



**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**In the library meeting room at Five Points, 360 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois**

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<b>Call to Order</b>	Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Tuesday, September 6, 2022 to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.
<b>Roll Call</b>	Present: Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, Stevens and Yoder
<b>Also Present</b>	Mayor Manier, City Administrator Jim Snider, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Derek Schryer and Press

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<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Manier.  Mayor Manier welcomed Cooper Hobardt who was present to earn a scouting badge.
<b>Citizens Wishing to be Heard</b>	Meg Sutherland from the Washington Bridge Association was present. She explained that the foundation formed to enhance all academic performance by raising money to provide faculty grants and educational activities for the high school. She clarified that the grants are not just used for extra school supplies. Ms. Sutherland shared their web address, washingtonbridgeef.org, and invited everyone to visit their page to see the grants that they have provided. She shared that they raise money through donations and fundraisers and this is a new foundation that was developed in the spring of 2021. Ms. Sutherland shared that they held the Paint the Path fundraiser in July and that they applied for a tourism grant from the City and received it, allowing them to upgrade the event. She thanked all those who sit on the panel for the award. Ms. Sutherland explained that this event takes place on the path between Five Points and the Fire Department. She shared that at the event, a person can purchase a square of sidewalk and create a masterpiece and noted that it will eventually be power washed off. She also shared that they received news coverage of the event this year and it spotlighted Washington. This helped them build awareness of the foundation and this will help them to continue to give back to faculty and the high school.
<b>Review Agenda for Deletions or Additions</b>	The agenda stood as presented.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Approve Minutes of August 15, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting</li><li>B. Hilldale Phase 2 Request #3</li><li>C. Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 Demo Phase II Bid Award</li></ul> Aldersperson Dingledine motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Aldersperson Butler seconded.  Aldersperson Brownfield requested a change to the minutes. Under Aldersperson Comments, regarding the vote to bring Golf Carts forward for consideration, change “motion carried” to “motion failed”.  Aldersperson Dingledine amended his motion to include the change and Aldersperson Butler seconded the amendment  <u>Motion carried by roll call vote:</u> <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, Stevens and Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u>
<b>Announcements and Proclamations</b>	Mayor Manier read aloud a proclamation that proclaims National Rail Safety Week to be recognized September 19-25, 2022. This proclamation promotes railroad safety and awareness in hopes to educate pedestrians and motorists about rail grade crossings, railroad property rights of way and laws regarding traffic for the purpose of reducing the number of fatalities and injuries.  Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to approve, and Aldersperson Adams seconded. <u>Motion carried by roll call vote:</u> <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, Stevens and Yoder <u>Nays: 0</u>

<b>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee</b>	Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman Butler shared that Council will hear from Finance Director Joanie Baxter regarding a resolution to adopt financial policies.
<b>Public Safety Committee</b>	Public Safety Committee Chairman Adams stated that Council will have an ordinance to consider regarding the high school resource officer renewal. Chairman Adams introduced Deputy Chief Stevens who shared that warning sirens were tested today, and Ragan Communications contacted the police department within minutes of the test and let them know that two of the sirens were having issues. He also noted the increase in vehicle break-ins and reminded everyone to keep doors locked and valuables out of sight.
<b>Public Works Committee</b>	<p>Public Works Committee Chairman Brownfield shared that they had an item on the consent agenda regarding the wastewater treatment plant demolition. Chairman Brownfield introduced Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse to share details regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 Electrical Disconnect and Rewire Payment Authorization agenda item. Mr. Rittenhouse stated that power will need to be disconnected from the Control Building at Wastewater Treatment Plant before it can be demoed. Power will then need to be rewired and run to the Public Works Equipment Storage Building. Mr. Rittenhouse stated that the fiscal impact is not to exceed \$20,000.</p> <p>Aldersperson Dingleline motioned to approve and Aldersperson Schone seconded.  <u>Motion carried by roll call vote:</u>  <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingleline, Schone, Stevens and Yoder  <u>Nays: 0</u></p> <p>Chairman Brownfield introduced staff to provide updates. City Engineer Carr shared that the Hilldale project is moving along. The underground work is completed, and staff has been in contact with residents to let them know that the concrete will need time to cure. Mr. Carr shared that they received a draft of the Smoke Testing Report and they are working on correcting information on the summary pages and will have a report to provide soon. He shared that staff completed proposal reviews and is hoping to have information to present at the next meeting regarding the Safe Routes to School projects. Mr. Carr shared that he received a lot of calls about water in yards and roads after the storm and asked for everyone to reach out should they have any questions. Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse shared that the Filter Media project will start at the Water Treatment Plant#2 and it will take about 2-3 weeks. He also shared that they are getting ready to start hydrant flushing and will do brush pick-up in October. He noted that he has not received prices yet for the Western Plow truck and will keep everyone posted in two weeks.</p>
<b>Mayor</b>	Nothing to bring forward at this time.
<b>City Administrator</b>	
<b>Adopt Resolution:</b> <i>Adopt Financial Policies</i>	<p>City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following resolution: a resolution adopting financial policies, including capital asset policy, credit card use policy, fund balance policy, investment policy, and outstanding check policy. Mr. Snider shared that Council received a detailed report and introduced Finance Director Joanie Baxter to provide details. Ms. Baxter stated that the auditor recommended a few changes and staff would like to implement these plus a few more. She shared that an Investment Policy was approved in February of 2021 and it needed to be reviewed and updated. A Fixed Asset Policy was created in 2004 and it was updated as well. Ms. Baxter stated that the Investment Policy follows state statute, our Fixed Asset Policy is requested to increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for non-infrastructure and \$10,000 for infrastructure assets. She shared that the Outstanding Check Policy, Credit Card Use Policy, and Fund Balance Policy are all new policies, and these were discussed and reviewed by our auditors.</p> <p>Aldersperson Butler motioned to approve and Aldersperson Stevens seconded.  <u>Motion carried by roll call vote:</u>  <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingleline, Schone, Stevens and Yoder  <u>Nays: 0</u></p>
<b>Adopt Resolution:</b> <i>W. Holland Street Surplus Property Sale Declaration</i>	<p>City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following resolution: a resolution would declare a parcel near the intersection of S. Wood Street and W. Holland Street as surplus property and allow for its sale by the City of Washington. Mr. Snider noted that this was reviewed on August 22, 2022 at the Finance and Personnel meeting.</p> <p>Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to approve and Aldersperson Dingleline seconded.  <u>Motion carried by roll call vote:</u>  <u>Ayes: 8</u> Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingleline, Schone, Stevens and Yoder  <u>Nays: 0</u></p>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance:</b> <i>Purchase of Property Agreement- 109 N. High Street</i>	<p>City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following ordinance: an Ordinance authorizing an agreement for the purchase of real estate commonly known as 109 N. High Street, Washington Illinois for a purchase price \$44,000. Mr. Snider shared that the owners withdrew their verbal offer to sell the property to the City.</p> <p>Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to approve and Aldersperson Dingleline seconded.</p> <p>Aldersperson Brownfield asked for clarification about the closing of the property and it was confirmed that the property has been sold. Aldersperson Brownfield asked for clarification on why they withdrew the offer and Mayor Manier stated that a Facebook post caused the sellers</p>

to change their mind. Alderperson Butler stated that there is an obvious value in the property and he expressed his remorse for having missed this opportunity. Mayor Manier stated that the landowner did not deserve the backlash. Alderperson Stevens stated that the recent Courier showed the assessed reevaluation was \$7,030.

Alderperson Brownfield asked for clarification on rescinding his motion. Alderperson Adams stated that it is unfortunate due to the growth we are hoping to have on the Square. He noted that we would have had to work with neighbors who are concerned about parking. He shared that this is in his Ward and individuals had reached out to him concerning parking.

Alderperson Brownfield rescinded his motion.

City Administrator Snider explained that developers are not concerned with parking in downtowns and that it is the city's responsibility to be mindful of the economic development that can occur in our downtown. He noted that it is usually better to act before the development occurs because these opportunities could be more expensive after the development starts and we will be paying more for parking around the Square. He shared his disappointment. He noted that everyone is anticipating that this will provide an economic boost for everything downtown. He hopes this is a teaching moment and he hopes this will encourage council to make decisions that may be criticized. Mr. Snider went on to use the example of F.D.R's visionary policies that brought the country out of the Depression. To quantify the number of unemployed at that time, he gave the example that you can take a stadium of 100,000 people and as they walk out, hand them a pink slip and this would happen every day for three years. He stated that if you study history, these people made decisions that brought about positive change. Mr. Snider said the city is trying to make decisions that bring positive change like the statesmen did and that these will be hard decisions and we will be criticized. He also used the development of Five Points in that it was criticized when it was brought forth but now it is well received. Alderperson Blundy said he thought Council wanted people to park on the side streets to increase the foot traffic in front of stores. Mr. Snider shared that when people park on the side streets, they may end up parking in front of driveways and this has happened to him at his condo in Canton that has private parking. He noted that even with parking, someone parked in his spot. Mr. Snider stated that this is collateral damage to having a vibrant downtown and that having off-street parking can provide options. He shared that they will be looking into other possibilities, and these are good problems to have.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance:**  
*Renewal of SRO Agreement  
with Washington High  
School*

City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following ordinance: an Ordinance authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Washington, Illinois and Washington Community High School District # 308 to establish and continue a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. Mr. Snider shared that there is a 2.5% increase from last year's agreement with a total amount of \$42,025.

Alderperson Stevens motioned to approve and Alderperson Adams seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, Stevens and Yoder

Nays: 0

**Alderperson's Comments**

None were provided at this time.

**Adjournment**

At 7:04 p.m. Alderperson Brownfield moved and Alderperson Stevens seconded to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

  
Valeri Brod, City Clerk