



CITY OF WASHINGTON COUNCIL REPORT

October 13, 2023

CITY ADMINISTRATION – Jim Snider

- **Sewer Treatment Plant 1 – Wet Weather Storage Discussion**

Following discussion from last Monday's Committee of the Whole and Special Council Meetings, the City Council asked for discussion on the possibility of a wet weather storage basin at the site of decommissioned Sewer Treatment Plant 1 (STP1). City Engineer Carr has prepared a written report as a discussion item under Monday's Special Committee of the Whole Meeting.

- **Phase 2B Trunkline Engineering Continuation & Rate Study**

City Engineer Carr has prepared a written report summarizing the progress of Strand Engineering work to date and future plans for a rate study in conjunction with the anticipated application for an IEPA loan as a discussion item under Monday's Special Committee of the Whole Meeting.

ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr/Ross Fuller

- Stark has completed the installation of all the driveway approaches on Hilldale. The ditch grading from the North St. culvert to Hilldale has been completed as well. This will alleviate some flooding issues that residents have been dealing with for several years. Seed and straw mat has been placed throughout the disturbed areas. Next week Stark plans to finish the sections of curb that were not able to be done with the curb machine. Upon completion of the curb, they will begin pouring sidewalk.
- The Freedom Pkwy extension has been progressing well. The 1st stage of concrete work at the intersection of Cummings has been completed. The remainder of the Cummings intersection will be reconstructed in 2024. 6" of rock has been placed throughout the entirety of the new road. Next week UCM plans to continue placing rock in order to get the road to final grade. They plan to begin slipping curb by month's end.
- Walker excavating has completed the bore for the watermain loop near Gillman and Peoria St. One fire hydrant that was on private property has been removed. A new hydrant has been installed within the right of way.
- The Noffsinger realignment project is underway. Gensini Excavating is the prime contractor for this project. The main focus for the start of this project is to get the road cut and filled to the correct elevations in preparation of rock placement. Dirt has been tested and passed has all IDOT requirements. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony near month's end.
- UCM has completed the fog coat for all of the chip sealed roads that were included in this year's MFT project. The fog coat application helps keep the chips intact and gives the roads a nice shiny black finish. All roads that were a part of the project will be swept curb to curb once the City's street sweeper is repaired.
- The Water Treatment Plant Chlorine upgrade design is progressing. We hope to have it out for bid this winter with construction next year.
- We have flown the drone over Freedom and Noffsinger again and the slider map on the story maps have been updated.

FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

Vacation/Sick

HUMAN RESOURCES – Maureen Chambers

- Health and Wellness Fair last week was a success. We had over 70% of our entire staff attend. 43 individuals participated in onsite health screen. Thank you to Jeff Stevens, Beth Duley, Shari Parker, and Brian Rittenhouse for helping with food and beverages!
- Distributed RSVP for Holiday Luncheon and collecting Employee Appreciate Gift choices.
- Revised a City of Washington Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist for all DOT vehicles. Practice will be introduced at the October 19 Public Works Safety Lunch.
- Creating an entire years' worth of events for the 2024 Washington Wellness Program.
- Employee in Public Works department is resigning as of October 20. Inhouse job posting created and distributed on Tuesday, October 12.
- Reviewing program/videos for anti-harassment training in November.
- SAVE THE DATE: City of Washington Holiday Luncheon. December 14. Tres Rojas. 11AM-1PM.
- Process handful of retirement/personnel/benefit items.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant/Joe Boyer

- Both of the Safe Routes to School project applications have been submitted to IDOT. An awards announcement is tentatively planned by IDOT in the spring.
- The October 4 PZC meeting had one case: A request from Jakob Spitzer to rezone 2140 Washington Road from C-2 (General Retail) to C-3 (Service Retail). This would allow Mr. Spitzer to move his roll-off dumpster business to the property. There are currently no improvements on the 9+ acre parcel after a house was demolished in 2004. The PZC unanimously recommended approval with the following conditions: 1) Double the points for landscaping where a new facility would go (existing healthy trees can count towards that total per the zoning code); 2) Outside storage is to be setback a minimum of 15' from the side property lines; and 3) A 7' privacy fence must be placed around the outside storage. Additionally, staff recommends that the ordinance, if approved, be recorded with the County Recorder to ensure that the conditions run with the land. A first reading ordinance will be scheduled for Monday's Council meeting with a second reading to be scheduled for the November 6 meeting.
- Work has started on putting together the 2024 223 farm lease bid packet after receiving consensus to move ahead with that at Monday's COW meeting. It will tentatively be scheduled for approval on either November 20 or December 4.
- Staff has met with a prospective buyer of the remaining land on Newcastle next the Moehle assisted living facility to potentially construct a multi-family residential development. The property is zoned R-2 and it would be a good fit there.
- Our staff and inspectors continue to be in touch with an area business owner about adding a new location to an undeveloped property on Constitution.
- Our staff continues to have semi-regular contact regarding the possible development of the area around McClugage/Constitution and the properties to the west of Cherry Tree.
- I attended one of the two days of the IL Enterprise Zone Association conference.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief McCoy/Deputy Chief Stevens

- For awareness purposes we note the speeding citation issued with the greatest difference between the posted limit and the cited speed during this reporting period: *70 MPH on Washington at Wagner* (40 MPH zone). WPD routinely searches out, finds, and cites irresponsible drivers. Roadway design plays an outsize role in driver behavior, which is why you frequently see high speeds on roadways designed for maximum throughput (like this 2100 block of Washington Road).
- Patrol officers are rotating traffic coverage near schools to provide ongoing motorist reminders.
- The Chief and Deputy Chief met with Washington Square Merchants to plan 2024 events and field a request for closure of the north side of the Square for the Candlelight Stroll.
- The City's first meeting with the federal mediator for the patrol officers' contract was Thursday afternoon. This is an information gathering meeting, not a meditation session.
- Finalized the authorized contract with Flock Security for ALPR services. That ALPR trial period is expected to start within 90 days, assuming the IDOT permit process is timely.
- WPD Detectives are working three new, unrelated sexual assault cases since our last report.
- We are scheduling our annual officer psychological screenings. As required by law, counseling sessions and screenings remain confidential. The intent for these screening measures is to better allow us to understand the health of both new and experienced officers as they move through their careers and help identify trends and concerns. These screenings will also allow specific officer concerns to be identified and addressed by third-party medical providers who can preserve the highest degree of confidentiality and assist officers to better serve their communities.

PUBLIC WORKS – Brian Rittenhouse

- Fall brush pick up will begin the week of October 16th. This has been advertised on the City website and Facebook. Depending on the quantity of brush, staff will determine if burning this fall is necessary. The City has been issued a burn permit that lasts until September 2024.
- The Street Department is checking plow routes for low hanging branches. These branches will be trimmed to protect the lights and antennas on the plow trucks when plowing this winter.
- CIPP lining projects include sewers between BR 24 to East Adams from North High to Harvey, sewers on Madison and Lincoln Street, and a segment on Catherine Street East of Spruce Street. This originally was going to take place in October but has been pushed back until the end of November due to scheduling issues.
- The Distribution and Collections Department is working on cleaning out culverts under North Cummings. The culvert runs into a drainage ditch which the City currently has an easement for. I assume this has not been on the radar of Public Works for years but moving forward we will add this to our yearly stormwater inspections. Staff will also look to identify and add similar culverts and drainage easements to our stormwater inspections that are not currently on the list.
- The wastewater treatment plant generator installation project continues. The generator pad had to be moved over, so it would not sit over a sewer pipe. Staff helped with this move to keep costs down. There will be a change order for extra concrete and rebar that I will bring to council for approval, but shouldn't be much.
- Lonewolf is preparing the parking lot at the Legion Road Building for concrete. They are planning to pour the concrete next week.
- We have received a quote to repair the damage done to the Public Works/Evidence Building. We also asked for a quote for recommended repairs to the rest of the building.