



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.
Wilmor Fire Station, 320 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, IL 61571

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:37 p.m., immediately following the Council Work Session, with a quorum present.

Present: Alderpersons Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, and Stevens

Absent: Alderperson Adams

Also Present: City Administrator Snider, P & D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Carr, Finance Director Baxter, Public Works Director Rittenhouse, Police Chief McCoy, City Clerk Brod, Attorney Keith Braskich and Press

1. ALDERPERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD: Nothing provided at this time.
2. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD: Washington resident Tom Gross came forward to talk about brick crosswalks near the Square. He shared that when his area needed a new sewer, they requested to put in brick pavers but determined to be too expensive. He shared that they thought the best solution was to replace certain historic areas that were chosen because they were closest to the Square. He stated that he respects using historic bricks but recommends using new pavers, because they are over 100 years old and will crack soon. He requested to not only do the crosswalks but also do Catherine from South Main to High, and Zinser from North Main to Market.
Diana Roeder a resident from Candlewood Drive stated that she would like to see the bridge repaired. She noted that the fire hydrant for their house is on the other side of the bridge and every year, the high school kids take samples of the wildlife near the bridge. She stated that rocks are falling into the creek and said people on Market Street like the closure due to decreased traffic. She shared that in regards to the trunkline, they have two pipes and a manhole on their property. She shared that they put a flower pot on a manhole and she doesn't mind it.
Linda Watson who lives at West Holland and Market Street shared that she agrees with Mr. Gross regarding brick pavers. She said they gladly paid their special assessment to get the pavers on West Holland because they are investing in historic Washington. She noted that they have used their historic houses on advertising materials. She stated that regarding the Candlewood Bridge, she sees 80-90 walkers on Market Street per day. She has also seen the track teams and science classes use the area. Ms. Watson stated that this is not just a bridge, this is the community's bridge. She noted the people who walk around the historic cemetery and that the area dates back to the 1700s. She shared that her family has spent more than 10 times what the bridge has been assessed to be fixed. She asked that the board also invest.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve minutes of the August 14, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting and August 21, 2023 Special Committee of the Whole meeting; seconded by Alderperson Stevens. Approved by voice vote.
4. BUSINESS ITEMS:
 - A. *Catherine Street – Brick Crosswalk Locations* – Mayor Manier shared that he had previously stated that he would prefer the first block of Catherine to be bricked and not just the crosswalks. He then

introduced Engineer Carr who shared that the consensus from the previous discussion was to look at doing brick crosswalks, so he had TWM review the project and now they are looking for direction from Council to see where the crosswalks would go. Alderperson Stevens noted that Dr. Gross came to speak after the first conversation. She shared that she did not realize there was an order to the streets. She shared that she originally thought the crosswalks were a great idea before they heard from the community. She stated that she is fine with pavers going from Main Street to High. She clarified that the special assessment was for the sewer water and did not pay for the street. Alderperson Brownfield asked for the timing of Catherine and Engineer Carr clarified that it is currently being designed. Alderperson Brownfield wondered how this Council could decide items for future Councils. He shared that he supports this for Catherine. Alderperson Blundy shared concern about the rest of the streets around the Square. He would like a plan that this Council recommends for the future. Alderperson Blundy likes putting pavers from Main to High then consider where they would start and stop brick pavers on other streets. Alderperson Martin asked if we had asked the land owners. Engineer Carr said we can poll the residents, but it is not typically done on a project. Alderperson McIntyre noted the concerns with plowing and maintenance. He stated that he would support going with the pavers from Main to High. Mayor Manier confirmed that everyone wants to get rid of crosswalks and go with one block of brick. Mayor Manier noted that the other streets can be considered at a future meeting, noting that Zinser has not fared well. Mayor Manier noted the price will be a little higher than originally anticipated. Engineer Carr noted a concern with a specific color run. Alderperson Butler expressed concern about spending \$200,000 out of nowhere and he doesn't understand how this came about. Alderperson Butler said the discussion was to do crosswalks and now we are paving the street and the maintenance was considered earlier. Engineer Carr confirmed that the previous consensus was to look at crosswalks. Alderperson Butler expressed concern for the idea. Mayor Manier and Alderperson Butler discussed financial impact. Alderperson McIntyre reviewed the cost associated with the crosswalks versus what placing the whole first block with pavers would cost. Engineer Carr offered to bring that information back. Alderperson Martin would like to know what residents want. Mayor Manier said we need to get moving on Catherine in order to progress on the 20-year plan.

- B. *Siren Test Results Update* – Police Chief McCoy reminded Council that they check all 10 sirens each month. They were tested on September 5th and all nine rotated and worked but one did not rotate but it did work. All 10 sirens now operate properly.
- C. *Candlewood Bridge Repair Engineering* – City Engineer Carr shared that the bridge inspection noted the wing walls had fallen. They reached out to architectural engineers and went with CMT out of Peoria due to their experience. The engineering fee, which just addresses design, is over \$144,000. He shared the following three options:
 1. Remove the bridge and put in a new one.
 2. Move forward with this contract which would require a budget amendment but we can get work in 2024.
 3. Budget for it next year to be completed in 2025.

Alderperson Smith feels we should move immediately and we need to maintain the historic preservation of the bridge. Alderperson Stevens agreed. Alderperson Stevens asked about miscellaneous expenses and asked if we consider things like this as we are budgeting. Engineer Carr said we budget for \$3,000-\$5,000 items, not \$150,000 items. Finance Director Baxter confirmed that we don't plan for unbudgeted items of this magnitude. Administrator Snider noted that like the streaming service, this is something we don't have money to move over. Administrator Snider said we would ask for opinions to see if everyone feels comfortable going forward. Alderperson Brownfield said unless we know where the money is coming from, he would like to see it budgeted. Administrator Snider said we will put something together explaining where the money will come from for next week. Alderperson Martin agreed if it can be budgeted, we should move forward. Alderperson Blundy agreed as this is one of three national registered historic sites. Alderperson McIntyre agreed as well.

- D. Phase 2B Trunkline Direction* – Alderperson Stevens stated that there were five people interested in the Phase 1 relief sewer but it wasn't recommended by the Aptim Engineer or Engineer Carr. She withdraws her support for the relief sewer. Alderperson Blundy said if we are using the same assumptions, the numbers should match Strand. He stated that we are looking at a difference of 10 million or 6 million. Alderperson Blundy noted that Engineer Carr had different numbers. Alderperson Blundy asked if Strand could come back. He noted that Mike Waldren could come back. Mayor Manier noted that two city engineers, Howard and Strand have supported the same route. Alderperson Butler stated that Mr. Moose was here two years ago and said the same thing. He said Mr. Moose stated in his presentation that "the City has not evaluated any alternative alignment to Route B" and tonight, again he said "Strand only considered two routes." Alderperson Butler continued by stating that we all received two letters stating that the City previously evaluated potential routes north of the railroad, which is a direct contradiction of Mr. Moose. Mr. Butler shared that he attached a summary table that showed Route E-3 is significantly higher in cost than Route B. He noted that copies of the letter were sent to the Troy, Brett and Case Pudik. Mr. Butler stated that they are publicly stating that Strand didn't evaluate any other routes but that is simply not true. He said these public statements affect people and Council. Alderperson Butler stated that that cost and safety was evaluated and now we are reacting to the presentation tonight based on emotion. We need to react based on sound data. Alderperson Butler stated that Howard was asked if he agreed with Strand and he said unfortunately yes. Alderperson Butler noted that we have easements to acquire and we have spent \$750,000 and received a recommendation and we cannot operate this way. He stated that we have to consider the public interest and we can't favor an engineer who was hired by someone who is against it. Alderperson Butler stated that we have two choices, either Route B or Route A. He noted that Route A is north of the railroad tracks, makes interceptions easier and we already have the easements and Route B had other advantages. Alderperson Butler feels we need to go with Route A because we will never get easements to do any other route. Alderperson Stevens asked if Strand is coming to speak. Alderperson Butler reminded everyone that tonight's presenter is not our engineer. Alderperson Blundy stated that his concerns are for the simple math. He hopes Strand can walk us through the cost to see if it matches. Alderperson Blundy said Howard said that he only used what Strand presented. Alderperson Blundy stated that Howard didn't look at it. He also stated that looking at the environmental impacts, we need to understand those as well. Alderperson Butler and Alderperson Blundy briefly discussed how Howard's analysis was done. Alderperson Butler stated that Howard was paid \$110,000 to evaluate the difference between the options and it is in line with Strand's report. Alderperson Blundy would like to discuss the numbers further. Engineer Carr said the reason Alderperson Blundy hasn't seen the cost of the environmental impact is that Council directed staff to stop working with Strand. Alderperson McIntyre stated that as a new Council member he would like to hear more information from Strand, then he is excited to hear it.
5. OTHER BUSINESS: Engineer Carr shared one block of brick adds \$202,000 to the project. We could subtract \$28,000 for crosswalks. Administrator Snider shared that we received the first of two plow trucks today and Public Works started flushing hydrants. He shared that he sent an email about an individual who crashed into our evidence building and a structural engineer says we can tarp it, then create a plan to replace the brick. Mr. Snider shared that as for the bond, we have had meetings with them getting ready for the evaluation and we have a strong track record. He feels this will be a higher rating than we had in 2006 and credit goes to Joanie and her staff. He stated that Council has done a good job of managing debt and he noted our low tax levy. Administrator Snider also said this is the best staff he has professionally worked with and the attitude of the employees is as high as he has seen. Alderperson Stevens asked if we have a new restaurant coming to town. Mayor Manier confirmed that they have been issued a liquor license, but he has not yet seen any work being done.
6. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:32 p.m. Alderperson Smith moved, and Alderperson McIntyre seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.