



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: April 10, 2023

Prepared By: Jon Oliphant, AICP, Planning & Development Director

Agenda Item: FY 23-24 Budget – Potential Garden Club Budget Increase

Explanation: The City of Washington has historically provided funds to partially offset the Washington Town & Country Garden Club's purchase of flowers that are planted within the planters on the Square near the fountain and next to Brecklin's BP Amoco. That annual contribution has been \$250 for several years and it has been spent from the L/A account.

At the April 3 City Council meeting, there was general interest in potentially increasing the City's contribution towards the Garden Club's flower purchase. According to the Garden Club, the organization spends approximately \$500-600 annually on Square flowers. Those prices have increased in recent years and the Garden Club has also expressed an interest in adding some flowers to the spaces surrounding the fountain. In addition to the flowers, it spends about \$500 each year on holiday greens for the Square and Five Points.

Fiscal Impact: TBD depending on further interest in increasing the City's annual contribution. Should the consensus be to contribute more than \$250, staff would suggest that any additional resources be tied to purchases made for the Square, which would allow for the expenses to come from the TIF Fund.

Action Requested: Staff requests feedback on a possible increase in the City's financial contribution at the April 10 Committee of the Whole meeting. That feedback will be used to determine if any additional funds are earmarked in the FY 23-24 budget that is to be adopted on April 17.