



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Washington Fire Department Training Room - 200 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

Call to Order Mayor Gary W. 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, Smith, Stevens
Absent: Alderperson McIntyre

Also Present City Administrator Snider, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Keith Braskich and Press

Pledge of Allegiance All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Manier.

Audience Comments None were presented.

Agenda Nothing added or deleted at this time.
Deletions/Additions

Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:

- A. Approve Minutes of the June 17, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Annual ESRI Payment Authorization
- C. Accept Financial Reports for Periods Ended March 31, 2024 and April 30, 2024 (Unaudited)
- D. Approval of Core & Main Sales Tax Sharing Agreement - Payment #2

Alderperson Brownfield motioned to accept the Consent Agenda; Alderperson Smith seconded. Regarding the grocery tax, Finance Director Baxter clarified that it is part of the municipal tax that is not separated out and it is shown in the financial report which shows revenue tracking. She explained that they looked at similar municipalities to develop our estimate. Alderperson Stevens noted which sales tax is collected by the state verses local, home rule. Finance Director Baxter explained that the state charges and administration fee which is shown in the report along with other charges. The origins of the telecommunications tax and motor fuel tax were also discussed.

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

Mayoral Communications: Mayor Manier presented the following annual appointments: Administrator Jim Snider as Budget Officer and Clerk Valeri Brod as City Collector. Mayor Manier shared that it is tough to get anyone to serve on committees due to training time and Economic Interest forms.

Annual Appointments of Budget Officer and City Collector Alderperson Stevens motioned to approve; Alderperson Smith seconded.

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

Appointment to Police Pension Board Mayor Manier presented the appointment of Doug Brod to the Police Pension Board. Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderperson Martin seconded.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**City Administrator
Communications**

Public Works Director Rittenhouse explained that they are putting together bid packets and would like Council's input regarding the color scheme for the repainting of the water tower. He asked if Council would prefer to repaint it as it is or use the two-tone, similar to Water Tower #1 that was recently repainted. Alderperson Stevens asked for time to allow public to vote. Alderpersons Adams and Brownfield would like to keep it consistent with Water Tower #1 because it helps hide mildew. Alderpersons Butler, Smith and Blundy agreed.

City Engineer Carr shared that he received a draft report regarding the lagoon study and discussed it with Strand. He explained that when they looked upstream, it expanded the model and revealed issues upstream. They are trying to evaluate the issues before he brings it to Council in August.

City Engineer Carr shared explained that Freedom Parkway has asphalt down and they are starting to set poles. The landscapers will likely get pushed off but they hope to have the road open in August. Paving curbs will start tomorrow and they are a little behind schedule but catching up.

Alderperson Blundy feels the fencing around the brewpub project has been a safety concern. He feels it is easy to walk in and wonders if the code should be updated to address it. He further asked if changes will be made to the Dewberry rebidding and Administrator Snider explained that it will be rebid and other properties will be evaluated. He shared that there will be a meeting later this week with the Police Chief and Deputy Chief to discuss the project.

Administrator Snider explained that they are evaluating if changing location will save \$600,00K. He also shared that they looked at the current facility and they feel it is best to have public works use the building and move the evidence building location. Deputy Police Chief Stevens explained that there is nowhere to expand the current building due to railroad tracks, flood plain and the building isn't designed to go up. He also explained that the current radio room is not large enough to fit the evidence.

Deputy Police Chief Stevens explained for Alderperson Blundy that the police department is still in the trial period for the license plate readers which will end 60 days after the last camera is installed. There was an installation issue and catching tracking.

Alderperson Blundy asked if council can receive fire department reports.

Alderperson Stevens shared that regarding electric aggregation, we switched everyone to Ameren in 2022. Administrator Snider noted a spike in rates after Covid that impacted the supply market. She wondered why we didn't switch everyone to Ameren since the rate was higher than Ameren. Administrator Snider explained that the supply rate was competitive, but we don't receive Ameren's transportation rate before calculations are made. Finance Director Baxter further clarified that a variable is the winter rate, market conditions were affected and it is a multi-year program, so it was bid last year not this year. She noted that the base rate did not change; only the capacity rate changed which allowed for the option to opt out.

Administrator Snider also noted that we are part of a group with other municipalities and use a consultant who negotiates. Finance Director Baxter shared that this is not a major source of revenue. It is about \$25,000. Administrator Snider noted the significant savings for residents for several years. He also noted that the general assembly set this law and procedure.

Alderperson Blundy asked about reevaluating next July which then may require residents to opt out at that time. Administrator Snider noted the negotiation is in July and notices are received in May which confused residents. Alderperson Blundy and Administrator Snider noted the updates to the contract begin in March with recommendations in April or May. It was noted that the city receives an administrative fee set by state statute and this was all set about 10 years ago.

Deputy Police Chief Stevens shared that the police department received the speed counters that Council accepted and they have been used. He will talk to Brandon with streets to locate secure locations.

Deputy Police Chief Stevens shared information regarding the recent "Oil Bandits" incident. He explained that thieves stole used fry oil from several restaurants who usually sell it for revenue. The thieves that were arrested were not from Washington and claimed they were taking wastewater. He shared that the oil is valuable and recycled into biodiesel.

Grant/North Safe Routes to School Engineering Agreement Supplement City Engineer Carr explained that since we were award the funds for the remainder of the sidewalk on Grant Street, we need funding for Phase Two of the engineering. Phase One was covered under the Safe Routes to School program and this will allow the city to extend the sidewalk from Phase One.

Alderson Adams motioned to approve; Alderson Brownfield seconded.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Bid Award - Eagle Avenue Sidewalk City Engineer Carr explained that they received two bids at the bid opening and CMG Concrete, who has done our sidewalk program previously, was the lowest bidder. He also noted that this will extend the sidewalk from Central School to BUS 24.

Alderson Stevens motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

City Engineer Carr hopes the sidewalk will be done before the start of school.

Second Reading Ord: City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance:

3536 (17-24):

Authorize Sale of Used

International 7400

Truck, Designated as

Surplus Property

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance will authorize the sale of one used International 7400 Truck, commonly known as LIN #1 designated as "surplus property".

Title: Authorizing the Sale of One Used International 7400 Truck, Commonly Known as LIN #1 Designated as Surplus Property

Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Comments Alderson Martin asked to discuss bringing items forward in the future. He wonders how much time staff needs to prepare for discussions. He wondered if it is preferred to give the City Administrator a heads up about topics. He would also like to discuss the big development projects and the potential business that could help generate tax revenue. He wonders if the city reaches a certain goal, if it can reduce taxes.

Mayor Manier feels discussion items should be added during Aldersons Comments.

Alderson Butler noted discussion items can be added under Item VI on the agenda, for that meeting.

Regarding the reduction of taxes, Mayor Manier noted that the city would have to partner with the schools and other taxing bodies because we are the smallest taxing body. Alderson Blundy shared that our tax rate is 9% and we have a higher rate than Morton. He supports Alderson Martin's request. Alderson Blundy requested to receive the cost of public works and police overtime for the Autumn Fest. Administrator Snider will provide the information to Council.

Alderson Blundy feels there was an agreed upon meeting with the Five Points Board and asked for the status of that meeting, specifically for the discussion of room usage. He recalled an agreement to meet with their board once a year. Alderson Brownfield did not agree with Alderson Blundy's recollection, noting an agreement to provide a yearly update. He shared that the meeting space usage is being discussed and we will not be charged for the room.

Alderson Blundy noted that Council received an email from The Peak, and he doesn't understand why a business must wait for a gaming license.

Alderson Blundy motioned to discuss waiving the one-year waiting period for video gaming licenses; Alderson Stevens seconded.

4 Ayes: Blundy, Martin, Smith, Stevens

3 Nays: Adams, Brownfield, Butler

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Stevens asked for a list of current gaming licenses. She is disappointed that Council is not discussing painting of the water tower because she thinks it would be a fun community event.

Adjournment At 7:17 p.m. Alderperson Smith moved to adjourn; Alderperson Brownfield seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

DRAFT