



City Council Meeting Minutes  
Public Hearing  
Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.  
Washington Fire Department Training Room - 200 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

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**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, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens  
*Absent:* Alderperson Butler

**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 Derek Schryer and Press

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**Audience Comments** None provided at this time.

**Public Hearing** At 6:31 p.m., City Administrator Snider opened the public hearing. He shared details regarding the request by City Council to upgrade the equipment and stream City meetings. He stated that the cost includes audio visual equipment and fixed furniture. He also stated that this is a proposed budget amendment for \$160,000. Mr. Snider noted that there is a first reading of an ordinance at tonight's Council meeting. Mayor Manier invited public comments.

Township resident Allison Montgomery stated that she refused to use the provided microphones because the Council has not always used them. She stated that at the last meeting Alderpersons Blundy and Butler got in a fight because there are four microphones for eight people. Ms. Montgomery stated that she wants to know how many microphones will be used and asked why we are going from 0 to 120. She said every meeting should be accessible to everyone. Ms. Montgomery asked how 100 people would fit in this room if they have a large meeting like Trails Edge. She also stated that she has filed a complaint with OMA about the audio-visual meeting. She asked if we are going to stream Council meetings or also Committee of the Whole meetings. Ms. Montgomery asked if we are going to go into questions now or only when Council goes into discussion. Administrator Snider stated that he has informed Council that the three main meetings will be streamed and clarified that this was directed to him from Council. He shared that this has worked well for other cities. Ms. Montgomery continued by asking that if this item fails tonight, will we put money towards a different system? She stated that the Attorney General gave a response and stated that we don't have a system that allows people to hear if people jingle their keys or if kids play video games. She said they need to discuss as a council how they would go to a bigger room if needed. Ms. Montgomery stated that she is curious how Catherine Street is looking for money within the budget but this is going the formal route. She stated that there is \$90,000 sitting around because we are not doing the parking lot next to city hall. She asked how certain rules apply to certain situations.

City Administrator Snider stated that we are providing what is suitable for meetings, and Council may ask for more microphones. He reminded Ms. Montgomery that additional funding for Catherine Street has not been brought to council and money can move in specific areas. Mr. Snider stated that he is trying to be responsive to Council's request. He noted that with regard to the budget for the Candlewood Bridge repair on Candlewood, funds can come from projects that may not be done this year. He also noted that this is an area that we don't spend money, so we need to have the public hearing for approval. Ms. Montgomery interrupted and Mr. Snider asked to complete his comment. He reminded Ms. Montgomery that there is not a vote tonight and this is only a first reading. He stated that if this item does not pass, her comment is moot. City Engineer Carr clarified that Catherine Street is not being done this year which is why it is not in the budget and doesn't need a hearing.

At 6:41 p.m., Mayor Manier closed the public hearing with a motion from Alderperson Martin and Alderperson McIntyre seconded the motion.

**Aldersperson Comment** None provided at this time.

**Adjournment** At 6:41 p.m. Alderperson Martin moved to adjourn; Alderperson McIntyre seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk