



CITY OF WASHINGTON COUNCIL REPORT

August 4, 2023

CITY ADMINISTRATION – Jim Snider

- **Council Work Session Meeting – Monday, August 14 at 6 pm**

We have scheduled a Council Work Session for Monday, August 14 at 6 pm (agenda attached) prior to the Council Meeting to discuss possible long-term solutions as it relates to the proposed Strand B wastewater transmission line. The meeting is structured to allow public engagement with council members on the matter.

- **Fulton County Democrat Newspaper Articles**

Attached for your information are two articles in the July 26, 2023 Fulton County Democrat Newspaper. The first item is a story on the City of Canton's plan to upgrade their wastewater treatment plant at a cost of \$35 million dollars. They have applied for an IEPA loan for the project at 1% interest rate with 30% of the loan to be forgivable.

This is the best practice approach in Illinois for municipal utilities to pay for major water and wastewater projects which in turn lessens the financial impact on rate payers.

The second article is a report from the City of Canton on a 20% water loss in their water lines. This of course is similar to our water loss reported to council last month. As I mentioned at that time, this is an unfortunate reality of having aged water lines in 200-year-old cities. We have an ongoing contract with TWM to provide assistant leak detection.

BUILDING & ZONING –

Out of Office

ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr/Ross Fuller

- The Nofsinger Bid opening was on 8/4/23. There were 4 bids opened with the low bidder being Gensini at a contract price of \$6,846,973.67. This was under the engineer's estimate of \$7,735,011.95 and is well within IDOT's tolerances for awarding. The Joint Funding Agreement approved by council at the July 17th, 2023 approved of the fund allocation for this project and the bid will be awarded to Gensini.
- Stark has continued to run with two crews for the Hilldale reconstruction. Storm sewer installation is moving right along. We anticipate that most of the new storm sewer will be installed by the end of next week. There is a section of storm that cannot be installed until the culvert installation is complete. The walls of the new culvert were poured this week. The culvert should be completed within the next couple of weeks.
- Work on the Freedom Pkwy extension is in full gear. Both UCM and Stark have been on site. UCM is currently working on pavement removals that are necessary for the new turn lane. Stark is working to install the 36" storm sewer that will run along Cummings. As with any major job, there have been underground conflicts to overcome. All parties involved have been working together to come up with solutions to these problems and work is progressing well.
- UCM was in town this week to complete the mill and overlay on Wilmor, Wilshire, and Wilshire Ct. There were a few obstacles to overcome but no major delays. Wilmor was paved on Wednesday and turned out very good. Crews agreed that battling the high volume of traffic on this road was one of the hardest parts of the job. They did an excellent job of getting people in and out of Five Points in a timely manner as there were a number of events going on there this week. The first lift of new asphalt was placed on Wilshire on Thursday. The final lift is being done Friday.

- Lonewolf has started on the second round of residential sidewalk and curb replacement requests for the 70/30 program. They did not complete all seven of the current requests this week because they only had one crew. They plan to be back next week to finish out the remaining requests.
- We have been in contact with American Asphalt. They plan to begin hot-in-place recycling on Patricia next week. They will be delivering flyers to all of the residents that explains the process in detail. This will be our first time using this newer pavement technology. We are excited and optimistic to see how the final product turns out. Hot-in-place recycling is just the first step, the roads will be chip sealed as well to protect the surface.
- Pressure Paving is scheduled for the second or third week of August. We are still waiting for a firm date on when Donelson will be in town.
- IDOT has performed the bridge inspection for the Candlewood bridge and confirm the permanent closure status. We have requested structural engineer resumes from local engineering firms that have experience in either arch bridges or masonry bridges. Once staff receives resumes, we will look to get a contract negotiated with the most qualified and available, so that we can get it on the next council meeting for approval.

FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

- Jeanette and I continued preparation for the audit, including Accrued Liabilities, Accounts Payable, Insurance, Inventory, Revenue, Interfunds, Cash, Grants, and Fixed Assets. The audit begins on August 7.
- Prepared the quarterly GATA report for the DCEO Public Safety grant.
- Prepared the mid-year 2023 report for the Recycling Grant.
- Participated in several DebtBook implementation meetings to learn about the new software in place to track leases, debt and subscriptions. The City must implement GASB 87 for the FYE 4/30/2023 which is currently under audit and is in respect to the reporting of leases.
- Provided information related to a FOIA response.
- Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for July 21 and August 4
- Utility Billing (July 15 – August 4, 2023)
 - A total of 5,492 bills were processed for August billing, with 486 bills being emailed
 - A total of 525 penalties were assessed for July bills that had an outstanding balance
 - A total of 42 disconnects were processed for August with 13 having a credit balance, 22 owing a balance and seven with a zero balance
 - A total of 229 cutoffs were processed for June billing, with 21 services terminated, 17 payment arrangements made, and 21 door knockers distributed
 - A total of 4 final bills for June disconnects were sent to Collections
 - A total of 8 delinquent notices were sent for July disconnects
 - New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 38 ins
 - 42 outs
 - Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 46 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified
 - There were 20 new residents in July

HUMAN RESOURCES – Maureen Chambers

- Hosted Wellness Group event. Reviewed upcoming Lunch and Learn and brainstormed vendor ideas for Health and Wellness Fair in October. Already have a handful of vendors willing to participate. I am waiting to hear back from 6 more and have about 6-8 more to reach out to.
- Recruiting for Building and Zoning Coordinator and setting up interviews for week of August 14 and August 21. Job is posted on our website, through Indeed and various sources from our applicant tracking system, we have a posting in LinkedIn, and I reached out to Geography departments at local colleges and universities.
- IPBC is switching enrollment platforms to PlanSource. PlanSource is the software company that manages our health insurance, basic life and ad&d and our EAP program enrollment. This implementation process has required a great deal of testing to be done on the City's end, which I completed this week.
- Meeting with Core (eGov) to slightly modify our homepage so that a "FORMS" quick link and a "MAPS" quick link can be added.
- Created onboarding booklets in preparation for two new police hires being sworn in on August 16. Will be meeting with both on August 21.

- “Building Impact” training for Supervisors has gotten off to a great start. Two sessions have been completed with two more on August 9 and August 16.
- Looking at various anti-harassment videos to place on our learning management system for staff to complete in November.
- Making modifications on back end of Mission Square.
- Had a Tyler Demo meeting and learned about fantastic things regarding our Tyler ERP Pro system. There are a lot of things I’d like to implement but am having difficulty connecting to our representative again.
- Processed handful of retirement/personnel/benefit items/website updates.
- Out of the office Thursday, August 10 and Monday, August 14. The week of August 7, I will be in and out of the office, but will be available and working remotely.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant

- The August 2 PZC meeting had two cases: 1) A request from St. Mark’s Lutheran Church to allow for an electronic message board. Such signs are not typically allowed in residential zoning districts and the church property is zoned R-2 (Multi-Family Residential). The proposed sign would be added to the existing sign adjacent to S. Main. It would allow for the conveyance of church- and community-related events. The PZC unanimously recommended approval after hearing feedback from three residents; and 2) A zoning code text amendment to provide the acceptable framework for ground-mount solar arrays for non-residential uses, as was previously discussed at the April and May Committee of the Whole meetings. The PZC unanimously recommended approval after some solid discussion. A first reading ordinance will be scheduled for Monday’s Council meeting.
- This month’s Technical Working Group meeting featured DCEO’s Angel Investment Tax Credit Program Manager offering an overview of its program. It is intended to provide a 25% tax credit for Illinois manufacturing, agricultural, clean energy, and biotechnology companies that are looking to expand within the state and are currently classified as smaller (less than 100 employees) and emerging (cannot have been in operation for more than 10 consecutive years).
- The quarterly Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan meeting that Dennis and I attended provided a summary of the region’s tornado vulnerability analyses, the individual jurisdiction’s risk priority index, and a review of the draft mitigation action tables. We are looking to include many possible future projects in the plan, as the inclusion allows for possible future funding assistance. The consultant and TCRPC are looking to complete the draft plan around the end of October and have it submitted to IEMA and FEMA. It is anticipated that those agencies would approve the plan by early 2024.
- Dennis and I met with the property owner across from Washington Greenhouse about how to move accumulated dirt to best accommodate planning for future development.
- I met with the project engineer to go over initial plans for a commercial project on an undeveloped lot in Heilman Commercial Park.
- Dennis, Mike, and I have been periodically meeting to go over progress made on creating a GIS Hub Site that will allow for text and visual notifications of various public and private projects around the city. We anticipate the rollout of it soon and we are very excited about it.
- A special PZC meeting is scheduled for August 16 with two cases: 1) A request for an 8’ side yard and a 1’ distance-between-structure variance at 305 Lynnhaven. This would allow for the replacement of an existing shed with a slightly larger shed; and 2) A request to allow a ground-mount solar array at 1505 Pine Tree Drive. Ground-mounts are not currently allowed anywhere in the city (the pending text amendment would only allow them on certain non-residential properties). The PZC is an advisory body on this application and will make a recommendation to the Council prior to a first reading ordinance on August 21.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief McCoy/Deputy Chief Stevens

- Our newer* speed trailer is down for (possible) repairs. The main module is no longer manufactured, so the vendor is checking on retrofits. [*The newer speed trailer is by no means new.]
- This period’s speeding contest winner: 65 MPH on Washington at Vohland (40 MPH zone). The same driver was unlicensed and uninsured.
- Bodycams are in use.
- Two years ago, WPD tested Flock fixed-point license plate readers, but did not purchase the service. Since that time, Flock has upgraded its technology and several area departments use and are happy with Flock products. The company approached us to repeat our test, which we are considering. Unrelated to fixed-point cameras, we will use mobile Axon ALPRs when our in-car cameras are upgraded in May. Axon partners with Flock on ALPR technology.
- Chief McCoy is on his 42nd St Jude Memphis to Peoria Run and WPD will help the St Jude Washington Run complete its travel Saturday.

- Officers practiced active shooter response at WCHS, a continuation of training we regularly conduct.
- Washington's celebration of National Night Out Against Crime was well attended August 1st. Thanks to all of you who helped or attended.
- After an additional round of contract negotiations with the PBLC, both sides agreed to seek mediation to further the process.

PUBLIC WORKS – Brian Rittenhouse

- The Street Department continues its annual basin inspections, maintenance and outfall repairs.
- The Street Department continues its yearly street painting. This includes stop bars, crosswalks, turn arrows, parking spot lines and skip dash lines.
- The asphalt roller is still being worked on. Staff was told it was fixed and went to pick it up. While in the process of loading, it died so Altorfer is still trying to repair it.
- The Distribution and Collections Department is finished with main line valve turning. Any maintenance needed will be performed over the next few months.
- The Distribution and Collections Department is starting to work on televising storm on the east side of town. Staff is developing a 7-year program that would require around 50,000 – 60,000 feet of storm to be televised each year.
- Public Works had safety training on lock out tag out and excavation and shoring safety.
- Staff had bid openings for the looped water main at Water Plant #2 and for the generator installation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff will be bringing recommendations forward at Council.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. WASTEWATER- LONG TERM SOLUTION/POSSIBLE TRUNKLINE PROJECT

V. ADJOURNMENT

****THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING WILL FOLLOW THE COUNCIL WORK SESSION****



Display



Field Day
On Nutrient
Stewardship
Photo Page 7



Bank Aids
Canton JFL
Program
Photo Page 3



Cuba Yard of
the Month
Award Given
Photo Page 3

DELIVERING
THE NEWS
OF FULTON
COUNTY
SINCE 1855

LEWISTOWN, ILLINOIS
Wednesday
July 26, 2023
#30 \$1.25



The
Fulton

DEMOCRAT

"I'll take the responsibility." —Jackson

Fulton County's Oldest Business - Est. 1855

\$35 million IEPA loan sought for sewer plant

Interest around 1%,
30% forgivable; city
officials approve
final design work

BY JOHN FROEHLING

Canton's wastewater treatment plant has some components that date back to when it was built in the 1930s. The plant is unable to remove phosphorus and nitrogen in the treatment process, which will be required in the future by environmental officials.

It's going to cost an estimated \$35 million to build a new plant in its place, but the city is pursuing a way to accomplish this with a low-interest loan ranging from 0.90% to 1.25% and forgiveness of 30% of the loan or around \$10 million back.

The \$35 million loan would come from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. It's on the agency's list to receive final approval.

"It's the best opportunity I've ever seen before," said City Utilities Director Joe Carruthers.

Much of the design work for the new plant has already been done by local Maurer-Stutz Inc. engineers, and paid for from bond funds in 2011. With a few changes, the design will be completed by the company for \$465,000 which has been budgeted for, Carruthers said.

Canton City Council approved the action to complete the design work at their July 18 meeting.

The timing of the project lines up with the approaching retirement of \$25.4 million in bonds issued in 2005 to improve the overall water system. Those bonds will be paid off at the end of this year, noted Carruthers.

Payments on the loan for the new sewer plant will be less than on the current bonds because of the low interest rate, he said. But the need is critical to meet more



IN HONOR OF Canton Park District's 100th anniversary this year, Mayor Kent McDowell signed a proclamation declaring July as Park and Recreation Month in the City of Canton. With him at Lakeland Park is

Amanda Atchley, Director of Recreation for the park district. More about the proclamation some of the many benefits Canton Park District provide for the community is featured in a story on Page 3.

Two local businesses seek aid for projects

BY JOHN FROEHLING

Canton City Council last week voted to pursue redevelopment agreements on two requests for local Business Development District (BDD) funds. Three other requests were tabled.

According to Alderman John Lovell, Chairman of council's Community and Economic Development Committee, Andrew Gregory has purchased a brick apartment building in the 100 block of South First Avenue. It needs a new roof and some exterior rehabilitation including tuckpointing.

The repairs will cost \$16,200. Lovell said this was the first application he has seen for residential development assistance. There is not a lot of residential property in the BDD, and while he would not recommend providing funds to help side a house, he would vote for an exception on this.

He proposed 20% or \$3,240 of the cost be provided for an apartment building with four units

he respected Lovell's recommendation, but he would vote no because he could not see how the project could help replenish funding for the BDD. (It is funded by a 1% sales tax on purchases made on purchases within the district.)

The proposal passed, however, and will go to tax consultant Steve Kline of Bloomington to prepare the redevelopment agreement.

The other request was from the Rancho Nuevo Mexican Restaurant which has remodeled the interior of their business and built an addition at a cost of \$113,200. They asked to be reimbursed up to \$30,000 over five years.

Lovell made a motion to provide a forgivable loan of \$6,000 a year for five years if the business stays open and meets other requirements. His motion passed and Kline will also prepare a redevelopment agreement for them.

A recommended agreement for a more complex project had not yet been completed and will be addressed at the next council

explained the delay was due to financing being arranged.

The project involves purchasing property at the intersection of Main and Locust streets and four parcels on South Fifth Avenue, selling them to the city, then leasing some of that property from the city for the business purpose of advertising with digital signs.

City Attorney Chris Jump said he talked to the attorney for the BDD and believes the lease may need to be separate from the redevelopment agreement.

Lovell noted action needs to be taken by August 14, or one of the property owners will raise the price of selling their property.

The other two requests that were tabled came from Pizza Hut and Jed Rhoades, owner of Rhoades Real Estate.

Mayor Kent McDowell commended Lovell for his efforts on BDD matters and doing a good job handling them. He also praised others on the committee, alderpersons Grimm, Andra Chamberlin and Justin Nelson.

Fulton County to celebrate 200th year at Sept. 3 event

The Fulton County Board will host a bicentennial celebration Sunday, September 3 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Lewistown. A number of activities for children and families will be offered throughout the day.

Music will be provided and food and other items will be available.

9 p.m. and end with fireworks at 9. What a great way to spend part of this Labor Day weekend!

Volunteers are invited to help the day of the event, and area businesses are asked to consider being a sponsor and/or being a vendor at the event. If interested in volunteering, serving as a sponsor

Water leaks in Canton troubling

Millions of gallons
pumped cannot be
accounted for; public
asked to report wet
areas, low pressure

BY JOHN FROEHLING

Canton's water treatment plant is pumping out 20% more water than is being metered. Numerous and frequent breaks in water lines have occurred and been repaired this month, but a high volume of water continues to be unaccounted for.

City officials are asking local residents to be on the watch for potential water leaks or low-pressure conditions. Anyone who has information about places water might be leaking is urged to call the city's Public Works Department at 309-647-5022 or Water Billing Department at 309-647-0288.

City Utilities Director Joe Carruthers said at the Tuesday, July 18 Canton City Council meeting too much time was being spent at the plant pumping out treated water.

The pumps were running 18 to 20 hours a day and putting out 1,800 gallons of water a minute. The pumps were providing 2,100 gallons a minute now, Carruthers said.

He said he'd called federal leak detection crews earlier that day.

After the council meeting, Carruthers said lack of rain in the forecast might help. It's easier to find leaks in dry weather, because less water is flowing through the system. City employees can open a manhole and look or listen for water running. If it is, then they can run a camera to see where it's coming from.

"They find a lot of leaks that way," he said. "For now, water may be going into the sewer, storm sewer lines or into a creek somewhere. It's underground." Residents can help by looking for standing water or unusually

LOAN

from Page 1

stringent environmental regulations pending in a few years, he added.

The new plant will have dedicated tankage specifications for the treatment and removal of phosphorus and nitrogen, Carruthers said.

Limits for those substances will be set in the next permit to operate the wastewater treatment plant. The city will be ahead of schedule to meet new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination

System (NPDES) requirements by building the new plant, Carruthers said.

He said bids will be sought in 2024, and construction should begin by the fall of 2024. Final completion is expected in 2026.

The size of the plant will not change, and the amount of wastewater it will treat will remain the same. But its ability to treat the wastewater will be different, Carruthers said.