



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

In the library meeting room at Five Points, 360 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

Call to Order Mayor Manier called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Roll Call Present: Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder
Absent: Alderperson Schone

Also Present Mayor Gary Manier, City Administrator Jim Snider, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, and City Attorney Derek Schryer

Pledge of Allegiance All stood as Mayor Manier introduced Boy Scout Rebecca Hattan to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Wishing to be Heard None were provided.

Review Agenda for Deletions or Additions Alderperson Blundy made a motion to remove Items C and D from the agenda and take to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion. Alderperson Stevens seconded the motion. On roll was:
Ayes: 4 Adams, Blundy, Stevens, Yoder
Nays: 3 Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine
Motion carried.

Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:
1. Approve Minutes of the November 21, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting
2. Acceptance of Police Pension Fund Municipal Compliance Report for FYE 4/30/2022 - Revised
Alderperson Adams motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Alderperson Stevens seconded. Alderperson Stevens requested that an S be added to her name and a sentence be removed in the minutes. An amendment to the motion was not provided and the original motion to approve the Consent Agenda stood. On roll was:
Ayes: 7 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder
Nays: 0
Motion carried.

Announcements, Awards, Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations
*Lauterbach & Amen, LLP
Presentation: Audited
Financial Statements
Year Ending
April 30, 2022*

Mayor Manier and Administrator Snider introduced Finance Director Baxter to provide details regarding the presentation provided by Lauterbach & Amen, LLP regarding the audited financial statements for the year, ending April 30, 2022. Ms. Baxter explained that Jamie Wilkey is present from Lauterbach & Amen to present the audit. Ms. Baxter explained that they had a meeting to review some comments with City Treasurer Strubhar and Mr. Snider and they have provided a bound copy of the audit as well as an electronic version for Council. Ms. Wilkey gave the following overview after thanking the team which included Mr. Snider, Ms. Baxter and Treasurer Strubhar. She noted that the first year of an audit with a new company is usually the hardest and they went through multiple draft versions before this was finalized. She also noted that the document is 130 pages long. Ms. Wilkey explained that the audit is required by State Statute and they have issued an unmodified opinion which states that the City finances are correct. She shared that they review policies, procedures, go through extensive internal control testing and look for red flags. They did not find any material weaknesses or significant deficiency. Lauterbach & Amen noted that the overall equity increased throughout the fiscal year and reports showed that we experienced sales tax rebounding and long-term debt was retired. She noted that we saw about \$6.5 million in new capital which created an uptick in equity. Further details were provided in the report. Ms. Baxter added that we received an extended deadline because this is the first-year audit with the new company. They hope to get back to the usual October timeline next year. Alderperson Blundy asked why the expenses were way over the program revenue in public safety on page 11. Ms. Wilkey shared that the explanation is on pages 21-22, in the required disclosure statement. They were required to show an income statement and this is the way to show the required disclosure. This outlines what the general revenues help support, such as property tax and sales tax. Ms. Wilkey stated that the chart on page 11 shows that we will never be able to charge enough services for the program to run. It shows that none of the programs are directly charged to the residents with a direct fee. Mr. Snider clarified that we are not in the profit/loss business, we are in the service business and we don't write tickets to pay for things. He went on to explain that this is his 26th year and Ms. Baxter's 28th year doing audits and the things you don't want to see are deficiencies and material weaknesses, which show a broken system. He shared that the City chose to be reviewed by a new firm to double check their work. Mr.

Snider expressed his appreciation for Ms. Baxter and Treasurer Strubhar’s work and Mayor Manier thanked Ms. Wilkey for her presentation.

<i>Accept & Place on File: Audited Financial Statements, Year Ending April 30, 2022</i>	Aldersperson Dingledine motioned to approve the Audited Financial Statements, Aldersperson Adams seconded. On roll was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion carried.</u>
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 will be a resolution regarding surplus property. He introduced Deputy Police Chief Stevens who provided a reminder that everyone should lock the doors on their vehicles to prevent car burglaries.
Public Works Committee	Public Works Committee Chairman Brownfield shared that there are no business items to bring forward and introduced staff who provided the following updates: Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse stated that Waste Water Treatment Plant #1 demolition is going well and they are doing the grading work and Hoerr has finished preparation work and they will review with them to come up with a plan for the CIPP line. City Engineer Dennis Carr shared that the Hilldale project is completed and they are about \$80,000 under what was awarded; crack sealing is going to have to wrap up due to temperatures and they talked to IDOT to start reviewing the Nofsinger project. Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant shared a reminder that a design workshop for the Comprehensive Plan will take place on Wednesday in Banquet Room C at Five Points which will allow people to provide input.
Mayor	Mayor Manier shared that there is an opportunity to increase funding, on the state level, for the Nofsinger project.
City Administrator	
Resolution: <i>Declaring Surplus Property – Unclaimed Bicycles</i>	City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following Resolution: A resolution declaring twenty-eight bicycles to be surplus property. Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve the resolution; Aldersperson Butler seconded the motion. Aldersperson Stevens said this is the first time she has been made aware of this and asked if the community has been notified. Deputy Chief Stevens stated that when the Police Department gets a bike, they try to match them up with lost bike reports and they do what they can to try to find the owners. He noted that most of the bikes that are found are from mass retailers and it is difficult to find the owners. Aldersperson Stevens stated that now that it is brought to the attention of the public, the Police Department put a Facebook post saying the bikes are available. Deputy Chief Stevens stated that when they have advertised these in the past, they would rarely have someone come forward. He noted that Council can decide what to do. On roll was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion carried.</u>
2nd Reading Ordinance: <i>Animal and Rabies Control Contract</i>	City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following Ordinance: An ordinance authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois, to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Washington and County of Tazewell for animal and rabies control services. Aldersperson Dingledine motioned to approve the ordinance, Aldersperson Stevens seconded. On roll was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion carried.</u>
1st Reading Ordinance: <i>Levying the Annual 2022 Municipal Property Tax</i>	City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following Ordinance: An ordinance levying the annual 2022 municipal property tax for the City of Washington, County of Tazewell, State of Illinois (Taxes paid in 2023). Mr. Snider explained the total of \$1,951.863 is an increase of 3.88% to capture the growth in the EAV and this will not increase the rate of the property tax. He noted that other entities show increases in rates, but the City’s portion will remain the same. He introduced Ms. Baxter to provide further details. Ms. Baxter shared that they were still working on the final audit while working on the tax levy. She noted it is common with a new auditor to make changes and this affected the police pension funds. They had the actuaries review it again and the actuaries provided the increase. They reallocated a portion of the General Fund Levy to the Police Pension Levy and this was necessary due to the timing of the audit. Mr. Snider added that this is a great time to talk about pensions and shared that most employees are involved in the IMRF. He stated that the IMRF has been ranked the second-best fund in the nation and at the end of 2021, it was 98% funded. He noted that the police and fire retirement funds are different. He went on to share that fifteen years ago, they passed that if a fireman were to contract cancer, they would not have to prove that it was work related and the police passed a policy that if a retiree passes away, the spouse gets 100% of that pension which is unlike everyone else who gets 50%. Mr. Snider shared that the teacher’s pension fund is underfunded. He stated that Washington is doing a good job of keeping up and our goal is to be 100% funded by 2040. He shared that we are currently at 57%, so when we have growth

like this, we need to help fund those underfunded pensions. He also noted that Chicago is only 25% funded.

1st Reading Ordinance:
*Authorizing the Donation
of Surplus Property -
Unclaimed Bicycles
(Request to Waive Second
Reading)*

City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following Ordinance: An ordinance authorizing the Sale, donation or disposal of twenty-eight bicycles, which are surplus property. Alderperson Butler motioned to waive the second reading, Alderperson Dingleline seconded. On roll was:
Ayes: 6 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingleline, Yoder
Nays: 1 Stevens
Motion failed.

**Alderperson’s
Comments**

None provided at this time

Adjournment

At 7:05 p.m. Alderperson Dingleline moved and Alderperson Brownfield seconded to adjourn.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri Brod, City Clerk

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