$2.2 million. They received four bids with the lowest bid submitted by Stark Excavating for \$1,894,265.29.

Alderson Adams moved and Alderson Yoder seconded to approve the Stark Excavating bid.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder

Nays: 0

City Engineer Dennis Carr to share details regarding the Hilldale Reconstruction Project - Phase 2 Engineering Agreement. Mr. Carr shared that this is for a full-time engineering firm. He noted that both Hilldale Phase One and Lawndale were done by Hutchinson Engineering and he feels they did an excellent job. Mr. Carr shared that the RE did a great job, which eliminates a lot of work for the City and gets the job in on budget. Staff recommends accepting the bid from Hutchinson Engineering for \$255,000.

Alderson Yoder moved and Alderson Stevens seconded to accept the Engineering Agreement with Hutchinson Engineering.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder

Nays: 0

City Engineer Dennis Carr to share details regarding the Robinson Engineering Agreement for smoke testing. Mr. Carr shared that this would be for smoke testing everything east of Wilmor as well as a few other small roads. He shared that the proposal is for \$134,034 and it has been included in the FY22/23 budget.

Alderson Adams moved and Alderson Stevens seconded to accept the Agreement with Robinson Engineering for smoke testing.

A brief conversation clarified that the start date would occur in June. Alderson Stevens asked for details about how the community will be informed. Mr. Carr shared that communication details were provided in the scope and it includes a letter for hand-outs and door hanging notices. They will also notify emergency services and they will display smoke testing times. Further concerns were addressed regarding communicating with the public. Alderson Stevens asked about a public meeting where residents could ask questions. Alderson Adams shared that he is in favor of making sure the public is notified and suggested placing it on the City website as well as the letters to the community. Alderson Adams noted the lengthy amount of time for testing and ideas for informing the community

were discussed. Mr. Carr shared that they will create an FAQ document to be placed on the City website.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder

Nays: 0

Mayor None at this time.

City Administrator City Administrator Jim Snider stated that budget information has been provided for the past month and tonight they share the current draft budget and the budget overview as well as the overviews from March 7th and March 16th. He noted that the first reading of the budget is slated for April 4th and a public hearing will take place prior to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 11th. The second reading will take place on April 18th along with the proposal for the new Transit item with the Township which may cause need for a revision to the budget at that time. Mr. Snider stated that the proposed budget will be presented with a binder clip before it is provided in final bound form after approval. Mr. Snider introduced Finance Director Baxter to provide information regarding the All-Funds Summary which was put together to provide a total budget for the City by including funds that aren't usually combined. She noted that this is for informational purposes only. Ms. Baxter shared that the total proposed budget is \$28,916,929 and this is a deficit of \$4.6 million. Ms. Baxter noted that it was agreed upon as a Council to spend some reserves and the figures are explained in the previous General Fund Summary. Ms. Baxter explained that in FY21/22 Council had planned to spend down \$4.9 million but we are \$284,000 to the good due to project delays. The All-Funds Summary gives a snap shot of variance items budget to budget, not estimated actual, giving examples of the 2.08% increase in this budget compared to last year, Operations is a decrease of 1.18% and Capital shows a 30% increase and Debt Services is almost breaking even. Ms. Baxter shared that she pulled ARPA Funds out of the General Funds because they are not technically unrestricted. She also noted that the total General Fund will end a little over \$10 million. Mr. Snider noted that the variance overall is \$3 million which is primarily caused by infrastructure expenses and projects. He also noted that we rely on our sales tax from a strategic and sustainability point of view which allows us to not increase property taxes. Mr. Snider also noted that beginning in January 2021, we started receiving internet sales tax and he invited everyone to provide questions.

Aldersperson Stevens stated that this budget shows almost a 12% increase from this year to next year. She noted that Council approved goals in 2019 to extend Freedom Parkway and asked what major projects will take place next year with this budget. Mr. Snider shared that the explanations are included in the narratives and noted that he had previously referred to taking caution when receiving bids for these projects because bids can come in more than the estimates. Mr. Snider also noted that supply issues or inflation can impact costs as well. Aldersperson Stevens asked if the budget includes the Nofsinger re-alignment. City Engineer Carr shared that it is not included in this budget. Aldersperson Stevens asked if the 223 property is included and Mr. Snider shared that it is not. A brief discussion took place reviewing the timing of voting for the budget. Mr. Snider shared that they are providing the information to be transparent and allow Council to consider what is presented.

Adopt Resolution None at this time.

2nd Reading Ordinance City Administrator Jim Snider provided the second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would approve the transfer of volume cap for the 2022 First Time Home Buyers Program. Mr. Snider noted that we've done this for years and we have no financial commitment and this provides a little interest rate.

Aldersperson Adams moved and Aldersperson Yoder seconded to approve

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder

Nays: 0

2nd Reading Ordinance
*Increase Home Rule
Sales Tax .5%*

City Administrator Jim Snider provided the second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would amend Chapter 35 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Washington, entitled "Taxation" to increase the Home Rule Municipal Retailer's Occupation Tax and the Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax by one-half of one percent (0.50%). Mr. Snider shared details contained in a memo provided in the Council packet. He noted that in 2021 a City-wide stormwater study was performed and in October of 2021 Council indicated interest in a stormwater funding mechanism and asked staff to bring options forward for consideration. Mr. Snider explained that the stormwater study is not complete but a rough estimate has been given with expectation of the total costs to exceed \$10 million. Mr. Snider shared that several stormwater projects could be funded with the revenue raised by the increased sales tax. He noted that Council preferred the increase of the home-rule sales tax at the January Committee of the Whole meeting where two funding options were discussed. Details were provided in the memo regarding sales tax rates for surrounding communities. Mr. Snider shared that increasing the home-rule sales tax doesn't require agreements with other utilities and shares the burden with non-residents as well. He also noted that the new sales tax rate would continue to be lower than Peoria and the East Peoria Levy District. Mr. Snider shared that it would only increase \$0.50 for every \$100 spent. Mr. Snider provided a summary concerning bond issuance that could pay for items up front and get paid back through this. He also shared that this would generate about \$1.1 million annually and be devoted entirely to stormwater management and expenses.

Aldersperson Butler moved and Aldersperson Adams seconded to approve.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Dingledine, Yoder, Mayor Manier

Nays: 1 Stevens

After reviewing the roll call process Attorney Schryer stated that with only five members of Council present, and to be consistent with Rule 6.7 in the Rules of Procedure, he requested that Mayor Manier provide his vote so that there is a clear majority of the corporate authorities. Mayor Manier provided his vote as "Aye" which is noted in the record above.

Mayor Manier stated that Council has talked about this for months and came up with this solution as a revenue source. He stated that he knows it is difficult to vote on a tax increase but this will help those who have experienced basement flooding and he is proud of Council for stepping forward.

City Administrator Snider shared that this will be filed and we will see the increase starts in July 1, 2022.

2nd Reading Ordinance
*Adoption of 2022
Official Map of Zoning
Districts*

City Administrator Jim Snider provided the second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: The following ordinance would adopt the 2022 Official Map of Zoning Districts for the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois.

Aldersperson Stevens moved and Aldersperson Yoder seconded to approve

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder

Nays: 0

1st Reading Ordinance: None at this time.

**Aldersperson's
Comments** None at this time.

Adjournment At 7:05 p.m. Alderperson Butlers moved and Alderperson Adams seconded to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri Brod, City Clerk