



City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 5, 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, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens

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

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Manier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Comments Meg Sutherland with the Washington Bridge Association thanked the City for supporting the event Paint the Path which was part of the Good Neighbor Days Festival. She shared that this is their third time for the event and the funds helped them to boost marketing and provide cash prizes. She shared photos of some of the winners. They held a Fan Favorite Contest which helped increase exposure online. Ms. Sutherland stated that the proceeds go back to helping students and this year they gave a grant for continued education in a trade. They were also able to help two students in the Transitions Program. She shared that some students became part of a student mentorship program, where they can share how they got started in the trades. She noted that they continue to fundraise and again, thanked the City for supporting with the grant.

Washington resident Leri Slonneger shared that she read from the Illinois General Assembly titled the “Adjacent Landowner Excavation Protection Act”. She shared content regarding excavation and the liability of an owner to adjacent property owners if damage to their property or building occurs. She shared that Marlene Miller and the Historical Society received letters telling them to repair their buildings but stated that it is not their problem. She stated it would take too long and stated that one contractor recommended sending their bill to CL Enterprises. Ms. Slonneger called it the Wild West of excavating. She said nobody mentioned that it would cost the other owners anything and Marlene’s expenses are about \$28,000. She stated that the waterline has been gone through four times. Ms. Slonneger stated that Culvers is doing a great job.

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 August 21, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Payment Authorization for Hilldale Phase 3 Request #4
- C. Payment Authorization for TIF Pay Request #6- Square Restaurant and Brewpub, 140 Washington Square
- D. Payment Authorization for Kevin Brown Memorial Tournament of Champions

Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson Adams seconded.

Alderson Blundy referenced the pay requests and noted two remaining payments. He asked when projects are eligible to request and receive reimbursement. Planning and Zoning Director Oliphant shared that interest can occur at any time and one goes until December of 2025. He estimated the other payment could be requested at any time. They spoke of the payment being tied to the completion of the project.

Alderson Blundy asked if they could start work today with a foundation only permit. Mr. Oliphant shared that they can start anytime, however, they can hold off if they feel the need. Mr. Oliphant clarified that damages do not involve the City.

Alderson Stevens asked about the permitting process and Mr. Oliphant shared that they come out to inspect at different milestones.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Announcements/Awards/Presentation s/Recognitions/ Proclamations Mayor Manier read aloud the Washington Historical Society “Roots” Celebration Proclamation, honoring the achievements of Tim Allshouse.

Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson Butler seconded.

Mayor Manier shared that they are presenting the proclamation early so that Mr. Allhouse can be presented with the proclamation during an upcoming visit to Washington.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communications Nothing additional at this time.

City Administrator Communications/ Staff Reports/ Requested Actions City Administrator Snider introduced City Engineer Carr to provide updates about local road projects. Mr. Carr shared that chip seal work will start tomorrow and they will do a first sweeping, spray the oil then drop the chips. There will be a two-week period before they sweep again. Mr. Carr shared that this will be done by United Contractors Midwest and they will spray fog coating after the second sweeping. Mr. Carr recommended driving slow and noted it will be a short-term inconvenience. He shared that the other roadway projects are moving along and the only additional update is that IDOT has done everything on their side for Nofsinger and they are waiting for the Genese team for signatures. Construction might start later this month or early next month. Alderperson Blundy noted that Catherine Street was on the report and he feels the conversation was left unfinished. Mr. Carr shared that Council directed him to do brick cross walks and the only thing left is getting costs, which will be brought back at a later date. TWM is working on exhibits. Alderperson Blundy questioned the legality of mandating direct deposit for employees and officials. Administrator Snider stated that we can mandate it to cut checks and it is something we can do as a procedure because it is the most cost-effective process. Alderperson Blundy asked what the safety grant will be spent on. Finance Director Baxter shared that it comes from our work/comp carrier and we have a list of items that qualify for purchasing. An example of safety harnesses was given. Ms. Baxter noted that these items go back into multiple departments, equally.

First Reading Ordinance: Amending Chapter 103 entitled “Standards for the Operation of Ambulances” City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
Synopsis: Amendment of this code would further define operations and uses of the operation of ambulances within the City of Washington.
Title: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 103 entitled “Standards for the Operation of Ambulances”
Mr. Snider shared that this has been discussed for a couple weeks and they met with Council members to go over the agreement with the Washington Fire Department. Alderperson Stevens thanked everyone for writing the proposed ordinance and stated that she made a motion to tighten it up, it was discussed a couple times, then she went home and thought about it. She stated that the one license part is missing and it should refer to the contract. Alderperson Stevens requested that the ordinance include language about a single license and the contract holder with the City, should be in this ordinance. Alderperson Stevens also requested an to add “and the approval of City Council” to 103.05/E, after it states “the City Clerk may issue a license to the ambulance service after approval by the Chief of Police”. Alderperson Brownfield thanked staff and the attorneys and stated that this has captured what they are looking for. He stated that the current ordinance covers this and this tightens up the language. He feels more time and money should not be spent on this. He feels this is good as presented. Alderperson Adams, stated that under 103.03/E regarding the response of an ambulance to an emergency call for which a 911 call occurred, the only ambulance service allowed to take a call from Tazwell County Consolidated Communications (TC3) is the Washington Fire Department. He thinks it clarifies the single license request because they are the only entity allowed to take an emergency call from TC3. Alderperson Blundy said he would see it an issue if the Fire Department or TC3 contract got changed. He shared concern for future issues. He stated that he doesn’t see harm in allowing City Council’s approval. Mayor Manier noted that some of these items are taken care of in the contract that the Council has to vote on with the Washington Fire Department. He noted that a new contract will be negotiated in the spring and stated that this was written to protect the ambulance service. He shared that staff and the attorneys created this from comments while working with Jeremy and Chief Clint Kuhlman. He thinks this is well written and iron-clad that no one can come in and take that type of business. Alderperson Stevens asked if the mayor is telling her that Chief Kuhlman and Jeremy don’t want the language regarding a single license and that the license is awarded to the contract holder. Mayor Manier replied that he is not speaking for them, but he had spoken to them and they were okay with the ordinance. Alderperson Martin stated that he doesn’t see a problem with adding the language regarding the approval of the Council.

First Reading Ordinance: Request by James and Debra Rodriguez to Annex 1020 Dallas Road City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would annex a parcel at 1020 Dallas Road totaling 1.69 acres into the City of Washington corporate limits.
Title: A Request by James and Debra Rodriguez to Annex 1020 Dallas Road

- Alderson's
Comments**

Alderson Stevens stated that she wishes they would have discussed this ordinance as a group to get more comments. She stated that she can't believe that it is okay with everyone not to have the approval of city council in the ordinance. She stated that reports from the Fire Board and City reps don't filter down to them. She thinks if something is controlled by the City Council, they know what's going on. Alderson Stevens shared she voted yes for the TIF Payment Request #6 because it's an obligation to pay it. She stated that the repair of the damage caused during demolition will need to be fixed before the foundation is started and the delays are caused by the demolition. She doesn't want Council to be blamed.
- Adjournment**

At 7:00 p.m. Alderson McIntyre moved to adjourn; Alderson Smith seconded.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk