

CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2020

Remote Web Meeting via ZOOM

6:30 p.m.

Call to Order	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, November 16, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m. in a remote meeting from Washington City Hall.
Roll Call	Present and answering roll call were Aldermen Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder.
Pledge of Allegiance	All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Review	The Agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.
Approve Consent Agenda	Mayor Manier present the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items: Approval of minutes of November 2, 2020 City Council Meeting, Approval of the Revenue Update and Monthly Financial Reports through November 2020, Workers Compensation Renewal, Write-off of Uncollectible Accounts, and Bills & Payroll. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Yoder seconded to accept the Consent Agenda. Alderman Dingledine noted a change needed on the November 2, 2020 minutes clarifying who motioned and seconded the Stratford Change Order agenda item. The change was noted by Clerk Brod. On roll call on the motion to approve was: <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u> <u>Motion declared carried.</u>
Announcements and Proclamations	None at this time.
Audience Comments	City Clerk Brod stated that she received two public comments via email from Mr. and Mrs. Amdall and Mrs. Minton. They were read aloud in order that they were received and attached to the minutes.
Standing Committee-Finance & Personnel Committee	Chairman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee Chairman, shared that the Finance and Personnel Committee will recommend for approval, the Faire Coffee TIF Agreement.
Standing Committee-Public Safety Committee	Chairman Butler, Public Safety Committee Chairman, shared that there are no business items open this meeting. Chairman Butler invited Chief McCoy or Deputy Chief Stevens to add, at which time no items were added
Standing Committee-Public Works Committee	Chairman Mike Brownfield, Public Works Committee invited Public Works Director, Kevin Schone to share details about the F250 4x4 Truck Purchase. Due to audio complications, Chairman Brownfield provided that staff had sought prices through the

State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program however the bid was protested and no known time of resolution was given so bids were sought locally. Staff received bids from Mangold, Uftring and Velde dealerships. This item was budgeted at \$24,000, however, all bids are above budget and trade amounts were less than expected. Chairman Brownfield shared that funds are available to cover the overage and staff recommends moving forward with approval using the lowest bidder of Velde Ford of Pekin \$27,649.

Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Dingledine seconded to approve the bid.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 1 Stevens

Motion declared carried.

Chairman Brownfield brought forth for consideration the Gillman Sump Collection Project. Chairman Brownfield provided this year's budget allows for the installation of a sump collection system in the 100 and 300 blocks of Gillman. These areas experience ice build-up on the road due to sumps that discharge into the street. Staff received bids from three contractors which were all over the estimated budget, however, funds are available to make up the overage. Staff recommends moving forward due to the safety hazard caused by the ice build-up.

Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve the bid.

Alderman Dingledine asked for clarification that the contractor is doing a full restoration of the system. Mr. Schone, experiencing audio issues, nodded in agreement that the full restoration will be provided by the contractor.

Alderman Cobb asked for clarification on which company will be used. Alderman Dingledine noted that G.A. Rich was the lowest bidder. Alderman Cobb asked for clarification on the bid concerning the removal of a concrete driveway, adding to the project costs which will not make G.A. Rich the lowest bidder and that this item did not appear on the other bids. Mr. Schone provided that the fees associated with the removal and replacement of the driveway were removed from the previous bid since total replacement was not necessary. This in turn, made G.A. Rich the lowest bidder.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Chairman Brownfield brought forth for consideration the Bid Award for Holland Private Utility Replacement. He introduced City Engineer, Dennis Carr who shared that staff solicited bids to replace the private side of the utilities including a rear yard sewer that had laterals strung together, crossing each other's property lines. This project will replace the water service lines, sanitary laterals and disconnect foundation tiles and sump pumps hooked to sanitary lines. These homes were assessed \$5,000 tax on the property for the SSA. Three bids were submitted with Stark Excavating as the low bidder at \$402,300. The City budgeted \$180,000 with the remaining to be budgeted next year. Staff is requesting that we move forward with Stark Excavating to complete the project.

Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve the payment.

Alderman Adams shared that this is the second private side project that is over budget. He went on to clarify that there are approximately ten homes on this street, and we are asking them to pay \$5000 each towards a cost of nearly \$40,000 per home. He acknowledged that we need to complete this project but stated that moving forward we need to clearly understand the city costs on this type of project. Mayor shared that prior to the hiring of our current City Engineer, it was “guesstimated” to cost approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 per property. Alderman Adams went on to express his appreciation for the work and improvements that are being done on several City improvement projects.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Mayor:

Mayor Gary Manier brought forth for consideration the installation of the Abraham Lincoln Statue “Return Visit” by Seward Johnson. Mayor Manier shared that the City had received a call inquiring if Washington would be interested in hosting the stature. He explained that Five Points would have been the first choice for location but was eliminated due to pending events to be held at the facility. The Fire Station was the next choice as it is City property and would not require any City funding. The project received private funding for the installation expenses. The statue will overlook the football field, tennis courts and Five Points. It is viewed as an economic tool that promotes families to get out and getting involved in the community.

Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to approve the payment.

Alderman Stevens asked for clarification regarding “the approval for requested installation”. City Administrator, Forsythe shared that the request is to use City property for the location and that the City has no fiscal responsibility. Alderman Stevens shared that she thought it would be discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting and that this was a surprise. Mayor Manier explained that due to uncertain funding, the City was not confident that the project would happen but a call was received at 3:30 on Friday afternoon with confirmation. Alderman Stevens asked for clarification that the removal won’t cost the City any money, Mr. Forsythe confirmed. Alderman Stevens asked for clarification about the time of events during the installation. Mayor Manier and Mr. Forsythe shared that a press release will most likely be given and that the statue will be unloaded and put up in place followed by a possible future ceremony that could be tied a Chamber or Convention and Visitors Bureau event. Alderman Stevens asked for clarification on the choice of location. Mayor Manier provided that the location was due to availability of property that could accommodate the large statue. The Square was considered but ruled out due to traffic patterns. The Fire Station was considered because of the proximity to schools, walking trails, and ability to get out to take photos with the statue by using the parking lot at Five Points. Alderman Stevens asked how long the statue would be in Washington. Mayor Manier provided that history shows it being in one location one to two years.

Alderman Cobb shares that this is a great opportunity and that the other cities to receive this statue have historically been much larger. He went on to share that this may help bring people to Washington to eat, stop, shop and stay in Washington which is helpful during this difficult time. Mayor Manier agreed and invited the Chamber to use the statue as a future marketing tool. Alderman Butler asked if this in on property

that is leased by the Fire Department and asked if there is a need to get permission from the Fire Department. Mr. Forsyth explained that arrangements have been made with the Fire Department. Alderman Butler clarified the need to make sure this doesn't affect future negotiations with the Fire Department regarding future use of City property.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution: Tax Levy
Resolution Pursuant
to the Truth-In-
Taxation Act
Item A

City Administrator Forsythe provided a second reading of the following resolution, by brief synopsis: The resolution would make the determination, pursuant to the Truth-in-Taxation Act for the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois for the 2020 Property Tax Levy. Mr. Forsythe explained that this resolution makes notice that the City is not raising the Tax Levy higher than 5% and that this resolution is not setting the Levy but stating that the Levy is not in excess of 5%. Mr. Forsythe explained that if the Tax Levy were to exceed 5%, a public hearing would be necessary.

Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to approve the ordinance.

Alderman Stevens asked for clarification that being discussed is Option #2, presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Forsythe concurred. Alderman Stevens shared that she cannot support raising taxes at this uncertain time. She shared that she would like to look at the budget and reallocate money and acknowledged that the straw-pull vote last year resulted in a different vote than the Council vote, showing that a straw-pull vote doesn't indicate an actual vote. Mayor Manier agreed and went on to explain that if we vote against the Levy, regardless of the number, the City will get no money for one year. Alderman Adams clarified that this resolution is not the vote for the Levy but only to accept that the Levy won't exceed 5% and the vote for the Levy will come later to Council. Mr. Forsythe confirmed.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 1 Stevens

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Manier provided the additional clarification that this motion carried, however the "no vote" indicates a vote for the Truth and Taxation of 5% or more. Alderman Stevens stated, bring it to the people. Mayor Manier provided the resolution is to not have a Truth and Taxation of more than 5%. Mr. Forsythe confirmed.

2nd reading ords, Faire
Coffee TIF Agreement
Item E

City Administrator Forsythe provided a second reading of the following ordinance, by brief synopsis: an ordinance would approve the one-time 40% subsidy level payment, not to exceed \$11,200, to Faire Coffee LLC, for the reuse of a space in a prominent building on the Washington Square.

Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to approve the ordinance.

On roll call the vote was:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Aldermen's
Comments:

Alderman Dingleline asked if City Engineer, Dennis Carr and Public Works Director, Kevin Schone would like to share any project updates. Mr. Carr provided the following updates; contractors are on Stratford is finishing concrete work and they are hoping for mild temperatures to help complete the asphalt work; opening day of hunting season may play a factor in the number of workers the contractor can provide; they are currently working on topsoil but will wait for spring to plant seed; the Holland sidewalk has been poured and a few miscellaneous items will be finished up this week then everything from the curb line out will be finished; the hard edges for the brinks will start soon, rock will come up to final grade then the brinks will be placed. Mr. Schone provided the following updates; the Gillman sump project will start soon; City workers cleared a large log jam and hauled the debris to Deible Road; City crews helped to shore up the creek behind Michael's Restaurant; crews cleaned a detention basin off of Saddle Ridge and unclogged pipes in that area; trucks and spreaders are being prepped for winter; they will focus on completing a few more asphalt patches before winter; the City has young crew that is receiving winter operations training and this will be ongoing. He also reported that a few employees are out due to possible exposure to COVID so they keep reviewing safety.

Alderman Brownfield shared that tomorrow is the anniversary of the tornado and we all either know someone who was affected or lost our own homes that day. He was proud to say that the City did a great job pulling together then and now we are faced with a pandemic. He encouraged everyone to stay together as a team during this difficult time so we can look back positively in another five or six years.

Adjournment:

At 7:07 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, November 16, 2020

On tonight's agenda, in Agenda Item X, is a proposal for the installation of the Abraham Lincoln Sculpture titled "Return Visit."

We hope that the Council votes "yes."

This sculpture offers many potential opportunities to benefit Washington:

- This is an attractive photo opportunity. When this was installed at the Peoria Riverfront Museum, many people sought it out as a great photo opportunity.
- The Chamber could use this as part of their campaigns to persuade people to come to Washington for shopping (along with the Walldogs painting and other landmarks).
- The Washington Historical Society could create a flyer about the historical connections between Lincoln and the City of Washington.
- Perhaps the Bicentennial Committee could leverage this as another milestone on the Countdown to 2025.
- And much more....

We are looking forward to seeing this sculpture installed in the very near future.

Thank you,

John & Sharon Amdall

901 Wellington Dr.

Washington, IL 61571

Valeri Brod

From: mintondesigns@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 7:11 PM
To: Valeri Brod
Subject: Audience comments for City Council Agenda

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Val,

I would like my comments shared with the city council during the City Council meeting on this Monday November 16th at 6:30

Thanks Val, Toni

Good evening city council,

I wanted to comment about some concerns I have with:

Section X Mayor Manier
Abraham Lincoln Statue Installation

Documents: [Item A](#)

- My concern is that from my understanding there has been no formal discussion with the alderman before tonight regarding all the details of this endeavor, and yet the statue is already scheduled to be transferred to Washington November 17th.
- In the State Journal-Register posted on November 12th, ALPLM spokesman Chris Wills confirms that the sculpture is bound for Washington, IL. So how was that all arranged if city council hasn't approved it?
- The city council agenda communication claims. Funding: Sponsored in part private contributions. So how is the rest of the funding going to be acquired?
- The communication also states Dates: Installation, November 17, 2020 – Removal, TBD. Will there be a fee to have it removed?

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Toni Minton