

CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Meeting

Monday, December 21, 2020

Remote Web Meeting via ZOOM

6:30 p.m.

Call to Order	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, December 21, 2020 to order at 6:31 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 December 7, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and December 14, 2020 Special Council Meeting, Approval of 2021 Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings, Bills and Payroll, and the Monthly Financial Report for the Period Through December 2020. Alderman Adams moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to accept the Consent Agenda. Alderman Dingledine noted that due to technical difficulties, his favorable vote regarding the City of Washington and Washington Fire Department could not be heard at the December 14, 2020 Special Council Meeting. He requested that the records show he was in favor of the new contract. Mayor Manier directed an amendment to the motion be made. Alderman Adams provided the amended motion to contain Alderman Dingledines's request. Alderman Cobb seconded to accept the Consent Agenda with the amendment. 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	Mayor Manier shared that due to the pandemic, City Hall employees were provided boxed lunches that were distributed individually instead of having a luncheon with an awards ceremony. He stated that under normal circumstances, the City would have publicly recognized three employees for their years of service. Carol Moss was presented with a plaque at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony for her 25 years of service; Charlie Baker, the Glendale Cemetery Sexton, received a plaque in honor of his 20 years of services; Ronald Brinker from Washington Police Department received a plaque for his 15 years of service. Mayor Manier congratulated them on jobs well done and wished the City could have recognized them in person.
Audience Comments	City Clerk Brod stated that she did not receive any comments.

Standing Committee-
Finance & Personnel
Committee

Chairman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, shared that the Finance and Personnel Committee will recommend for approval the bills and payroll and monthly report.

Standing Committee-
Public Safety
Committee

Chairman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, shared the committee recommends the acceptance of the Resolution providing relief to on-premise liquor licensees for continued operation during the COVID shutdown. Mr. Butler invited Police Chief McCoy and Deputy Chief Stevens to share police matters and ETSB information. Chief McCoy shared that Deputy Stevens has been a member of the ETSB Board and TC3 Board and introduced him to provide the update to Council. Deputy Chief Stevens asked for input from Council for an ETSB vote for a packaged county-wide radio and records system. He explained there is no financial commitment for the City and that he will vote only if there is a good for Washington. Chairman Butler explained that Deputy Chief Stevens is requesting that Council support his decision to support the ETSB system as he will seek the best deal for the city. Alderman Stevens stated that this is the first time she has heard about this and Council will have to put their trust in Deputy Chief Stevens since she has received no regular information about this. Chief McCoy shared that they had just received the information and Deputy Chief Stevens has spent the weekend trying to get more details from members of the ETSB who have put off the vote until the last minute. He stated that had they more information to share, they would have shared it with Council. Chairman Butler explained that a county-wide radio system is not something to be discussed at Council and this is the appropriate time for review. Mayor Manier shared that they have discussed replacing the radios for the last two to three years due to the life-expectancy of our current radios. Alderman Stevens stated that this is the first time she is hearing about it and we are depending on Deputy Chief Stevens expertise to do what's best for Washington. She stated that she is at the mercy of the information that is being provided in a short amount of time and that she didn't know about the radios until Friday. Chairman Butler explained that this isn't an issue of replacing the radios at this time but instead, Deputy Chief Stevens is looking for non-binding support from council to move forward. Chairman Butler stated that we are not purchasing any equipment at this time. He asked for a motion to support the ETSB and Deputy Chief Stevens moving forward the best he can for the City of Washington.

Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Other Police Department updates included: Chief McCoy shared that they continue to share updates on the Friday reports. He shared that they have been very busy due to COVID and the holidays and noted only one person is out with COVID which should help to cut down on overtime costs. Chairman Butler shared that there is no update from Fire Chief Brown at this time.

Standing Committee-
Public Works
Committee

Chairman Mike Brownfield, Public Works Committee, invited Public Works Director Kevin Schone to provide information regarding the West Roof Replacement project. Mr. Schone provided that detailed information was shared last week at the Committee of the Whole meeting. He shared that they budgeted \$60,000 for the East Roof Replacement project and completed the project under budget allowing them to consider the West Roof. The cost of the West Roof replacement is \$28,926 compared to \$27,981 for East Roof replacement. The increase in price between the projects is due to the increase in the cost of materials. The total for both roofs will be \$56,907. Mr. Schone asked that they approve the amount not to exceed \$60,000 in case unforeseen issues arise during repairs.

Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Dingledine seconded to approve.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Chairman Brownfield introduced Mr. Schone to provide details about the Laser Electric Lighting upgrades at IDOT intersections on Business 24. Mr. Schone share that this is a City responsibility. He also shared that the price has dropped since last year's estimate to \$17,766.34. Mr. Schone noted that Public Works included this in the budget for this year and the overall affect will be a reduction in the cost of maintenance. He shared that staff will look at converting other lights to LED in the future. Staff is looking for approval to upgrade the lighting at these intersections.

Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve.

Alderman Dingledine asked to clarify if US24 and Cummings was going to be upgraded by IDOT. Mr. Schone stated that US24 and Cummings has already been upgraded.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Chairman Brownfield introduced Mr. Schone to provide addition Public Works updates. Mr. Schone provided that Council previously discussed Lone Wolf completing work this calendar year and that work was completed on South High Street. He shared that as time and weather allows, Lone Wolf will complete work on Devonshire and Oakwood Heights. Mr. Schone shared that GA Rich is finishing the Gillman Project and it should be done by the end of this year. He noted that crews accidentally hit a yard light line which will be repaired soon. Mr. Schone shared that one employee has tested positive for COVID but other than that everyone is healthy. City Engineer, Dennis Carr shared that Heorr has finished their sanitary sewer boar under Cummings and the other projects are under winter shutdown. He shared that Ross is going to complete the IDOT Documentation Class and is soon to be certified. Mr. Carr shared that he started the first bridge inspection course and will wait to take the second course when the COVID shutdown opens back up. This will allow staff to do bridge inspections instead of contracting it out. Staff is also preparing plans for next year's MFT project.

Planning and Development Director, Jon Oliphant shared that he planned to provide the Comprehensive Plan presentation tonight but is working on a few details. The

Comprehensive Plan will be presented at the first meeting in January. He noted that the Comprehensive Plan team is led by Civic Artworks and includes a former Washington resident. Mr. Oliphant shared that the the Washington Business Sustainability Grant Program is open to any to eligible restaurants, bars, bakeries and caterers. He noted that staff had received four applications with another 4-5 that stated they are interested but have not yet submitted their paperwork.

Mayor

Mayor Gary Manier did not have updates to provide at this time.

City Administrator

City Administrator, Ray Forsythe shared that Art Simbersky, representing COMCAST and Derek Schryer, representing the City, are both on ZOOM to answer any questions regarding the COMCAST Resolution Agreement Extension that is being presented. Mr. Simbersky stated that he appreciates being able to work on this agreement and looks forward to serving Washington. Mr. Schryer stated that he feels we are very close to an agreement and should finish near the first of the year, ahead of the February deadline. Alderman Stevens asked if this extension is why the public hearing was canceled. Mr. Forsyth confirmed that it was and will be rescheduled once the agreement is finalized.

Resolution:
Item A

City Administrator Forsythe provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: A Resolution reducing liquor license fees for continuing businesses by authorizing a credit equal to liquor license fees paid this fiscal year, applicable when those business renew those licenses.

Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Cobb seconded to approve.

Mayor Manier stated that he had been asked last week why this didn't go to the Liquor Commission. Mayor Manier read the city code pertaining to the process and explained that this did not meet the code requirements. He shared the City received an email from a local business who had paid their license fees but hadn't been able to use it. The City felt this was a quick resolution to help those businesses who are struggling. Mayor Manier shared that a discussion including Police Chief McCoy and Deputy Chief Stevens concluded with idea to waive fees for 2021 and this would be similar to the delay license fees that had previously occurred in May. Cobb asked if the ten business are the only business affected. Deputy Chief Stevens explained that this list does not include package liquor store. This proposal is for businesses that consume liquor inside their facility and where affected by shut down. Mayor stated that this included BYOB places and caterers.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 Yoder

Motion declared carried.

Resolution:
Item B

City Administrator Forsythe provided the following resolution, by title and brief synopsis: a resolution granting Comcast a non-exclusive franchise to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system pursuant to a Franchise Agreement dated on or about December 20, 2010 and seeks an extension of the Franchise pursuant to the provisions of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984.

Alderman Cobb moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to approve.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

2nd reading ords,
Adopting the City's
Tax Levy
Item A

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinances, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance levying the annual 2020 Municipal property tax for the City of Washington, County of Tazewell, State of Illinois.

Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to approve.

Alderman Stevens stated that her vote will be no because this is not the time to raise the City's portion of the property taxes. Mayor Manier provided his understanding and shared that if there are five no votes, the City will not receive any of the money.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 2 Stevens, Yoder

Motion declared carried.

2nd reading ords,
Agreement with the
Peoria Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau
(PACVB)
Item B

City Administrator Forsythe provided second reading of the following ordinances, by title and brief synopsis: an ordinance authorizing the City of Washington to enter into an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Washington and the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau for a one-year period ending on December 31, 2021.

Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Yoder seconded to approve.

Alderman Stevens stated that she would like to reassess this next year. She pointed out the Five Points is not listed as a swimming facility and Hillcrest is not listed as a golfing facility. Alderman Stevens noted that at one time we paid a percentage of the Hotel/Motel tax and now we are paying a fixed amount.

On roll call the vote was:

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

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

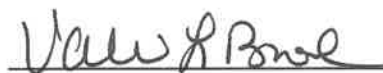
Alderman's
Comments

None were provided

Adjournment:

At 7:08 p.m. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Stevens seconded to move.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.


Valeri Brod, City Clerk