

Committee of the Whole

Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Library at Five Points, Washington, 380 N. Wilmore Road, Washington, IL

Mayor Manier called the regular Committee of the Whole meeting of February 14, 2022 to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Present: Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Boyles, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder, City Administrator Snider, Police Chief McCoy, Deputy Police Chief Stevens, Attorney Brittany Miller, City Treasurer Strubhar and City Clerk Brod

Also Present: Utilities Superintendent Rittenhouse, P & D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Carr, Public Works Director Schone, and Finance Director Baxter

MINUTES

1. ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD

Alderperson Stevens shared that she received a communication stating that Mayor Manier should have voted on the Trails Edge Preliminary Plat and she requested a review by the City Attorney. Mayor Manier stated that there was nothing illegal. City Administrator Snider stated that he will share the determination with the Alderpersons.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Arnold from Westminster Drive stated that he has reviewed the information from Hamilton on their website and he thinks Hamilton may provide options on the North side of tracks because of pushbacks from options on the South side of the tracks. He noted that Strand has recommended the option on the South side of the tracks. He stated that the options on the North side of the tracks go through their property and they would not be interested in granting an easement because facts show it would not be in the best interest of the City. Mr. Arnold shared details about how a route on the North side of the tracks would impact neighborhoods and asked the City to pick a route for the good of the City. He noted current issues with water getting into the system and stated that Strand's route will help cross the creek safely and a North option will not be cost effective according to Strand's proposal. He stated that he respects protecting the trees however the trees are impacted on both sides and any replanted land will look the same in 50 years. He noted after a thorough evaluation, Strand has chosen a route on the South side of the tracks.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Adams seconded to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting. City Administrator Snider noted that a few

typos will be fixed. Alderman Brownfield amended his motion to accept the corrections and Alderman Adams seconded.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. *Introduction of New Police Personnel:* Police Chief McCoy shared his appreciation for the Police Commission who helps find the best candidates and introduced the City's three newest officers. Chief McCoy introduced James Minton who has worked in Washington for several years and worked with members of the Auxiliary Police. He was sworn in, in August 2021 and is in the second phase of his field training. Chief McCoy introduced Ben Gregory who came from Bloomington and has a degree in criminal justice. He was sworn in, in August 2021 and is in the final stages of training. Chief McCoy introduced Kelley Noetzol who came from Bradley University. Chief McCoy shared that Kelley wanted to work for a municipality or county and chose Washington for all that it has to offer. Chief McCoy thanked Council for allowing them get quality candidates. Mayor Manier noted that Bradley University down ten officers and we are lucky to get new hires.

B. *Gaming Ordinance Discussion: Terminal fee Adjustment Required by P.A. 102-0689:* Chief McCoy stated that they had sent a memo to everyone on January 10th that shared that Governor Pritzker signed an act on December 17, 2021 that affects Home Rule community's gaming regulations. He introduced Deputy Chief Stevens who shared that the biggest concern regarding gaming within our community is to maintain quality of life and avoid over saturation. He said the choice is deciding the terminal fee. He noted that the current fee totals \$550 per terminal. The new act states that the fee for the establishment has to be the same as the fee for the operator. Deputy Chief Stevens stated that Council needs to determine the new fee and this will affect the City's revenue. He noted that a \$100 difference in a terminal fee can add up to \$5000. Discussion rendered that the terminal operators are the likely ones who spear headed this change. Deputy Chief shared that the current fees are \$500 for terminal operators and \$50 for the establishment per terminal. The impact on the establishment was noted. Alderperson Dingleline stated that businesses do well with gaming and stated that this bill doesn't make sense. Alderperson Stevens noted the chart that was given in the packet and referenced \$41,000 is the amount Becks received for the machines and the City only received \$2,000. It was noted that the terminal owner and the establishment then split what is remaining after all the fees have gone to the State. A brief discussion took place regarding a previous adjustment to fees and possibility of adjusting the new fee to \$300 for each entity bringing \$600 in total fees. Chief McCoy reminded everyone that if the fee goes from \$50 per machine to \$300 per machine, it will impact the establishments greatly. The majority of Council shared favor in proceeding with \$300 per machine.

C. *Budget Review-Group 1:* City Administrator Snider introduced Joanie Baxter to provide details about the proposed budget. Ms. Baxter said these are the funds with the least activity and a good place start. She noted first four are special revenue funds, funded by property taxes:

1) Audit Fund:

- Will likely bid this out this year.
- The price hasn't increased in 10 years but she anticipates an increase this year.

2) Liability Insurance:

- Keeping same budget as previous years.
- Budgeting for a slight increase.
- The fund balance remains pretty much the same with this fund.

3) IMRF:

- The City's pension fund for all non-police employees.
- This is not complete because there are transfers still coming out of the water/sewer fund which is not finished yet.
- The City's contribution is 12.18% which is a decrease from the previous year.
- City Administrator Snider noted that two-thirds of our fund is based on the stock market.
- City Administrator Snider noted that IMRF is not part of the State's pension plan which is controlled by State Legislature.
- City Administrator Snider noted that IMRF is ranked #2 in the nation.
- City Administrator Snider noted that IMRF is protected by mandates.
- City Administrator Snider noted the Police Pension Fund is getting ready to roll into an IMRF type of hybrid.
- This is mainly funded by property taxes.
- These numbers can change slightly due to the water/sewer funds.
- City Administrator Snider noted that the City of Washington has done an excellent job of managing money and shared how other cities manage their funding using a replacement tax and the use of Enterprise Funds.

4) Social Security/Medicare Fund:

- Will finalize when water/sewer funds are finalized.
- Also funded mostly by property tax.
- Is set at 7.65%
- It doesn't typically change.
- Easier to anticipate and will be finished when all funds are in.

5) WACC Debt Service Fund:

- Includes several other, smaller funds.
- This is the last year for the \$50,000 payment then it will go to \$75,000 until 2031.
- This is the payment from the Community Center and general fund makes up the difference.
- This is basically paying expenses.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Aldersperson Blundy asked who owns the Rec Trail. Mayor Manier noted we have 14 miles of Rec Trail with portions owned by the City, the Park District and the State of Illinois. Planning and Zoning Director Oliphant shared that there is a Maintenance Agreement with the Park District identifying who maintains portions of the trails. He noted that any trail in the Right of Way or if the City paid for it, they will maintain it and the same is with the Park District. Aldersperson Blundy stated that as he runs the trails, he notices some are cleared and some are not. Mr. Oliphant shared that the agreement addressed the surface of the trail not necessarily the snow removal. Public Works Director Schone and Mayor Manier noted that the Park District clears Cruger Road. Aldersperson Blundy asked if the City can have a conversation with the Park District regarding snow removal. City Engineer Carr shared that if we were to point out issues, we may no longer get the Cruger trail cleared by the Park District anymore. Aldersperson Blundy addressed the timing of a response regarding the voting process and asked for further conversation about it. City Administrator Snider shared that he was in a meeting on Monday and the conversation was Tuesday. He noted email issues while he was away from the office. He also noted that the response was from the City Attorney to Aldersperson Stevens and although it is normal for him to send out communications, he was out of town. He stated that he takes responsibility for it and will take care of it tomorrow. Aldersperson Stevens stated that she has questions and wants to discuss it once everyone sees the response. Aldersperson Butler said a few months back there was interest in reviewing our Subdivision Code and thinks it should be initiated by City Staff concerning zoning and changes to preliminary plats. Mayor Manier stated that this was brought on the agenda and received no feedback but noted that Aldersperson Butler may have been gone. Mr. Oliphant noted that it appeared on an agenda after September and staff had asked for suggestions but no comments were made except for a few about water run-off. Aldersperson Blundy agreed to the need to review it again.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:12 p.m. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Yoder seconded to adjourn.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk