

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY – JANUARY 11, 2016
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM - 380 N. WILMOR ROAD
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 11, 2016 to order at 6:37 p.m. in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington.

Present: Aldermen Brownfield, Brucks, T. Gee, Moss, Butler, Dingledine, J. Gee, and Maxwell.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Administrator Culotta, Controller Baxter, Director of Public Works Andrews, P & D Director Oliphant, Police Chief Volk, City Treasurer Dingledine, and City Clerk Brown.

MINUTES

1. Aldermen wishing to be heard on non-agenda item – None.
2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item – None.
3. Approval of Minutes: T. Gee moved and Alderman Brucks seconded to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
4. Residential Beekeeping Discussion – P & D Director Oliphant brought forward the residential beekeeping ordinance that came before Council as a first reading last week for further discussion and feedback. Several Aldermen shared concerns with the ordinance not having more checks and balances in relation to protecting residents who reside in close proximity to a property who was issued a special use permit for beekeeping. It was the consensus of the Committee to not move ahead with a second reading at the next meeting and to do a further review of the checks and balances in regards to public safety for residents. Mayor Manier asked that any further suggestions be submitted to either P & D Director Oliphant or City Administrator Culotta.

Mayor Manier asked Mr. Curt Reynolds if he would like to share in regards to beekeeping. Mr. Reynolds shared that he has hives and has had them in the city for some time now and can provide answers in relation to fear. He shared that he does not wear protective gear when attending to the hives and that the only time honey bees will sting is when you come aggressively at the hive and they will defend it. He shared that bees fly upwards and will travel over 3-miles to find pollen. He shared several of his thoughts on beekeeping and that he stays up to date on beekeeping through a club he belongs to as well as through online YouTube videos. He also shared that every hive has to be registered through the state. Several Aldermen shared their concerns with the stinging aspect of bees when kids are in the area and may not understand the defending nature of the honey bees and start horsing around with the hive. Mayor Manier thanked Mr. Reynolds for providing his expertise and that they will take it into consideration when considering additional public safety measures. Mr. Reynolds thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak on the topic.

5. Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Funding Options – Controller Baxter shared a summary of options for the adoption of a technology fee for the purpose of helping to support the purchase and installation of an automated meter reading (AMR) system as well as its periodic replacement moving forward. She shared the following for each option presented: Option 1) a flat monthly rate per meter resulting in a monthly cost of \$3.23 per meter. This option reflects the anticipated cost evenly applied to all 7,488 meters currently in the system and would results in 2,105 dual meter accounts paying \$6.46 per month; Option 2) a flat monthly rate per account resulting in a monthly cost of \$4.50 per account. This option is the anticipated cost evenly applied to all of our 5,383 accounts and would result in 3,278 single meter accounts helping defray the costs of those

with dual meters; and Option 3) a flat monthly rate with a maximum cap resulting in a monthly cost of \$3.85 for a single meter account and a \$5.50 maximum for a dual meter account (30% upcharge for 2nd meter). This option establishes a maximum household rate with a single to maximum differential reflective of the hardware cost portion of a single meter installation (\$300) versus a dual meter (\$450) installation. She shared that each option presented results in an initial annual revenue of \$290,235. Public Works Director Andrews went over the adjoining community's water rate comparison information that was handed out prior to the meeting sharing that we are still in a reasonable fee structure with the addition of the technology fee. He noted that most communities are absorbing their technology with radio read by increasing water rates overall.

A brief discussion ensued on the increased costs to move from quarterly billing to monthly billing cycles and the impact it could have and both Baxter and Andrews shared that they will look into the monthly billing method of delivery as part of the process in keeping increased costs to a minimum. Following discussion it was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the implementation of Option 3 for the technology fee.

6. Other Business – Alderman Brucks shared his appreciation for the great job City crews did on their recent snow removal efforts. Public Works Director Andrews shared that weather permitting tree debris pickup from the recent ice storm should resume tomorrow. Alderman Dingleline shared that next week's City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday due to the Martin Luther King holiday and Clerk Brown shared that the meeting will be held in Banquet Room A and not the Library meeting room.
7. At 7:53 p.m. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman T. Gee seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk