



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

Prepared By: Jim Snider, City Administrator

Agenda Item: Discussion of a possible City Council social media policy

Explanation: Council has requested an item for Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss a possible City Council social media policy. City employees are covered by social media guidelines under the Employee Handbook.

I have directed recent administrative actions as it relates to the City's social media platforms:

- Eliminated public comment on our Facebook account in response to guidance from the Secretary of State's communication that I passed along to everyone a few weeks ago. The operative reasoning is *"a social media platform should not be a means to two-way communication, or public forum, between the government and the public...It is recommended that only viewing be enabled."*
- Following an administrative review of my recent elimination of public comment our Police Department Facebook page, I've authorized Chief McCoy to reinstate the public comment feature on their page which provides them a tool to facilitate possible information related to public safety activities. Many other area police departments use this as tool to help protect their communities.

Fiscal Impact: TBD

Action Requested: Discussion by council members on the value of having a social media policy for the city council.