



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2023 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 Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, and Stevens
Absent: Alderperson Adams, Blundy and Yoder

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

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

Citizens Wishing to be Heard Brian Mooty from the law firm, Heyl Royster, shared that he represents Marlene Miller who owns a building adjacent to the Grist Mill project on the Square. He shared that he was retained in March and has sent a communication to the developer and City Attorney Schryer asking for a response and has not received one. Mr. Mooty shared that he received a call from Rob Hall from Peoria letting him know they were working on issues. He noted the timeline of this project and said they don't have knowledge of the demolition permit or know when the excavator will show up. Mr. Mooty stated that he provided a letter to Council today. He stated that Marlene Miller is not opposed to the project but has concern because she has a zero-lot line with the project and one of those walls will be a party wall. He questioned if her building will be supported during the process. He provided a list of concerns, a graphic of existing issues with a plat map and other issues that will impact her. Mr. Mooty stated that Attorney Hall has been the only contact so far. He stated that the City is a partner in the project and believes that the municipality and developers should work up front and early on with the neighbors. He again stated that Marlene Miller has not been contacted. Attorney Mooty stated that Ms. Miller has a home, business and tenants that will be impacted and again stated that they are not opposed to the project. They are asking for the courtesy of a reply from the developer. Mr. Mooty stated that this is her lifetime investment and she should have the Council, engineers and developers help her through this project. He stated that he started politely with a letter but hasn't heard anything and that they need a ten-day notice before the excavator shows up. He noted additional time will cost more money. Mr. Mooty stated that he appreciates the quick FOIA response and thanked the City. He hopes to have the development everyone desires but wants to take care of the neighbors. Walter Ruppman from Main Street in Washington shared that he is also on the Historic Preservation Commission, who had a meeting that approved the Certificate of Appropriateness application for the brewpub project. He shared that he voted no and stated that one of the members said that what is modern today will be historical tomorrow, justifying a reason that it did not meet the criteria. He stated although it is not relevant to the Commission, he was concerned that other neighbors expressed concern. He expressed concern that the City's stance is that the issues are private, civic matters between the developer and the owners. He noted that the City is a major investor in the development and not a neutral third party. He asked the City take an active roll in addressing neighbor's concerns. Hunter Trenary stated the he is from a solar company called Sun Collectors. He referenced a City ordinance regarding ground mount solar panels as a renewable resource. He stated that this will be an issue in the future and he knows a gentleman who approached the City and was told that it won't be approved. He said he is open to reasonable restrictions such as property size and he has seen the rates go up in other markets and wants more options for citizens.

Review Agenda for Deletions/Additions Nothing was added or deleted at this time.

Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:
A. Approve Minutes of the March 20, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting

Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson Butler seconded.

5 Ayes: Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, and Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Announcements and Proclamations None at this time.

Finance & Personnel Committee Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman Buter shared that there are no business items to present.

Public Safety Committee Mayor Manier called on Deputy Police Chief Stevens to provide an update regarding Public Safety. Deputy Chief Stevens stated that all the warning sirens were tested before the storms last weekend. The responses were reviewed to make sure everything is working. He shared that he talked to TC3 and there won't be a sounding test due to pending storms. He was also contacted by MTCO and they will be going door to door with service information.

Public Works Committee Public Works Committee Chairman Brownfield introduced City Engineer Dennis Carr to provide details regarding the Bid Award for Ditch Grading in Felkers and Beverly Manor Subdivisions.
Bid Award – Ditch Grading Mr. Carr shared that the City requested a bid previously and only received two bids so tried again. He shared that Stark Excavating replied with the lowest bid for \$148,630. Mr. Carr noted that they are using aerial photography to locate a culvert. Mr. Carr stated that staff is requesting for an approval to not exceed \$160,000.

Aldersperson Dingleline motioned to approve; Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

Aldersperson Schone asked if it is possible to come in under the bid. Aldersperson Stevens noted that Aldersperson Dingleline asked about the culverts in the Public Works meeting. Mr. Carr clarified that this is not part of the storm water project and explained that this is a maintenance operation instead of a capital project. Mayor Manier noted that residents filled in previously regraded ditches to make it easier to mow. Aldersperson Stevens asked if letters go out to explain not to do that. Mr. Carr expressed that most people are not in favor of this in their yard.

5 Ayes: Brownfield, Butler, Dingleline, Schone, and Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Crack Sealing Contract Increase Public Works Committee Chairman Brownfield introduced City Engineer Dennis Carr to provide details regarding the Crack Sealing Contract Increase. Mr. Carr stated that they received two bids for this last year and after reviewing what is left to do, they asked if D&D Sweeping would hold the same price of last year for this year. Staff is asking for approval to not exceed \$60,000.

Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Aldersperson Schone seconded.

Aldersperson Brownfield asked clarification regarding the budget timing. Aldersperson Schone asked Mr. Carr to describe why it is needed. Mr. Carr shared that when asphalt ages it gets brittle and allows water to penetrate and enter the freeze and thaw cycle. This lessens the life of the road.

5 Ayes: Brownfield, Butler, Dingleline, Schone, and Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

The following staff updates were provided:

City Engineer Dennis Carr said Ameren is relocating a gas main on the Hilldale project and they are hoping to relocate the polls so they can start the sanitary sewer; they sent letters to residents along the channel on Hilldale. Mr. Carr shared that they have received mostly support and noted they received swearing because of flooding on Friday. Mr. Carr went on to share that TWM intends on getting all priority projects designed and they are asking them to look at options near the Underwood Pond.

Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant shared that our annual Arbor Day is tentative for April 21st and they plan to plant two new trees in the Square and remove the soft pine because it is too soft. He shared that the new trees will be smaller but a better fit. Mr. Oliphant shared that Saturday, April the 22nd is Take Pride in Washington Day which is coordinated by the Park District.

Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse shared that hydrant flushing will begin April 10th; brush pick-up will begin April 17th; one of the plow trucks on order will start its build this month; the second build will start in September; our shed is full of salt and ready for next season; the Oakwood lining should have finished today; the curb and gutter projects have been completed and they are moving to Eagle Avenue and; the WWTP generator will ship April 20th.

Aldersperson Stevens asked if the tree planting has anything to do with the Tree Board. Mr. Oliphant said it does not. He shared that planting the trees is part of the Arbor Day event to be a Tree City and he noted that the tree has been replaced before. Mr. Oliphant stated that the current evergreen will come out because it is not a good fit. Aldersperson Stevens expressed that she doesn't like that the tree is being removed.

Mayor Nothing additional added at this time.

City Administrator
First Reading Ordinance
Approving Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2023 and Ending April 30, 2024

City Administrator Snider provided the following Ordinance for consideration:
Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would approve a budget for corporate purposes for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024 and approve certain amendments to the FY2023 budget.
Title: An Ordinance Approving the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2023 and Ending April 30, 2024

Administrator Snider shared that they have had multiple weeks of budget review and next week will be the Public Hearing with the second reading taking place on April 17th. He noted that Ms. Baxter had shared that the new Clear Gov software is working well but she corrected a few items. Ms. Baxter explained that she sent an email sharing the adjustments. She found a duplication in the Sewer Fund and the amount that was indicated in the ordinance should be reduced by \$50,000. She stated that she will send a new pdf with all corrections. She also changed the charts to jpg for easier viewing. Mr. Snider shared that the total of the budget will be reduced to reflect the changes. Alderperson Stevens stated that it is 271 pages and she trusts Ms. Baxter. Ms. Baxter clarified for Alderperson Stevens that the \$50,000 ParaTransit program is in the budget within the General Funds, under Miscellaneous, and it is called Transportation Fund. She noted it could be found under the Legislative/Administrative Department then under expenses. Ms. Baxter clarified for Alderperson Stevens that the Glass Recycling can be found under Streets and that the garden club is also under the Legislative/Administrative Department. Alderperson Stevens acknowledged that this has been discussed since January and expressed a desire for additional discussion and an increase. Mr. Snider shared that Council can request a change at any time during a meeting. Alderperson Stevens requested an increase for the Garden Club. When asked for an amount, Alderperson Stevens stated that staff can talk to the Garden Club and bring it back to Council. Alderperson Stevens stated that she has been asked about FOIA lawyer fees and asked Mr. Snider to explain that the City is obligated to fulfill every FOIA. Mr. Snider explained that there is about \$80,000 in legal fees due to voluminous FOIA requests and he anticipates more FOIAs. He stated that he will be sharing a lawsuit that was received by the City about these items. Mr. Snider shared that the fees will be submitted to our insurance company and if they do not cover them, it will be put on the rate payers. He clarified that this is an obligation. Alderperson Stevens asked if the stormwater projects are listed in the budget or is it a lump sum. Mr. Carr shared that he brought the projects before Council and was not provided a consensus. The decision was made to wait until we had a more money so Council could build a consensus. Alderperson Stevens asked if we have an easement around the Underwood Pond. Mr. Carr clarified that we only have an access easement to the pond so we can't do anything without their permission. He also shared that they do not intend to interfere with the pond but look to create a dry basin near it. Alderperson Stevens asked if this was a stormwater project and Mr. Carr shared that one of the projects was to increase the size of the detention pond on Pintail. He noted that field is currently unplanted and has a sheet flow like concrete. Mr. Carr also shared that part of detention is also timing and slowing the system down so there may be a benefit between Patricia, Jonathan and Kelsey. Alderperson Stevens asked for more discussion at Council because there was no consensus. Mr. Snider stated that Council approved the increase in sales tax, staff brought a list of priorities, and they proposed a bond to help pay for some of the projects but it was not approved. He shared the option to bring the projects together and bond for them. Mr. Snider noted that the priorities were staff-driven by our professional engineer. Alderperson Brownfield said he would like to see the designs before they are brought back for consideration.

First Reading Ordinance
2023 Tazewell County Building Inspection Services Intergovernmental Agreement

City Administrator Snider provided the following Ordinance for consideration:
Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would provide for an intergovernmental agreement with Tazewell County to provide for use of its building inspectors to satisfy the City's needs for inspections and plan reviews.
Title: An Ordinance Approving Tazewell County Building Inspection Services Intergovernmental Agreement

First Reading Ordinance
Approving 2023 First Time Homebuyer Program

City Administrator Snider provided the following Ordinance for consideration:
Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would approve the transfer and reallocation volume cap in connection with private activity bond issues, and related matters.
Title: An Ordinance Approving 2023 First Time Homebuyer Program

Alderperson's Comments

Alderperson Stevens asked for clarification about the black things on the road and Deputy Chief Stevens shared that they are IDOT counters.

Adjournment

At 7:16 p.m. Alderperson Schone moved to adjourn; Alderperson Stevens seconded.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk