

**CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020
BANQUET ROOM D – FIVE POINTS WASHINGTON
6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, July 6, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m. in Banquet Room D at Five Points Washington.
Roll Call	Present and answering roll call were Aldermen, Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, and Yoder. Also present were City Administrator Forsythe, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, P & D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Police Chief Mike McCoy, Deputy Chief of Police Jeff Stevens, City Attorney Derek Schryer, City Treasurer Ellen Dingledine, and City Clerk Pat Brown.
Pledge of Allegiance	All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge was led by Patrick Hatton, Boy Scout Troop 206.
Agenda Review	The Agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.
Approve Consent Agenda	Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Black seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Items included on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the June 15, 2020 regular City Council meeting and June 15, 2020 Public Hearing meeting; payment authorization: MFT 19-00127-00-PV pay request #1, United Contractors Midwest, Inc.; payment authorization: pay request #2, N. Lawndale Avenue reconstruction project, Stark Excavating, Inc.; and payment authorization: pay request #1, Stratford Drive bridge project, N.E. Finch Co. On roll call on the motion to approve the vote was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Audience Comments	Jewel Ward, 711 W. Jefferson Street, expressed the following: her thanks to Council members for passing the ordinance in October of 2019 allowing for poultry to be raised as a special use on residential property; for allowing the special uses that are currently in process to move forward through the moratorium; by applying for and paying fees entered into a contract with the City; request was reviewed and recommended for approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission; there seems to be an appearance that although all the conditions of the special use are being met, there is a lack of consistency on which properties are and are not being allowed to have chickens; and asked Council to fulfill the obligation relating to the adopted ordinance and approve their special use as requested. Annette Minasian, 1001 Wellington Drive, expressed the following: her thanks to Council and Planning & Zoning Commission members for their time and research last October in passing the ordinance that allows for residents to apply for a special use permit to raise poultry on a residential property; she started the project to raise hens as a way to connect with her students; spent time researching which hens would be the best and gentlest to raise; by applying for and paying fees entered into a contract with the City; request was reviewed and recommended for approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission; have met all the conditions of the special use requirements; fully expect that Council would agree with the findings of the Planning & Zoning Commission; concern that if requests are denied on a basis that is not within the ordinance, it becomes a subjective vote that is not based on the requirements of the ordinance; concerns with decisions being based on a neighbor complaint when there are also many neighbors showing their support; and the importance of the majority of the Council working together within the current parameters of the ordinance. City Clerk Brown read aloud 8 comments regarding raising residential poultry at 1001 Wellington Drive. They are attached and made part of these minutes.
Swearing In: Police Officer Nate Thompson	Police Chief McCoy swore in Police Officer Nate Thompson. He noted that Officer Thompson was hired as a certified lateral transfer from another police department and his experience will provide a great benefit for the City and Police Department.
Announcements	Mayor Manier announced that The Walldogs will be in the community this coming Thursday through Sunday to paint the mural on the side of Brunk’s Sporting Goods as part of the City’s Bicentennial celebration and invited everyone to stop by if they get the chance to view the process.
Finance & Personnel Committee	Alderman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, reported two items on the agenda for consideration (Ordinance D & E).
Public Safety Committee	Alderman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, reported no items on the agenda for consideration. Police Chief McCoy asked that consideration be given to waive the 2 nd reading of Ordinance D regarding the Sergeants benefits, noting that it has been through and discussed at three committee meetings.
Public Works Committee, N. Lawndale Ave. Construction Staking	Alderman Brownfield, brought forward for consideration the N. Lawndale Avenue construction staking for consideration. City Engineer Carr provided a brief summary and requested Council authorization for the construction staking to be completed by Mohr & Kerr Engineering & Land Surveying in an amount not-to-exceed \$25,834.

Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to authorize the request as presented. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>	N. Lawndale Ave. Construction Staking Cont.)
Alderman Brownfield, brought forward for consideration the North Street culvert replacement engineering approval for consideration. City Engineer Carr provided a brief summary and requested Council authorization to enter into a Phase I/II Engineering Services Agreement with Hutchison Engineering, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$41,350. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to authorize the request as presented. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>	Public Works Committee, North St. Culvert Replacement Engineering
Alderman Brownfield, brought forward for consideration the right-of-way acquisition professional services approval for consideration. City Engineer Carr provided a brief summary and requested Council authorization to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Hanson Professional Services, Inc. in an amount of \$43,000 to complete land acquisition services for the Safe Routes to School project (Bobolink Drive) and the Centennial Recreation Trail project. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Black seconded to authorize the request as presented. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>	Public Works Committee, ROW Acquisition Professional Services
Alderman Brownfield, brought forward for consideration the Centennial Recreation Trail: Phase 2 ITEP Engineering approval for consideration. City Engineer Carr provided a brief summary and requested Council authorization to enter into a Design Engineering Services Agreement with Maurer-Stutz, Inc. in an amount of \$47,725. Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Black seconded to authorize the request as presented. Alderman Stevens expressed concern with the maintenance responsibility of the recreation trail system stating she is not in favor of this. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Yoder <u>Nays: 1</u> Stevens <u>Motion declared carried.</u>	Public Works Committee, Centennial Recreation Trail: Phase 2 ITEP Engineering
Public Works Director Schone provided updates on the Street Department building roof replacement, Water Tower #1 painting, CIPP (Cast In Place Piping) projects, and N. Lawndale Avenue reconstruction watering needs. He shared that the recreation trail between W. Jefferson Street and Monroe Street was recently cleaned of accumulated garbage by a local Girl Scout troop and thanked them for their volunteerism. City Engineer Carr provided updates on the Stratford Bridge project, and N. Lawndale Avenue and W. Holland reconstruction projects. P & D Director Oliphant shared the following: IDOT made an announcement last week on the Statewide Planning & Research Funds and we were fortunate to be a recipient of part of the funds. He shared it will cover 80% of the \$200K funding for the Comprehensive and Economic Development Plans which are part of the Council goals; and continuing to work with developer on the redevelopment of property along the south side of Business 24 with a tentative annexation and rezoning to be considered in September.	Public Works Other Comments
Mayor Manier requested Council approval of the appointment of Valeri Brod to fill the unexpired term vacancy as City Clerk. Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Butler seconded to concur with the appointment as presented. Alderman Stevens expressed her disappointment in the process of filling this vacancy. Following discussion on the appointment process, on roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Yoder <u>Nays: 2</u> Black, Stevens <u>Motion declared carried.</u>	Appointment: City Clerk, Valeri Brod
Mayor Manier presented a plaque to retiring City Clerk Pat Brown in recognition of her years of service to the community.	
City Administrator Forsythe provided a brief background history on the recent Chapter 31 proposed amendment that would have included the Council’s Rules of Procedure with the City’s Code of Ordinances. He brought forward for discussion amendments to the Rules of Procedure that would allow for remote attendance at meetings that he and City Attorney Schryer developed. Several concerns were discussed and the following modifications were noted to be made in the proposed amendment: not requiring a physical form to be signed and not requiring roll call vote to be taken to allow remote attendance. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Black seconded to bring this item forward to a Special City Council meeting prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 13, 2020 for consideration. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Black, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> Brownfield <u>Motion declared carried.</u>	City Administrator – Resolution Discussion Remote Attendance
City Administrator Forsythe read a resolution, by title only and brief synopsis, approving a Joint Funding Agreement with IL Department of Transportation. Adoption of this resolution would appropriate local funds to cover the amount exceeding the Federal/State match for	Adopt resl, approving Joint Funding Agreement

Adopt resl, approving Joint Funding Agreement, Cont.)	construction regarding Safe Routes to School. City Engineer Carr shared that this appropriates local funds for the N. Main Street Safe Routes to School project. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to adopt the resolution as read. Alderman Stevens indicated that this stretch of the trail abuts Sunnydale Estates and the Homeowner’s Association will take care of this section of the trail. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
1 st reading ords, Special Use to allow poultry, 209 North St.; Special Use to allow poultry, 711 W. Jefferson St.; Special Use to allow poultry, 1001 Wellington Dr.; amending Personnel Manual regarding Sergeants pay plan; and authrz TIF redevelopment agreement, 101 Zinser Pl.	City Administrator Forsythe provided first reading of the following ordinances, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance granting a Special Use to allow for poultry to be housed at 209 North Street. Adoption of this ordinance would allow for poultry to be housed at 209 North Street.; an ordinance granting a Special Use to allow for poultry to be housed at 711 W. Jefferson Street. Adoption of this ordinance would allow for poultry to be housed at 711 W. Jefferson Street; an ordinance granting a Special Use to allow for poultry to be housed at 1001 Wellington Drive. Adoption of this ordinance would allow for poultry to be housed at 1001 Wellington Drive; an ordinance amending the Personnel Manual of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois regarding the Pay Plan. Adoption of this ordinance would amend certain provisions of the City of Washington Personnel Manual pertaining to Sergeant Benefits. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Black seconded to waive 2 nd reading of this ordinance. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 4</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine <u>Nays: 4</u> Black, Cobb, Stevens, Yoder <u>Motion did not carry (must be unanimous to waive 2nd reading);</u> and an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an Agreement for private development with the Washington Historical Society for the redevelopment of a portion of the Downtown Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area. Adoption of this ordinance would approve a TIF redevelopment agreement with the Washington Historical Society for the redevelopment of 101 Zinser Place. These items will be listed on the next meeting agenda for actions.
Aldermen’s Comments	Alderman Brownfield expressed his thanks to City Clerk Brown for her years of service. Alderman Black congratulated City Clerk Brown on her retirement and indicated his no vote this evening on the City Clerk appointment was on how the process was conducted and congratulated Valeri Brod on her appointment. He asked on the status of the lighting issue with Washington Plaza and Public Works Director Schone provided an update indicating he will also be reaching out to Ameren. He shared that meeting packets were made available during the remote web meetings and asked what the process would be going forward to continue receiving them. City Administrator Forsythe went over the challenges of preparing the paper packets noting that Clerk Brown volunteered to come in on Saturday morning to prepare them during the remote meetings to make it easier for those that were using their iPads to connect to the remote meetings. He indicated they will look at this and come back with recommendations. Mayor Manier shared comments relating to the City Clerk appointment noting that the appointment process followed the state statute law and expressed his disappointment in the comments that the appointment process was undermined.
Executive Session	At 7:48 p.m. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Black seconded to move into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body per 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Black, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Adjournment	At 8:40 p.m. Alderman Black moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to adjourn. <u>Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.</u>

Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk

Patricia Brown

From: Kevin Lundquist <lunks02@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Patricia Brown
Subject: Chickens

Good Afternoon,

I am contacting you today in regards to Pat and Annette Minasian's chickens. We have known the Minasian family for many years now and spend a great deal of time at their home. They have always taken great pride and care of their property inside and outside. When my family, which includes my husband and 4 daughters, visit we spend just as much time inside their home as we have out in their backyard where the chickens reside. While there we have never smelled any foul odors coming from anywhere in their backyard including their chicken coop. Besides visually seeing them you hardly know they are there as they don't make much noise. To be honest dogs barking make much more noise than the chickens. In the many years we have known them they have always taken great care of their pets and the chickens are no exception. The coop is kept cleaned and picked up just as their backyard is with their 2 dogs. I would also like to add that I have asthma as well as my oldest daughter and we have never experienced respiratory issues do to being around the chickens. My younger girls have also loved learning about the chickens as well as safe handling/hygiene practices. It has been an added educational bonus as my children have not been able to be in the classroom the last 2+ months of school. As my daughters have, I'm sure Annette's STEAM students have also benefited from her educational videos with her chickens. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your consideration passing the Minasian chicken permit based on the facts and them following the ordinance and not basing your vote on a disgruntled neighbor who has been using intimidation and bullying towards not only the Minasian family but their surrounding neighbors. I urge the city council to not be allowed to be bullied by said neighbor as well.

Angie Lundquist

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7/4/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

>
> These are concerns I have with raising backyard chickens. I feel that all views must be considered. I do not feel that out neighborhood yards are large enough for properly and responsibly raising chickens. These are my views and opinions and mine only.
>
> Respectfully,
>> Dave Quinn
> 1009 Wellington
> 309,648,3386

7/4/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

Re: Chickens in our neighborhood

From: Dave Quinn <daveq63@gmail.com>
To: David Quinn <daveq63@icloud.com>
Cc: Bob Abel <Bmarchbc@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 2, 2020 8:13 pm

Dave Quinn
Email
1009 Wellington
Dave

Dave Quinn

> On Jul 2, 2020, at 8:12 PM, David Quinn <daveq63@icloud.com> wrote:
>
> I sent it by mistake before I was finished. This copy should be the finished one.
>
> Dave Quinn
>
>
>> To whom it may concern:
>>
>> I do not wish to offend anyone with my opinion but I respectfully have a few concerns with raising chickens in our neighborhood. They are listed below.
>>
>> 1. Working outside recently in the heat I have sometimes noticed a little of an odor.
>> I assume it may be the chickens or their cage. While chickens only produce 1-2 ounces of waste a day, the cage must be cleaned daily to reduce smell and the chance of disease, lice, etc.
>>
>> 2. As I walk the dogs around the block for the past years I have noticed coyotes, sometimes in a pack of 3-4, roaming the area. I have called the police and they have said they have had other reports of coyotes. I have found rabbits mutilated around our yard and I have seen some in the neighborhood in other yards and the rabbits were torn to shreds. I am afraid that predators may be attracted to any confined animal with unpleasant results. My son brings his 5-6 pound dog over when he visits and we occasionally "babysit" him. A neighbor recently came over to tell me they have seen a hawk sitting on the fence watching him on several occasions. As a result we go out in the yard with him day and night to make sure he is safe. Our neighborhood is on the edge of town and I have seen many animals wandering in and out of the area. This is understandable as we take up more of the animals habitat and diminish their food supply. I am concerned that animals sheltered in an outside facility may gain the interest of predators when the predators become hungry. This could be an unwelcome experience for all, especially children. I understand that roaming cats, dogs and wild animals prey on squirrels, birds, etc as much as what they might on chickens. My thought is to be proactive and not let the issue have a chance to become a problem.
>>
>> 3. Our lots are not that large, I'm guessing 80-90 feet by 110-120 feet. If it was a much larger yard, I may have a different opinion. Research I have done says that chickens require more than one acre to be able to roam free during the day then return to roost at night. Are these chickens allowed to roam during the day? If they do roam, does that become a problem with chickens being hit by cars, invading gardens and flowerbeds, etc. Are they being treated humanely?
>>
>> 4. I am also concerned with the animals and possible sickness in a small confined area. On the farm, chickens were "free range" and I feel this allowed for healthier animals. With animals cramped in a confined area, that area must be cleaned consistently. Chickens do carry lice and if handled by young children lice can become an issue. I am concerned with illness that may arise especially with the pandemic we are living with now.

7/4/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

Chicken coop

From: lbaker50 <lbaker50@yahoo.com>
To: bmarchbc <bmarchbc@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 2, 2020 7:27 pm

Lynn and Rick Baker
Email
18 Holborn Court

Richard and Lynne Baker at 18 Holborn Court, Washington, IL, oppose the chicken coop at 1001 Wellington, Washington, IL, because of the smell, decreased property value, and noise of the chickens.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

7/5/2020

AOL Mail - Message View

From: Greg Ogle <oglemotors@live.com>
To: bmarcbcc@aol.com <bmarcbcc@aol.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 4, 2020 3:59 pm

Greg Ogle
14. Holborn Ct
Emma

To whom it may concern,

My name is Greg Ogle, I live at 14 Holborn Ct. Washington, IL.
Recently a few neighbors expressed concerns in regards to the residents at 1001 Wellington Dr. constructing a chicken coop on their premises.
I too have concerns regarding this matter. Namely, the offensive odor, sanitary conditions, the potential for unwanted rodents, decreased property values and the simple fact these chickens are caged 24/7 in 90 degree heat and sub zero weather in the winter months.
Chickens belong in the country, not within the city limits.

Kind regards,
Greg Ogle

July 3rd, 2020

To: Washington Illinois City Council
From: Colleen and Bob Abel
1005 Wellington Drive
Re: Chickens 1001 Wellington Drive

Dear Council Members

We are requesting that Council members vote NO for allowing the raising of poultry at 1001 Wellington Drive. Our feelings and concerns are the same as some Council members have expressed over the past few weeks discussions.

Attached is a photo from our lower level master bedroom showing the current chicken coop at 1001 Wellington, the approximate distance is 37 feet from our residence and on nice evenings we like to have our bedroom window open, but because of the smell and noise of the chickens we are unable to do so.

Another concern is health, a recent CDC report dated June 25th, 2020 stated that one person has died, and 465 people have gotten sick from Salmonella from interacting with backyard pet poultry. Of the 465, 86 have required hospitalization with 31% of those being children.

We have contacted (3) prominent realtors in Washington (WRC, Maloof & Joos) and all have stated that a residence having backyard poultry could be a deal breaker on a potential sale. There are many homes for sale in Washington that have been sitting on the market for months with no activity with some of these being in our neighborhood. Prices have had to be lowered drastically to try and create some activity. I know if Colleen and I were looking for a new home and found that the property next door had chickens we would walk away.

We would like to add that Eureka, Metamora, Creve Coeur and Morton do not allow any raising of poultry within their city limits. East Peoria does allow them but if there are any neighbor complaints or concerns, permission will not be granted.

We have attached emails from (3) neighbors expressing concerns and opposition to the raising of poultry at 1001 Wellington. We request that these be read along with our letter.

Respectfully

Colleen and Bob Abel
1005 Wellington Drive
Washington Illinois

June 30, 2020

To whom it may concern,

My name is Susan Moloney, of 920 Wellington Dr., and I am writing in regards to the hearing for a chicken permit as it pertains to my neighbors, the Minasian family.

I write in support of their permit application as I have lived across the street from them for over six years and in that time I have known them to be conscientious citizens on several levels – their yard, their pets, their vehicles, and above all, their interactions as friendly, caring neighbors who keep an eye out for others. I would not know that they own several chickens had I not heard from friends – I cannot smell them, hear them, nor see any unkempt materials from or for them. Frankly, I find other neighbors' dogs more disruptive than these chickens. Dogs that bark at inconvenient times, knock around metal food bowls, leave waste in my yard, and at times challenge my safety. In spite of these concerns for my neighbors' dogs, I would never ask that the city disallow these family pets nor fine them. These chickens, which provide many positives, and few to minimal drawbacks should also be allowed - on this Wellington Dr. property. I am confident that the Minasian family, as invested and responsible citizens, will maintain their chickens and I am confident that should these chickens begin to cause unforeseen issues, they would continue their conscientious ways and do what is best for all.

Please consider permitting these chickens.

Sincerely,

Susan Moloney

Washington resident, local school teacher, mother of four Washington panthers, and pet owner.

Patricia Brown

From: Kathy Capizzi-Shookman <mommy62158@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Patricia Brown
Subject: Washington City Council Meeting - July 6, 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

We understand that a Washington City Council Meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at Five Points Washington. One of the topics of discussion will be a request made by our neighbors, the Minasians, to raise hens on their property. Due to the pandemic, we are unable to attend the meeting, but do request that the following letter be read at the aforementioned meeting:

We live at 923 Wellington Drive, and have been next door neighbors of the Minasian family since 2013. Over the last seven years, we have found the Minasians to be kind, friendly, and respectful neighbors.

It was during a conversation with Annette Minasian on June 15, 2020 that we became aware of the fact that their family had hens in their backyard. We frequently leave our windows open and spend a lot of time in our backyard. Despite these facts, we had not heard their hens at all! Neither sounds nor odor of hens emanated from their yard.

It is our understanding that the Washington City Council passed an ordinance in October, 2019, allowing chickens in the city's residential areas as long as several conditions are met. Based on the fact that Pat and Annette Minasian have followed all of the regulations outlined in your ordinance, we believe that it is only fair and just that they be permitted to keep their hens.

The burden of proof of any wrongdoing should be the sole responsibility of any complainant, regardless of who the complainant is. We can assure you, however, that any complaint with regard to the Minasian's hens is completely unfounded!

Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss this issue, please contact us at (309) 251-3443 or mommy62158@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Dennis Shookman

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Patricia Brown

From: Rosecrans, Kelly <kkrosec@ilstu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:08 AM
To: Patricia Brown
Subject: Minasian Letter of Recommendation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of Pat and Annette Minasian. We have lived across the street from them (924 Wellington) for almost 2 years now. During that time, they have never been anything but great neighbors for us. I have never noticed anything on their property to be anything but pristine (usually far better groomed than ours!). Since our shelter in place began, I have been working from home with our three small children. During this time, we spend nearly all of our time outside(whenever possible). Most of this time is spent walking the neighborhood and hanging out in the driveway while the kids play. Until we received the notice in the mail from the city, we didn't even know that there were chickens living across the street as well 😊. There has never been any indication via noise, odors, or excessive/strange garbage from their property. When I asked Annette about the notice/chickens, she was very quick to offer us a tour of the set-up as well as answer any questions we had. From our side of the street, everything has appeared to be consistent on their property from the time we have moved in. I hope that this letter isn't too late, as we do not have any objections (and actually are excited) about the chickens and the learning that will come from them! Thank you for your time, do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any further questions.

Kelly Rosecrans MSN, RN-CEN
Instructional Assistant Professor
Mennonite College of Nursing
222-A Edwards Hall
Normal, IL 61790-5810
Office Phone 309-438-2467
Cell Phone 309-657-2522

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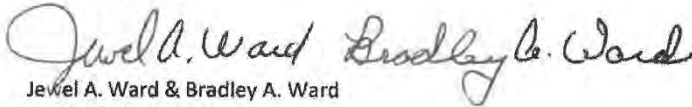
Washington City Council Meeting 7/6/2020 -

I would like to commend the city administration for taking the time to craft an excellent ordinance with special usage permit to allow raising five hens within city limits, and City Council passing the ordinance October 2019. The ordinance clearly defines what homeowners must do to fulfill expectations and compliance, so that hens can be allowed on property legally. Thank you.

We understand that the City Council has placed a moratorium on new special use permits. Thank you for allowing the applications to proceed for homeowners who are currently in the approval process and have paid the \$100.00 permit fee. We effectively entered into a contract with the City of Washington with our application. We want to assure the City Council that we will be in 100 percent in compliance with the ordinance as written. Our application and documentation was reviewed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission to present to you the City Council this evening.

Currently it seems that City Council members are picking and choosing which homeowners are allowed to have chickens, but the requirements are really clearly defined in the ordinance. We are not asking for a variance. We will comply with the ordinance as written. Since we are in 100 percent compliance, we are asking you to fulfill your contractual obligations as defined in the ordinance that you have previously adopted, and approved the special use permit and allow five hens within city limits as we requested.

Thank you,

Handwritten signatures of Jewel A. Ward and Bradley A. Ward in cursive script.

Jewel A. Ward & Bradley A. Ward
711 W. Jefferson Street
Washington, IL 61571