

CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Meeting – Monday, August 17, 2020

Five Points Washington – Banquet Room

6:30 p.m.

Call to Order	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, August 17, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m. in Banquet Room B and C at Five Points Washington.
Roll Call	Present and answering roll call were Aldermen, Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, and Yoder. Alderman Stevens was in attendance via remote access. Also present were City Administrator Forsythe, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Attorney Derek Schryer, and City Valeri Brod. Attending by remote access (due to COVID-19 restrictions) were Finance Director Joanie Baxter, P & D Director Jon Oliphant, and City Treasurer Ellen Dingledine
Approve Remote Electronic Attendance of Elected Officials	Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded the approval to approve remote attendance of elected officials. No questions or comments were made. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Pledge of Allegiance	All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Review	The Agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.
Approve Consent Agenda	Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to accept the minutes. On roll call on the motion to approve with the noted change vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Announcements	None at this time.
Audience Comments	John Amdall came forward to thank the council for being transparent regarding the discussion of Rules and Procedure. He shared his surprise for the controversy concerning section 6.11 addressing the appropriateness of using the City Attorney for legal opinions. Mr. Amdall stated that some of the current Councilmen ran for their position based upon providing transparency and feels following the guidance of section 6.11 is an excellent way to show that position. Mr. Amdall pointed out that there is only one expert opinion on this subject in the room, and that is our City Attorney. Mr. Amdall stated that the City Attorney has provided his legal opinion on the matter and feels the council should follow this opinion given by the City Attorney. City Clerk Brod stated that no public comments where received by email.
Standing Committee: Finance & Personnel Committee	Alderman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, shared the Revenue Projection Update. He explained that it is covered in detail in the Covid Recovery Plan sent to Council. Alderman Cobb stated that the May report is posted, showing overall sales tax collection is down during the 90-day period, the Home Rule tax collection is up, and the income tax collection is down. Overall projections were conservative and we have done better than previously anticipated. Alderman Cobb also shared details concerning City Hall updates and purchases. Due to staff expansion, the committee feels the office space should be finished and the purchase of equipment to enable the City to improve remote meeting capabilities was necessary. Alderman Cobb explained that most of these expenses will likely be covered under the Cares Act.

Standing Committee:
Public Safety
Committee

Alderman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, reported no business items on the agenda for consideration. He went on to introduced Kevin Byrd who provided a Fire Department update. Mr. Byrd introduced Brett Brown as the new Fire Chief starting in September 1, 2020. He shared that Mr. Brown has a lot of experience, is from the area, he started in Washington and they are excited to have him on board. The Fire Department will hold a formal “meet and greet” once they work out details. Mr. Byrd went on to explain that the Fire Department Contract is up at the end of October 2020. They have been evaluating call volumes and second calls. Mr. Byrd stated that there has been a noted problem with “2nd calls”. He explained this is when an ambulance is on a call, then they get another call. Their call load is increasing with the added response to assisted living and nursing homes to their service area. Mr. Byrd stated they are going to need a second ambulance to operate 24/7. He shared that they are currently relying on mutual aide from East Peoria, Morton and Eureka to cover the gaps. He stated that they understand that this might delay a few other projects but feel it is needed due to the service needed in the community. After a brief discussion, Mr. Byrd shared that they are in good shape with equipment but lack funding for staff. A detailed booklet has been provided for reference.

Alderman Butler introduced Police Chief Mike McCoy to provide an update. Chief McCoy shared that he sent out a Monthly update and invites any questions.

Standing Committee:
Public Works update

Alderman Mike Brownfield, brought forward for consideration the Pay Request for Cambridge Estates Drainage Project. Public Works Director, Kevin Shone shared that on July 27th he had received a call that a manhole was too low and needed a riser. In order to prevent delays, he approved the riser and now asks for approval to pay Miller and Son’s \$24,374.50 for the completion of the work

Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Butler seconded to authorize the request as presented. There were no discussions.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 7 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Director Shone provided an update that Cambridge Project; straw had blown away and will be replaced; the Water Tower painting should be finished by the end of this week and the word placement on the tower will be viewable from the square.

City Engineer Dennis Carr provided updates; the storm sewer was finished on Lawndale, the Stratford, bridge has been fully removed and the storm sewer will be finished tomorrow, the crane is still 2-3 weeks out, the MFT project is waiting for sweeping due to getting pulled off the job, the Holland Street Project is ready for Comcast and Ameren with the hope to finish before winter, Bobolink has 12 of 14 parcels secured, the Brecklin’s planter is started, the Lawndale private-side is waiting on sump pumps and waiting for IDOT.

Alderman Borwnfield comments that we have a lot of projects going on around town and Public Works is very busy. He is proud of the workers and staff.

Mayor:
Appointment to Fill
Remaining Term; Ward
IV Alderman

Mayor Manier shared the recommendation to appoint John Blundy to fill the remaining term as Alderman for Ward IV.

Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to accept the recommendation as presented.

No question or comments at this time.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 7 Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Mayor recognized the Public Works Committee and a great job dealing with the 8 inches of rain, the debris from the high winds and the seal coating crews including the street sweepers. The Mayor shared that City Clerk Brod recognized the efforts of Five Points Washington Staff for helping provide and prepare additional rooms needed for City Council meetings.

City Administrator:	City Administrator, Ray Forsythe began the Covid-19 update while waiting for the remote connection for Finance Director Joanie Baxter. Mr. Forsythe shared the financial report showing the updated sales tax numbers. This detail report is provided with the meeting packet. Mr. Forsythe went on to recommend moving forward on a few projects. Kevin Shone shared two projects to move forward with; a path at Legion Road and Painting the Street Department buildings. Remotely, Mrs. Baxter shared the different revenues and where we stand after the 90-day period. She shared that they stayed conservative in projections during Covid, but we are doing better than anticipated. She stated that she is pleased with sales tax results. A majority of our businesses seemed to come through the shut down. She went on to share that overall we are behind for May thru August collections due to the unemployment circumstances and the filing date extension given by the state. Staff would like to request a few purchases for the new employees with some of those items being reimbursed through the Cares Act. Mr. Forsythe requested an approval of the Covid Update as given. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Adams seconded to authorize the request as presented. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Adopt resl, approving joint funding agreement with IDOT	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 construction regarding Safe Routes to School. Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to adopt the resolution as read. No comments at this time. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Adopt resl, approving the Hilldale Design Engineering Resolution	City Administrator Forsythe read a resolution, by title only and brief synopsis, approving and engineering agreement for the Design of Hilldale using the Rebuild Illinois funds. Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to adopt the resolution as read. No comments at this time. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Adopt resl, temporarily lifting the burn ban and providing brush pick up	City Administrator Forsythe read a resolution, by title only and brief synopsis, temporarily lifting the Burning Ban and providing brush pick up by Public Works. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to adopt the resolution as read. No comments at this time. On roll call the vote was: <u>Ayes: 7</u> Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
1 st reading ords, granting special use to allow James Kellerstrass to hold an auction service and flea market at 300 Muller Rd., amending Zoning Code section 154.056 and 154.072; First Time Home Buyers Program;	City Administrator Forsythe provided first reading of the following ordinances, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance granting a Special Use to allow for James Kellerstrass to permit an auction service and flea market at 300 Muller Road. Adoption of this ordinance would allow for James Kellerstrass to permit an auction service and flea market at 300 Muller Road; an ordinance amending Washington Zoning Code section 154.056 "Permitted Uses" and section 154.072 "Permitted Uses". Adoption of this ordinance would allow amending Washington Zoning Code section 154.056 "Permitted Uses" and section 154.072 "Permitted Uses" for the purpose of adding or deleting text; an ordinance providing the transfer to the town of Normal instead of the City of Aurora for the First Time Homebuyer's Program. Adoption of this ordinance would authorize the use of the annual volume cap for the Assit 2020-First Time

revising the Rules of
Procedure

Homebuyers' Program sponsored by the town of Normal; an ordinance revising the Rules of Procedure. Adoption of this ordinance would revise the Rules to be consistent with the Open Meeting Act, incorporates updates and cross references to the City of Washington Code of Ordinances and updates the Rules to match the current practice related to the Agenda, development of Ordinances, Resolutions. These ordinances will be listed on the next meeting agenda for action.

Aldermen's Comments

None at this time

Adjournment

At 7:29 p.m. Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Valeri Brod, City Clerk

City Council Comments

Monday, August 17, 2020

I am John Amdall and I am here with Sharon.

On tonight's agenda is the first reading for the City Council Rules of Procedures.

We would like to thank the City Council and the Staff for taking the time to update the City Council Rules of Procedures. We think that having accurate, up-to-date Rules of Procedures helps with both the City Council transparency and communication.

Speaking of transparency and communication, we have been surprised by the controversy over Section 6.11 Legal Opinions.

Some of the City Council Members ran on a platform of improved transparency and more open communication. Excellent.

So, we would say to you, "this is your chance to take solid action in support of improved transparency and more open communication."

As Section 6.11 is proposed in the first exhibit, if there is a topic that is so complicated or so controversial that the City Council Members feel that there is a need for a legal opinion, the City Council Member has the opportunity to request a legal opinion, in public, at the City Council Meeting.

We believe that this is totally consistent with a platform of improved transparency and more open communication.

Finally, we would like to point out that the only expert in the room on this topic, Derek Schryer, the City Attorney, has already provided his opinion.

We would be disappointed that any City Council Member would ever consider voting against the legal opinion from the City Attorney.

We thank the City Council in advance for these changes to the City Council Rules of Procedures to make this improvement in transparency and more open communication.

Thank you,

John & Sharon Amdall

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