

**CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020  
BANQUET ROOM – FIVE POINTS WASHINGTON  
6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m. in Banquet Room D at Five Points Washington.
Roll Call	<p>Present and answering roll call were Aldermen, Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, and Stevens. Absent was Alderman Yoder.</p> <p>Also present were City Administrator Forsythe, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, P &amp; D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Police Chief Mike McCoy, Deputy, City Attorney Derek Schryer, City Treasurer Ellen Dingledine, and City Clerk Valeri Brod.</p>
Pledge of Allegiance	All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Review	The Agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.
Approve Consent Agenda	<p>Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Items included on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the July 6, 2020 regular City Council meeting and July 13, 2020 Special City Council meeting; Bills and Payroll details, NPDES and Stormwater Permit Fees, TIF Pay Request #1 – Alexander Financial Services and Additional Asphalt Purchase Authorization.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>
Audience Comments	<p>Dominic Lang and Allison Pauley with the Washington St. Jude Run shared that the Washington Run raised \$355,000 raised. It was their 13<sup>th</sup> year. They reported that they were one of only a few runs that increased their pledge from last year. They are thankful that the community supports this cause. Dominic shared that they had a record number of 170 runners and although they lost a few sponsors, new sponsors stepped up. Mayor asked Chief McCoy to share the final total. Chief McCoy stated that Washington raised the second highest total and their management style was very safe and professional. He then shared that the grand total for all combined runs was \$4,631,751.00</p> <p>City Clerk Brod read aloud 4 comments regarding raising residential poultry at various properties in Washington. She clarified that only parts of each letter that pertain to the poultry permit process will be read. The letters are attached in their entirety and made part of these minutes.</p> <p>A resident who resides at 209 North Street, addressed the audience. He stated that he had seven letters supporting his poultry permit. He feels that he is fighting to keep a promise to his daughter to raise chickens. They have had no complaints with their concerning permit.</p>
Announcements	Mayor Manier shared no announcements
Finance & Personnel Committee	Alderman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, introduced the 2 items; the TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Washington Historical Society at 101 Zinser Place and the TIF Funding Request for Brunk's Sports Center at 122 N. Main Street. Alderman Cobb stated that both items have been discussed through the committee and they support them.
Public Safety Committee	Alderman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, reported that there were no items to report tonight because Amending the Personnel Manual Regarding the Pay Plan was addressed in the Committee of the Whole meeting. There were no reports from chief at this time.
Public Works Committee- Lakeshore Drive Phase 1 Engineering Proposal	<p>Alderman Brownfield, brought forward for consideration the Lakeshore Drive Phase 1 Engineering Proposal. City Engineer, Dennis Carr shared that they previously presented to IDOT, who did not initially give them the approval for the roundabout as presented. He shared the project can move forward without the roundabout. Staff recommends that the Council approves the proposal for Phase 1 Engineering for Lakeshore Drive to take place at the same time as the Phase 1 Engineering for Freedom Parkway.</p> <p>Alderman Dingleline shared that he hadn't heard of the mentioned roundabout and is opposed to the concept of a roundabout in that area. Planning and Development Director, Jon Oliphant clarified that the roundabout was included in the proposal to gain more points, but it is not necessary to include in the final project. Alderman Dingleline feels that a roundabout would be bad for truck traffic. Stevens agrees that she also had not heard of the roundabout and agrees it would be a bad idea with truck traffic. Alderman Brownfield requested more research and exploration with a roundabout. Jon Oliphant clarified that including the roundabout in the proposal doesn't obligate us to construct it. The concept of the roundabout establishes where the intersection would be but the final concept could be a standard intersection. He stated that just considering the roundabout increases our chances to receive funding approval. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve as presented.</p> <p>On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 6</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u></p>

Public Works  
Committee-  
Freedom Parkway  
Additional Engineering  
Cost

City Engineer Dennis Carr shared that they are considering having a specific meeting about the Lakeshore Drive project allowing the public to give input. They want to discuss where the bike path would terminate, at the intersection of McCluggage or at Route 8 intersection. The proposal is for finishing the bike path design and holding a public meeting. Alderman Dingledine asked for clarification about why the bike path is part of the IDOT plan? Dennis Carr explained that the proposal had to include transit, pedestrians, motor vehicles, and bikes in order to be considered for federal funding and the bike path can be used as a sidewalk as well. Alderman Stevens asked if the bike path can stay the way it is at the intersection at McCluggage and Route 8. Dennis Carr affirmed her idea and explained that it would be more expensive to redo the current intersection than put in a new path. A motion was made to approve the additional money needed for the Phase 1 bike path study. Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to approve as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Public Works  
Committee-  
Sanitary Sewer Lining,  
St. Marks

Alderman Brownfield introduced the sanitary pipe cleaning and lining needed under the St. Mark’s parking lot. Public Works Director, Kevin Schone shared that during the investigation of the West Holland project they found an 18 inch by 180 feet long pipe that needs cleaning and lining. He shared that they installed an access manhole at this time as well. Kevin Schone shared that there was no way to know this issue before the Holland project investigation. Alderman Dingledine asked if this facilitates the west Holland sanitary bed. Kevin stated this will make that project a little easier. A motion was introduced to approve the budget needed to clean and fix the pipe. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to approve as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Change Order #1 Water  
Tower #1 Painting,  
Ladder Installation  
Consideration

Alderman Brownfield introduced the need for a ladder to be installed in the interior of the water tower. Public Works Director Kevin Schone explained that the project has been started. He shared that Seven Brothers Painting of Michigan noticed there was not an interior access ladder needed for safe entry and exit. Kevin stated that they were not aware of this issue until they opened the tower to begin painting. They have identified funds in other under budget areas within this project to cover this expense. He stated that the ladder is not necessary to access the tank but would be recommended due to safety issues. Alderman Dingledine asked for a progress report. Kevin shared that sandblasting had started. They predicted this would take 1 month. Kevin stated that the water supply is fine right now but water has to be wasted (released) to keep the pumps running and the pressure up. Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Butler seconded to approve as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Kevin Shone provided updates that Royal Court is going to finish soon. He also received a call that a private contractor was working on city property at Sunnydale Estates and they will check to see the condition of the area. He shared that they are putting in a valve on Lawndale. Dennis Carr provided updates that they are working on a storm sewer on Lawndale and they are testing the watermain. He anticipates a few more water shutoffs while they work on tie-ins. Dennis Carr shared that a crane was caught in the historic downpour and damaged a piece of equipment. A new piece of equipment is coming soon. He also shared that Dogwood, Firethorn and Peppertree had some pavement tear-out that will need to be patched. A few bid openings are in the works as well.

Mayor asked to clarify response to historic rainfall received during the week. Alderman Brownfield shared that staff and police were working hard and some staff members were actually working in the rain to address issues.

Appointment: City  
Collector, Valeri Brod

Mayor Manier requested Council approval of the appointment of Valeri Brod to fill the unexpired term vacancy as City Collector. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to concur with the appointment as presented.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Mayor stated that he would like to recognize the Wall Dogs Committee. He feels it is a great addition to the City of Washington

City Administrator – COVID-19 Response Plan Update #3

City Administrator Forsythe provided an update on the COVID-19 response. His review included the following: that as of June 25<sup>th</sup> Illinois has entered stage 4; City Hall made an adjustment to provide audio during this phase and we are trying to improve the quality of our audio with a new borrowed system; we had a conservative approach to revenues going into the COVID-19 shutdown; we did better than we had anticipated; the City saw an increase in Home Rule sales tax; we have received more fuel tax; income tax is down but the state pushed the due date back so that may change; with everything back open we anticipate better numbers. City Administrator Forsythe then reviewed temporary and seasonal help at City Hall. These include an Executive Administrative Assistant, a Human Resource Specialist, and a Laborer. He then reviewed various projects requiring additional funding that if delayed could result in higher costs. Joanie Baxter, Director of Finance, shared that the Finance and Personnel Committee is encouraged to see sales tax numbers up; the fiscal year is closed. Alderman Stevens asked about items on that have been deferred such as the newsletter. She suggested that printed newsletters go out to residents. Ray agreed to review that next month. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to approve as presented. On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Adopt ord, granting special use to allow poultry, 209 North St.;

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, 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. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.

Dingledine stated that he abstains from all future poultry voting. Discussion occurred including opposing views regarding the ordinance. Butler noted the timing of the Council discussions, the relative distance between coops and other residences, that three real estate specialists advised that permitting poultry would affect property values, the council has been divided on this topic, and rodents will come after what feed and chicken waste is left behind. Alderman Butler also stated that while we have an ordinance that everyone is following, it is a bad ordinance. Further discussion continued regarding the pros and cons to the ordinance. Alderman Adams suggested the ordinance be amended to not allow poultry but those who currently have chickens should not be penalized.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 3 Adams, Cobb, Stevens (Dingledine abstained)  
Nays: 2 Brownfield, Butler  
Motion declared carried.

Adopt ord, granting special use to allow poultry, 711 W. Jefferson Street

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: 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. Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 3 Adams, Cobb, Stevens (Dingledine abstained)  
Nays: 2 Brownfield, Butler  
Motion declared carried.

Adopt ord, granting special use to allow poultry, 1001 Wellington Drive

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: 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. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.

Stevens acknowledges that this case has had the most neighbor comments both for and against this permit and that she will support code enforcement’s views. Discussion occurred regarding yearly renewals and lack of flexibility if permits would need to be revoked. Jon Oliphant clarified that code violations could result in a revoked permit, otherwise the permit is renewed yearly.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 3 Adams, Cobb, Stevens (Dingledine abstained)  
Nays: 2 Brownfield, Butler  
Motion declared carried.

Adopt ord, amending Personnel Manual regarding Sergeants pay plan

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: 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 Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.

There was no discussion at this time.

On roll call the vote was:  
Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens  
Nays: 0  
Motion declared carried.

Adopt ord, authorizing  
TIF redevelopment  
agreement, 101 Zinser  
Pl.

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: 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.

Alderman Stevens states that the requested remodeling does not fall under eligible expenses and cannot support it.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 5 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine

Nays: 1 Stevens

Motion declared carried.

Waive 2<sup>nd</sup> reading ord,  
TIF Funding Request,  
Brunk's Sports Center

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinance, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into an agreement for private development with Reynolds & Lucas, LLC, 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 Reynolds & Lucas, LLC, for the redevelopment of 122 N. Main Street. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to second reading of the ordinance.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Adopt ord,  
TIF Funding Request,  
Brunk's Sports Center

Alderman Black moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to adopt the ordinance as read.

Stevens stated this is the right way to use TIF money and this is needed due to safety issues.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 6 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Aldermen's Comments

Alderman Stevens reviews TIF situation. She supports the historical society and is a member. She thinks mural is asset to town. She suggested the idea to improve the brick on Zinser Street.

Adjournment

At 8:40 p.m. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

## Valeri Brod

**From:** Amy Werner <wernerae78@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 10:36 AM  
**To:** Valeri Brod  
**Subject:** Re: Annette/ chickens in town

Correction: Bob is a Sargent by title, but works part time and isn't "their" (the cops who stopped by) Sargent.

This extremely abusive of his "title" to cite said "title" as his right to threaten power over his neighbor. Especially while our country is reeling from movements like black lives matter and defund the police etc. It makes me wonder what his demeanor is when he volunteers his services with our local police force.

On Mon, Jul 20, 2020, 10:22 AM Amy Werner <wernerae78@gmail.com> wrote:

This past couple of weeks have been hard for me. We moved here five years ago because this town seemed like the kind of place where people supported each other, gave grace when needed, and had excellent schools supported by the community. It was just following the terrible Tornado. These things were abundant in everyone we came into contact with. How quickly that changed. I shouldn't have put this town on such a pedestal, that's on me. Turns out it's still all of those things, but there are those seeking power and control, racism, and ugly politics. Mayor Manier, hats off to you for governing so justly. Making progressive changes in support of those in our community whose health and finances are suffering greatly from burning in town. Enforcing science based restrictions due to COVID. Being visible in our community. Willing to listen when people are struggling.

I know the board is divided on the issue of backyard chickens. My knowledge is limited but my sister in law lives in Orlando and has 8-9 at a time. They have a beautiful coop. They take excellent care of them and love the convenience of their eggs. It's not as simple as that. The benefits are great! They consume nearly all their food waste. They are an excellent source of education for their two children. The chickens provide an experience in responsibility for their children and neighboring kids. The chickens have provided security when an unknown animal/ predator approached. The chickens enjoy being held and are entertaining for the children. They fertilize the yard and never venture far from the coop. Like maybe 5-6 feet in my experience. They are quite clean. They eat ants, mosquitoes, and grubs cutting down on the need for environmentally unsafe treatments.

The cons are few. They had to keep them in their shower during a hurricane. One was eaten by a predator and they were heartbroken because they are seen as pets.

Understandable concerns: Roosters are not hens. Hens are quiet. They might cluck when they lay an egg, but I never heard them even sleeping in the back room of the house right next to the coop. Smell would be a reasonable fear, but even filling their water I never thought it stunk. Nothing like pigs or cattle.

~~To address the existing complaints. Please speak with Chief McCoy about the complaints for the residents of 18 Holborn and the family directly behind them. There is a long history of harassment towards myself and their neighbors Jaclyn and Annette. Many of us on Holborn have been very supportive of them on the Life in Devonshire facebook page. I do believe there will be a very large population of Devonshire upset and disgusted by any decisions made to support these two bullies. One~~

~~of which lied about being a Sargent on our police force. After some digging it was discovered he was not. It is unacceptable to enforce anti bullying on the internet, in schools, and places of business, but not in our local government and neighborhoods. It would be very tone deaf with what is happening in the world right now and would paint Washington in a terrible light if it got out into the world. I hope everyone takes the time to consider that while a few might abuse an ordinance allowing chickens in ones backyard...as with anything most will strive to follow it to a T. Why punish everyone for those peoples mistakes. Perhaps we should ban dogs? Look at how many are rescued daily due to neglect and abuse? Policy should never be driven by hate, favoritism, nepatism, or a few people on a power trip. Period.~~

Thank you for your time.

Amy Werner

9 Holborn Ct. Washington Illinois

309-253-0438

---

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Received 7/29/2020

Washington City Council  
301 Walnut Street  
Washington, IL 61571

July 15, 2020

Dear Council Members:

We are submitting this letter to express our support of the Washington Historical Society's request for TIF funding to restore their office (the former Doctor's Office Museum) at 101 Zinser Place. It is our understanding that the downtown TIF fund presently has an ample balance and city staff have recommended a 30% match for this project, for a total dollar amount from the City of \$6,797.10. Tax Increment Financing District legislation in Illinois specifically lists historic preservation as a stated goal of TIF districts, making this an ideal use of TIF funds. The 100+ year old building that the Historical Society proposes to restore is a vital part of our downtown area and the entire Washington community. We anticipate that the restored office will bring people to the downtown as they visit the office to do research or attend events sponsored by the Historical Society. Any re-investment and restoration of the historic buildings on the square benefits our entire business community. We strongly encourage the City to support this project using available TIF funds.

Thank you for your continued support of Washington's small business community.

Sincerely,

*Chris Lippert*  
Brunk's

*Bonnie H. Clark*  
Define the Home

*Larry Cusley*  
JMR Beal & Co

*G. Beasley*  
P. Phillips, Salmi & Assoc

*Joos Cheatham*  
Joos Realty / AAA Storage

*Mary Rodere*  
IPARA State Bank

Sam Becklin  
Becklin's Security

Steve Helms  
Holland's Caramelcorn

Kris Haste  
Sentimental Journey

Mai Dai  
SHEARS

Black, Black, Brown

Alaine Lucas  
Homespun/Holland's Mercantile

Tom + Judy Gross  
128 Washington Sq. Gross Enterprises Blacksmiths

Barth

Jeffrey L Alexander  
Alexander Financial

Essig Law Office

Jim Linsley  
Linsleys Downtown Market

Charlotte Beck  
Goldfinch Boutique

Jenny Palermo  
Le Bakery

Kayla & Bezel  
Charlie + Co. Salon

Lee Saathoff  
Merle Norman

Krista Piper  
Krista Piper

Reg E. Martin  
MARTIN FINANCIAL SERVICES

July 20, 2020

Dear City Council,

I understand you will be voting this evening to either approve or deny the chicken permit for the Minasian's located at 1001 Wellington Dr. As the Minasian's backyard neighbor I have direct and daily experience having the chickens so close to my residence as we have lived in our backyard every day this summer. In addition to this, I have both experienced and witnessed some very concerning behavior from other neighbors who are "vehemently opposed" to the chickens. So, with all of this, I feel more than compelled to write this letter for your consideration.

*I'll start with the chickens.*

The Minasian's have built a very clean and tastefully designed chicken coop – and for all the right reasons – as an educational tool for young minds in our community. It does not look like an eye sore as the aesthetic matches our homes and the location of the coop is hidden under a shade tree. What I am most impressed by; however, is the cleanliness of the coop. Even on very hot, 90+ degree days **we have not smelled or heard the chickens, even in the slightest!** And we relax, swim and play feet within them while in our backyard. I'm also aware the Minasian's have followed every step of the approved city ordinance to a 'T' so I don't understand why the City Council would not approve their permit. If you now want to change the ordinance moving forward then that's one thing, but why not grandfather this one in since you did pass the ordinance last fall, every step was followed AND the Planning and Zoning Committee has recommended you approve their permit. It seems pretty black and white to me.

~~*With that said, this isn't about the chickens!*~~

~~It saddens my heart to say, but we have a couple of neighbors living amongst us who team up on other neighbors when they're not happy about something. This has been happening for years in our neighborhood to multiple neighbors and it NEEDS TO STOP! Their tactics are a form of harassment and abuse of authority and the issues have run the spectrum from garbage cans, to landscaping to children being too loud playing outside – and now, chickens. If you do not approve this permit (which is 100% in line with a city ordinance you passed in the fall), you let neighborhood bullies win. Why do I say this? Because I was told they will "stop at nothing" to make sure the chickens don't stay....and I know they've been "working" other neighbors....and members of our City Council. I'm hopeful though and want to ask you directly to do the right thing here and not let them win. Approve the permit.~~

~~It's time to take a stand! I am because it's time for change – even though I'm a bit fearful of even sending this letter as I know some form of retaliation is a possibility because it's happened in the past. But right is right and wrong is wrong!~~

~~It's that simple. I hope it's that simple for you too.~~

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Fones

22 Holborn Ct.,  
Washington, IL  
309-299-9079

July 20, 2020

Dear City Council members,

Since I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, I am writing to ask you to approve our permit to house our five hens at our 1001 Wellington Drive residence. This ordinance has received quite a bit of attention in the last couple of months as many community members are asking valid questions as to why an ordinance that was just approved would be a cause of such dissension when it comes to approval by the City Council. There are no answers that have been given from the City Council in response to these questions that make sense to Washington residents. The planning and zoning committee has recommended our permit be approved and our family is following the ordinance exactly as it is written.

At this point, I am no longer spending my time or energy trying to persuade you to see the many benefits that backyard chickens bring, but am asking this council to do the right thing and stand by the ordinance that is currently in place, which is why our family, along with two others tonight, made the decision to pursue our chicken hobby in the first place.

As you know, this ordinance was approved last October with a 5-3 vote, and with Mr. Black recently resigning, there are still four of you who voted yes to pass this ordinance. I am asking you four to stand by your decision and uphold your word while we have completed everything you've asked of us in this process. Please keep in mind, there is nothing in the ordinance about lot size, therefore, legally that cannot become a restriction at this time. Anything less than a yes vote would prove this council to be untrustworthy and unreliable towards the community members who believe you are working on our behalf. Please show your community that you stand by the ordinance you approved last October.

Thank you for your time.

Annette Minasian