



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Washington Fire Department Training Room
200 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, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
Absent: Alderperson Blundy

Also Present City Administrator Jim Snider, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Police Chief Michael McCoy, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Derek Schryer and Press

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Manier requested a moment of silence to honor the late Don Brubaker, former City Council member.

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

Citizens Wishing to be Heard Washington resident, Katie Beale came forward and read a statement on behalf of Marlene Miller, who owns property on the square. Her statement is regarding the historic nature of her property, work history as an artist, her interaction with the community and a request for assistance in obtaining local funds to update her building. Ms. Miller's statement is attached and made part of these minutes. Ms. Beale expressed that she does not want to get into the war going on in Washington and stated that she disagrees with community comments against Ms. Miller.

Troy Pudik came forward recognizing the agenda item regarding the semi-annual review of executive session minutes. He noted there were eight executive session meetings in 2016 for the purchase of property. Mr. Pudik asked Council to re-review those executive session minutes to see if they can be released at this time.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the June 19, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the May 1, 2023 Final Public Works Committee Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of the May 8, 2023 Final Public Safety Committee Meeting
- D. Approve Minutes of the May 15, 2023 Final Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting
- E. Accept Financial Reports for Period Ended May 31, 2023
- F. Payment Authorization: Core & Main Sales Tax Sharing Agreement - Payment #1
- G. Payment Authorization: Hilldale Phase 3 Request #2
- H. Payment Authorization: Ditch Grading Request #1
- I. Purchase Authorization: ClearGov Budgeting Suite and Digital Budget Book Subscription Services

Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderperson Adams seconded.

7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communications/ Requested Actions Mayor Manier shared that he met with several senate leaders where he asked them about BUS24. They reported that IDOT doesn't seem to have the manpower to address it and it is pushed out to 2028/2029. He shared that the City will do some mill and overlay but it is only a band aid fix and he doesn't think it will last.

City Administrator Communications/ Staff Reports/ Requested Actions: City Administrator Jim Snider introduced Police Chief McCoy who introduced new officer Joseph Dubois. He read a statement provided by Officer Dubois' supervisor. The statement explained that Officer Dubois came to the department in 2022, he grew up in Washington, he and his family have a history of public service, he attended both I.C.C. and Eureka College, he has graduated from the Police Academy, and he graduated in the top 10% of his class. Officer Dubois thanked everyone and shared that he is having fun in his role.

Administrator Snider recognized Chief McCoy who was recently named to the National Board for the St. Jude Foundation as an emeritus member.

Administrator Sider stated that we've had calls for brush pickup and they are being handled on a case-by-case basis. He also shared the following updates:

- the City is excited that Freedom Parkway is scheduled to start on the fifth

- a review of accounts shows the investment with Beck’s Car Wash has been paid off and it was just over \$24,000.
- if Beck’s had used Illinois American Water, it would have caused a higher rate, so this was a win-win
- the Beck’s investment has an 87% profit margin that makes \$3,400 per month
- he emailed everyone, sharing that Hamilton will be here on July 17th
- the City contracted \$160,000 to do the I&I and they only found about 20% of the I&I for which they were hoping
- Council decided that Hamilton would come back for \$10,000 but Hamilton is asking for an addition \$2,000 and Council agreed to it
- the City hired an internal candidate to fill a vacancy in the planning department who begins on the 17th

Purchase Authorization: Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Disinfection SCC Replacement Public Works Director Rittenhouse explained that the current system has stopped working and staff determined that it needs to be replaced. The current system was discontinued in 2016 and replacements are no longer made. The price was \$29,670 and was not specifically budgeted for but there are sufficient funds in the Purchase-System Capital Budget.
Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.
7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution: City Administrator Snider provided the following resolution for consideration:
Approving Appointment of Authorized Agent- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution would provide for the appointment of Human Resources Manager, Maureen Chambers as the Authorized Agent for purposes of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).
Title: Approving Appointment of Authorized Agent- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.
7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution: City Administrator Snider provided the following resolution for consideration:
Approving Collection of Foreign Fire Insurance Fee **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution would allow for the collection of the Foreign Fire Insurance Fees by the Illinois Municipal League for remittance to the City of Washington.
Title: Approving Collection of Foreign Fire Insurance Fee
Administrator Snider explained that Illinois has more units of government than any other state in the nation as there are about 3,200. If the insurance provider is not situated in Illinois, the insurance is collected and that fee passes through to local fire departments to be used at their discretion. He shared that this is an annual action to transfer the funds.
Aldersperson Stevens motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.
7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Executive Session: At 6:54 p.m. Aldersperson Brownfield moved to move into executive session;
Aldersperson Adams seconded for the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.” 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)
7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Regular Session: At 7:16 Council entered back into regular session.

Approve Executive Session Meeting Minutes Aldersperson Martin motioned; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded to approve executive session meeting minutes for the following meetings: 12/19/2022 (City Council); 2/13/2023 (Committee of the Whole); 3/20/2023 (City Council); and 5/8/2023 (Committee of the Whole)
7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Adopt Resolution authorizing the destruction of verbatim recordings Aldersperson Adams motioned; Aldersperson Butler seconded to adopt a resolution authorizing the destruction of verbatim recordings of all closed meetings occurring more than 18-months from today’s date.
7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Adjournment At 7:17 p.m. Aldersperson Brownfield moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Adams seconded.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

To the Members of the Washington City Council:

My name is Marlene Miller. I have owned the property at 114 Walnut, in the heart of the Washington Square Commercial Historic District, for 29 years. When I first purchased this historic property built in 1862, I made the decision to dedicate my care, energy and resources to renovate and improve the entire building over time, which I have done. What perhaps people do not know is that I have invested in costly and extensive renovations done internally by professionals in all six units, 4 residential units, one of which I occupy, as well as the 2 studio spaces on ground floor, which I occupy. All fiberboard ceilings and cracked plaster and lathe walls were removed and replaced with sheetrock. All apartments have been remodeled to include new furnaces, electrical, plumbing, windows, appliances and kitchen cabinetry. On ground floor, old dilapidated flooring and floor joists were torn out and replaced with oak flooring and new joists. A rubber roof was installed, and interior and exterior tuck-pointing were performed in recent years. Before I invested this extensive amount of money in this building, the building had been deemed structurally sound as per experts, as it currently sits.

The last major piece of improvement will be the facade of the building, which will stylistically complement the surrounding historic architecture. I also plan a renovation to the gallery area on ground floor, where I will introduce a commercial gallery to the city of Washington, focused exclusively on ceramics by masters from across the United States. To my knowledge, there are no other galleries like it in this region. With weekend evening hours, I hope to attract and build a clientele, as well as bring customers to the other businesses in town.

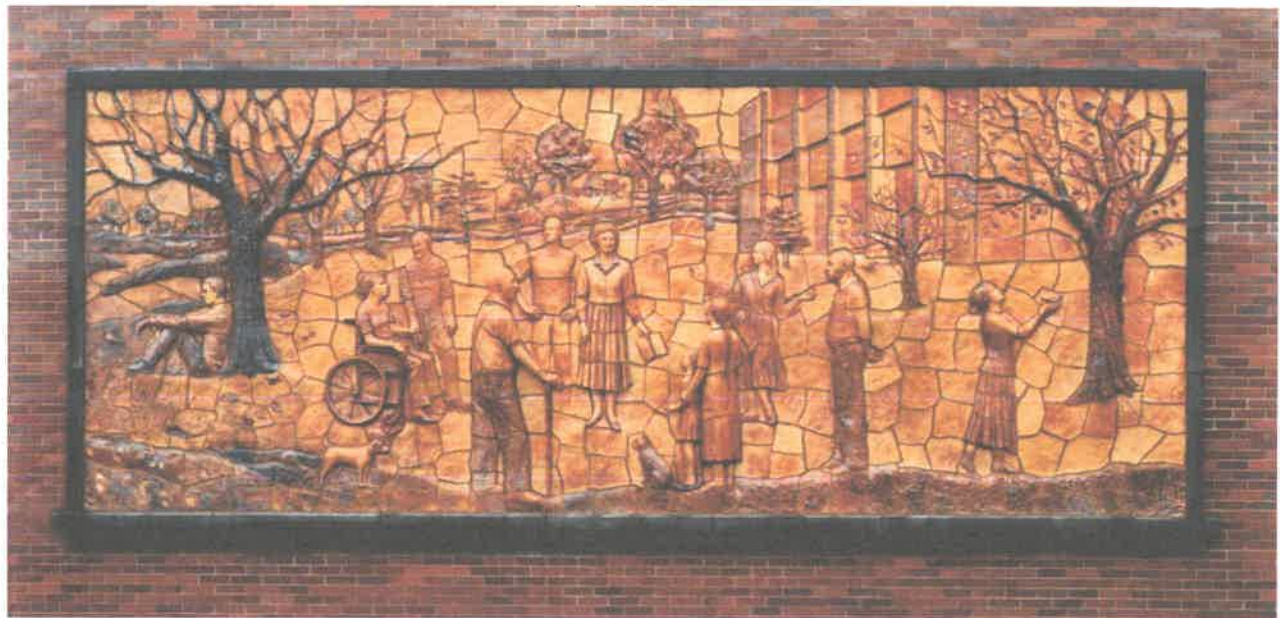
For those who do not know me, I have two degrees in Ceramics. I earned a B.F.A. from Bradley University, and an M.F.A. from Syracuse University. I did post graduate work at Illinois State University, focusing on figure drawing and watercolor. In 1978, I was hired full-time by Illinois Central College to teach ceramics, design, drawing, and art history. I was granted a major commission by the college in 1998 to create a monumental relief sculpture in glazed stoneware to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the college. My relief sculpture, inspired by a 15th century Italian fresco, is peopled with those representing a wide spectrum of the students I had taught and grown to love during my two decades there. I left my position in 2000 to focus exclusively on my studio work. I received an artist Fellowship Grant from the Illinois Arts Council in 2002 for my ceramic sculpture. I have exhibited my work in galleries and museums across the United States and abroad for over 35 years.

Since 1986, I have lived in my building, first as a tenant, then as owner. I am deeply attached; I know it like the back of my hand, having participated in some of the renovations. It has created a stable source of income from the three rental properties, and created a lovely space for my art studio. Since leaving my position at ICC, I have made a living in my studio selling wholesale to galleries, retail shows, exhibition sales, and doing commission work around the country. Many of the clients I have attracted have personally visited my studio in Washington, and they can be traced from locations across the country. They have loved my hidden studio in Washington and enjoyed the Washington Square.

Over the decades, hundreds of curious faces have peered into my studio windows, families with young children; teenagers; and people who see my work as they drive by and want to get a better look. When anyone appears to want to know more, I have always opened the door and welcomed them, had deep conversations, provided clay and gave away ceramic tools to kids. I do this because I discovered the world of ceramics as a 7- year old child; it changed the trajectory of my life. I am particularly fond of my location because it has fostered deep and meaningful interchanges with the citizens of Washington.

I have done my best to support the development project and at the same time adamantly protect the building I love, under extreme and often derisive outside pressure, my reputation has been attacked. This is not the Washington I have known and loved for over 35 years. I was unwilling to sell this historic building, one of my life's major endeavors, for a song. I ask each of you, if you had been in my shoes, would you have done differently? I have chosen to continue to improve my building as planned. I ask those in this room and out in the community who have acted or spoken against me with profound resentment, to stop, and deeply consider what you are doing, to me, and to this town. I believe we can do better.

Washington has been a successful and desirable place to live, and operate a business. It is known for coming together for the betterment of the city and all its citizens. In recent days, I have been informed of the financial support the city is offering for economic development and historic preservation. As elected representatives, I ask that you are mindful and understanding of my passion to preserve a historic building for Washington's future generations and assist me in obtaining funds to do so. I thank you in advance, Marlene Miller



Tribute, by Marlene Miller. Glazed Stoneware. 24' x 9.5'. Illinois Central College
East Peoria, IL, Administration Building, 1999