



**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 17, 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 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 Gary Manier, 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 Brittany Miller and Press |

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**Pledge of Allegiance** All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Manier.

**Citizens Wishing to be Heard** The Rodriguezs from 1020 Dallas Road, located behind Fellowship Church, were present to share their concern for stormwater runoff. Ms. Rodriguez stated that they take the brunt of runoff from Trails Edge, the creek, and neighboring fields. She noted that sometimes the water is so excessive that the pond behind their property has overflowed. She also noted that on August 20<sup>th</sup>, we received six or more inches of rain that brought fast and turbulent water onto their property. Ms. Rodriguez also shared that water runoff from across Cruger Road flowed into their front yard and it was frightening. She shared that all the water paths go through their property and they have tried to manage it with rock, building up the land and clearing the creek bed to accommodate the flow. She stated that they can no longer manage the flow and they fear for their safety. The Rodriguezs are seeking help from the city. She shared that they love the town and their elderly parents live with them. Ms. Rodriguez shared photos which included the bridge access to their property and church parking lot with no other exit due to high water. She stated that storms are unpredictable. She asked if a safety issue arose, how would they get an ambulance to the property if the water was there? Ms. Rodriguez stated that the drainage path is no longer suitable which has them living in fear and asked if the water could be redirected or slowed. She also shared that they considered selling the property but didn't want to pass on the problem.

Katie Beale from Felkers addition shared that she is trying to learn about the Trunk Line Project and tried to read the Strand report but it was over her head. She shared that she also read the draft report from Hamilton, as well as other reports and minutes to learn about the project. She shared that she understands that the trunk line needs to be replaced but wondered if the line is compromised or not large enough to accommodate the I&I. Ms. Beale stated that she thinks this is not a private property issue as shown in the smoke testing but instead the storm sewer is too close to the sanitary sewer causing overflowing. Ms. Beale stated that a boom in residential and infrastructure work has created a bottle neck. She is afraid we are not addressing the issue but instead building a bigger pipe to accommodate the water, but not getting rid of it. She also stated that she hasn't seen more about the alternative routes. Said stated that she doesn't understand why the proposed trunk line isn't north of the tracks where it is easily accessible and closer to future development. Ms. Beale would prefer to look at smaller fixes to buy time in order to get more information from the storm water study. She stated that sometimes the cheapest way isn't the right way and it is hard to put a price on the loss of that much timber. She feels the Hamilton study leaves more questions than answers.

**Review Agenda for Deletions or Additions** Nothing was added or deleted at this time.

**Consent Agenda** Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:

- A. Approve Minutes of October 3, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Bills and Payroll
- C. Approve Write-off of Uncollectible Accounts
- D. Accept Financial Reports for the Period Ended August 31, 2022
- E. TIF Pay Request #2- Square Restaurant and Brewpub, 140 Washington Square/112 Walnut Street
- F. WTP #1 Well #7 Emergency Repair Ratification

Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, and Alderperson Butler seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, Stevens and Yoder  
Nays: 0

**Announcements and Proclamations** Mayor Manier introduced Sherril West, Board President of Five Points to provide a presentation. Ms. West shared that Five Points is celebrating 15 years and still looks brand new.

She shared that she receives compliments about the facility still looking new. She shared a portion of their mission statement that included “they strive to facilitate and promote opportunities for area citizens of all ages to expand their minds, optimize their physical well-being and enhance their quality of life.” She noted that it has been almost 20 years since the concept was first discussed. Ms. West stated that the staff is excellent. She shared that before Covid, they sought to work with not-for-profit organizations such as Brownfest, Card for Care, Snack Pack, My Sister’s Kids, Coats for Kids, St. Jude, Wounded Warriors, Center for the Aging and others. She complimented staff for reaching out to help others and noted the successes including the success of the library with the combined location. She noted that if a program is too successful, they can easily adjust and use a banquet room or the theater. Ms. West also shared that the high school uses Five Points for art shows and swim team and the Park District uses it for travel basketball and volleyball clinics. She went on to note other events such as the Daddy Daughter Ball and gymnastics recitals. Ms. West stated that they had 4,000 members three months after they opened and her original goal was only 500. They peaked in 2013 with 7,000 members, then again in 2017-2018 with the same amount. Today they have about 5,500 members. They are now bouncing back after Covid. She shared that 70% of the members are from Washington. She noted that the theater has had repeat rentals and emphasized that the theater was used a lot for dance recitals during Covid. Ms. West shared that Bethany Church used the facility as well as Heartland Festival Chorus and Peoria Civic Coral. The Scotty McQueary concert was sold out in January of 2020. She shared that after Covid, they often have less than 50% occupancy. Ms. West continued to share that in the beginning, they were guided to build an operating fund that was 25% of their operating budget for cash flow but decided to get more aggressive. Over fifteen years, they have generated \$45 million with memberships, event revenue, grants and donations. They have paid for additions and air systems. They upgraded theater technology, and painted the interior and exterior without loans. Ms. West shared that twelve out of the fifteen years they have had an excess of revenue they saved. They suffered from the tornado but rebounded, then Covid happened and the theater and event center shut down. She noted that they held outdoor shows in 2021 to keep people engaged and they are slowly climbing back after Covid. She also noted that commercial acts are raising their costs. Ms. West shared that the Neil Diamond Showcase was outstanding but only had 250 people show up. She stated that inflation is impacting operations, as well as the minimum wage increase and hard to find supplies. Ms. West continued to share that people are dropping membership due to the loss of discretionary income and many theaters receive 30% of their revenue from donors but Five Points is 5%. She shared that Five Points is about to introduce their online membership option. She noted that it is good news that we are 15 years old and still look new but bad news is that it is 15 years old on the inside. Ms. West noted the HVAC system in the pool area is showing signs of needed replacement. She also noted that in 2018 they did a forecast and thought they would need \$1.8million over 10 years. Ms. West stated that they exist because the city and citizens decided they needed a place like this.

**Finance & Personnel Committee**

Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman Butler shared that there are no business items to bring forward but there is one item on the Consent Agenda and introduced Deputy Police Chief Stevens for updates. Deputy Chief Stevens stated that there was nothing to report at this time.

**Public Safety Committee**

Public Safety Committee Chairman Adams shared that there are no business items to bring forward and introduced Deputy Police Chief Stevens for updates. Deputy Chief Stevens stated that there was nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Manier shared that that the open house at the firehouse that took place this weekend was well attended and it was a fun day for kids and families to attend. He expressed kudos.

**Public Works Committee**

Public Works Committee Acting Chairman Brownfield shared that there are two business items to bring forward and introduced City Engineer Dennis Carr to provide details.

**Item C-1  
Phase 2B  
Archaeological Study  
for Strand’s  
Recommended  
Alignment**

Mr. Carr stated that he provided a brief summary to Council. He stated that we need an archeological study in order to move forward, before we can move forward with land acquisition as well as the IEPA loan. The proposal is from Common Wealth Heritage Group which was one of two proposals given. The proposal was for \$10,898.95. This will study an 80 foot wide corridor along the Strand recommended alignment.

Aldersperson Schone motioned to approve moving forward with the archaeological study, Aldersperson Brownfield seconded.

Aldersperson Blundy stated that he is still getting his head around this after the discussion from the previous meeting. He shared that he is not worried so much about the routes, as he thinks Strand’s route could be correct, but he is concerned about the I&I. He stated that the EPA wet weather flow is at 275 gallons per capita per day and we are 20 times the amount of I&I than the EPA benchmark. Aldersperson Blundy stated that when he looked at existing infrastructure, we needed to come up with more than 11,471 gallons per minute of I&I. To create a visual, he found that one million gallons is a football field size pool that is ten feet deep and we would need to fill sixteen of these pools. He went on to explain that the current system is 4,646 gallons per minute and the proposed the line is 29,868 gallons per minute. He also stated that if you look at peak flows, the existing line is at 70% of capacity and some older systems may be 50%. Aldersperson Blundy noted that with the proposed system, it will run at about 4% capacity on a normal day and peak flow will be 10%-11%. He feels it doesn’t make sense to build a 90% I&I capacity system. He also wondered if the plant can handle that much water and how much it could cost to treat the additional water. He shared his concern with the idea as well as not testing some other basins. Aldersperson Blundy asked about investigating some of the other areas to correct the I&I.

Alderson Schone shared when he began working for the city, there was a storm water detention pond at the plant that handled 16 million gallons per day. He noted that this has been an issue for some time and is only getting worse. He clarified that they don't need to back up the water and hold it. He shared that it is treated and released into the creek with EPA awareness and this doesn't need conventional treatment. There are other means of treated excess flow, which has been done since 1972.

Mr. Carr shared that addressing the I&I is a long play not a quick fix and we can continue to correct I&I issues as we normally would. He noted the risk of trying to take on a fifteen or twenty-year I&I approval process before IEPA gets to us. Mr. Carr stated that the quickest and cheapest solution is the trunkline because we could get to \$8 million on the I&I issues but then won't have anything left to fix it when the IEPA gets to us. Mr. Carr noted that we've already spent five years to get to this point and the IEPA can come in at any point to say we have been taking too long.

Alderson Blundy stated that this has been going on for decades and why hasn't the IEPA said anything yet, because we are showing progress.

Mr. Carr stated that the initial IEPA report was with STP1 and they noted that we weren't doing the proper disinfection from that and this is where the consent order came in.

Alderson Blundy asked if we put the trunk line in, would the IEPA still require us to fix the I&I.

Mr. Carr noted that if we don't have SSOs the IEPA won't look into the plant.

Alderson Stevens stated that in October of 2019, the Strand presentation recommended an excess flow removal program and they listed four ways to do it. She noted that they wanted us to focus on the city-side. She asked if anything has been reported since 2019. Alderson Stevens stated that she thinks the problem is the I&I. She shared that in the memo from Mr. Carr, Hamilton stated that the city needs a larger trunkline and recommends Strand's alignment. She went on to state that the February 21<sup>st</sup> presentation provided by Hamilton, recommended Alternate Route A or E and it goes back to the I&I. Alderson Stevens feels we need to focus on the city-side of that. She feels that we are scared to impact residents financially, but it's the city-side we need to focus on. She feels Hamilton was limited to the GIS mapping which she stated is inadequate. She would like to follow Strand's suggestion, to correct the city-side before moving forward.

City Administrator Jim Snider and Mr. Carr clarified that the city targeted the areas that would have the highest peaking factors and looked at everything moving into STP1. Mr. Carr also shared that the city has spent \$300,000 on lining during the last two years.

Alderson Stevens said that they haven't received anything to tie the lining into this project.

Mr. Carr noted that staff was given direction to focus on the east side of the city.

City Administrator Snider shared that Mr. Carr has reported on the activity and it has been budgeted for Council.

Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse shared that they have been lining the east side and have brought Council reports to get approvals. He offered to provide a list of the ones that have been lined the last three years.

Alderson Stevens stated that she would like a presentation from staff. She also stated that Council voted for the third-party analysis but we stopped. She would like them back so she can ask them questions.

City Administrator Snider stated that from a staff perspective, they spent \$100,000 to the third-party and it was paused because the Robinson work didn't find the I&I they hoped would provide remediation for the issues. Mr. Snider said the way these are remediated is through maintenance but we could reach a point where the IEPA can enforce putting in a new sewer main. Then the cost is put back on the citizens. The report showed that the I&I won't be enough and we are still 75% short. Mr. Snider stated that if the majority of the Council wants to wait, we can wait and inflation could help or hurt us. Mr. Snider shared his opinion that we can spend more money to get the same result that we have now.

Alderson Blundy noted that Mr. Snider mentioned his experience with other municipalities, and asked for the percentages of those communities with the IEPA.

Mr. Snider said he can't quote specific numbers but can never recall a time where the path was to look at the I&I remediation to solve the problem. It had always been to look to staff to find a path and solution to follow.

Alderson Blundy expressed concern for why is the EPA baseline is 2000% below us.

Mr. Carr clarified that the areas of focus were targeted so we could reach the number that Hamilton needed. He stated that we could test the rest of the city but it will not get us to the numbers that we need and noted that some of the flows are on the west side of the treatment plant.

Alderson Stevens asked if we have done dye testing as Strand recommended.

Mr. Rittenhouse stated that we do dye testing to check for issues.

Alderson Stevens asked why we have not done dye testing since 2016 as Strand recommended.

Mr. Rittenhouse shared when dye testing was done.

Mayor Manier stated that we can't go backwards to 2016.

Alderson Butler stated that the recommendations by Strand didn't have anything to do with the trunk sewer and going back to Mr. Hamilton's presentation, Mr. Hamilton expected big improvements would come from disconnecting downspouts and sump pumps. Alderson Butler went on to clarify that we only got 21% of what we needed to get to in order to handle a three-year rain event and the sump pumps and downspouts are only a portion of that. He also stated that we've heard from experts that we can't get to there from here and dye testing won't help. Alderson Butler stated that to pause Hamilton's work because his recommendation was either Strand's Route B or the offloading sewer but the I&I needed to be addressed and the numbers weren't there. Alderson Butler expressed his concern that the EPA can come knocking on the door. He feels there is too much to risk and we need to work for the 16,000 people.

Aldersperson Adams asked if some of the items were corrected, would it have any effect on the infiltration of the system.

Mr. Carr stated that we have two priority projects listed on the southeast side, they may help queue up water to the creek, but it might not help the I&I.

Aldersperson Adams noted that cost has been discussed in previous meetings and anytime we move forward, we ask where the money is going to come from. He went on to share that they have heard \$5 million and \$20 million and doesn't know how to move forward without knowing the basic cost. He stated that he knows we need to move forward. Aldersperson Adams noted that it is hard to make these decisions when there are more questions but he doesn't think anyone is wrong for which way they decide to go, but it's okay to ask for more cost detail.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Brownfield, Butler, Dingledine, Schone, Mayor Manier

Nays: 4 Adams, Blundy, Stevens, Yoder

*Mayor Manier voted to break the tie vote.*

**Item C-2**  
*Drainage Priorities  
Engineering Agreement*

Mr. Carr shared that budgeting \$250,000 was discussed at a past Committee of the Whole meeting for a Stormwater Study Project but there is no consensus or direction for staff. It was offered to staff to use the \$250,000 to do as many projects they can, then bring the to Council to choose the projects to move forward. They received six proposals for the RFQ. TWM and HR Green responded with a proposal and Mr. Carr noted their previous background knowledge. Staff recommends the engineering team of TWM and HR Green for an agreement not exceed \$250,000.

Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve moving forward with the agreement Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

Aldersperson Blundy asked if the projects are in any kind of order and Mr. Carr clarified that this is just a list. Mr. Carr noted that he moved one item to the bottom that seemed to be the least interested by Council.

Aldersperson Blundy asked if any of these would help the Rodriguezs. Mr. Carr shared that the basin north of Curger would have but Council did not show interest in it.

Aldersperson Stevens asked if the one on Patricia would help because it goes to the Underwood Pond. Mr. Carr clarified that it was the Pintail Basin.

Aldersperson Stevens asked about the Kelsey one that goes directly to the Underwood Pond. Mr. Carr clarified that it wasn't requested.

Aldersperson Stevens asked if it is possible to look into that to help the Rodriguezs and Mr. Carr stated that if majority of Council directs them to do so, they can.

Aldersperson Adams asked about the timing of the information and Mr. Carr shared that it could be in the budget consideration.

Aldersperson Adams expressed his appreciation for Mr. Carr's work and using the new sales tax revenue.

Aldersperson Blundy asked if we know how much sales tax was collected and Finance Director Joanie Baxter shared that it was a little over \$100,000.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

**Item C-3**  
*Grant/North Safe Routes  
to School Engineering  
Agreement*

Mr. Carr shared that Council supported him putting in for three projects and we were awarded two of them. He stated that staff did not budget for the projects, thinking it would be done next fiscal year, but IDOT replied sooner than expected. The IDOT lumped the two projects together and ask the city to move forward with the selection. Terra Engineering responded to perform the survey, design, and land acquisition services. Mr. Carr shared that as the fees were negotiated, there was a roadblock concerning personnel due to retirements, which has increased the cost of Phase 1 engineering. Terra then used a guy from the Chicago area but he has a different work ethic and now will need to require more work and a larger study area. He said it will be in two phases and the cost will be \$116,786.

Aldersperson Dingledine motioned to approve moving forward with the agreement, Aldersperson Adams seconded.

Aldersperson Blundy asked if we know why the third project wasn't approved and Mr. Carr shared that they don't give reasons.

Aldersperson Stevens asked if they received four proposals, did they choose Terra due to experience. Mr. Carr and Mr. Snider explained that they chose the best scored proposal.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

**Item C-4**  
*Oakwood Storm Sewer  
CIPP Lining Purchase  
Authorization*

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that staff has addressed sinkholes along a corrugated metal storm sewer at the intersection of Oakwood and Eilers Court. The pipe has rusted causing failures. Staff received a proposal from Hoerr for the lining of the pipe. Hoerr has bid on other projects. Staff was told by other contractors that it would be a lot more. This is a budgeted storm sewer project. Staff is asking for \$175,000.

Aldersperson Dingledine motioned to approve moving forward with the lining, Aldersperson Schone seconded.

Aldersperson Schone noted that before Covid this was \$140,000.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

The following staff updates were provided:

Mr. Oliphant shared that the third mural by Historical Society should wrap up this week and we hope to see more public art projects in the future.

Mr. Rittenhouse shared that Water Tower 2 is looking good after washing, brush pick-up has started, a few more hydrants need to be flushed and they are waiting for smoke testing to be done to work on lining projects.

Mr. Carr shared that the Hilldale project is pouring sidewalks, the driveways are done, the roadway is regraded, they are holding on paving until sidewalks are done, the Bellaire curb is torn out and they have started to form up the new one. He also shared that Beck's is still targeting November 1<sup>st</sup> to open the car wash, a project is going out for bid in an alley near the new mural, an RFQ should be out soon, Freedom Parkway received the waste clearance and the PDR has been approved. He further shared that the temporary easement acquisition is beginning and they are targeting a bid date of March 2023, with construction possibly in May or June.

Aldersperson Stevens asked for the timeline for Illinois American Water in Washington Estates.

Mr. Carr shared that they are still doing their change of water source process and they are targeting fall to early winter of 2023.

**Mayor**

Mayor Manier shared that they are bringing back the Coffee with the Mayor event, this Friday at Connect Church, with guest Congressman LaHood. Mayor Manier shared that they have an announcement for the city.

**City Administrator**

**Item A:**  
*Approve Electric  
Supplier Bid for City  
Facilities and Street  
Lights*

City Administrator Snider presented the following contract with Direct Energy for city facilities. He noted the rate increased from \$.10/kWh to \$.14/kWh. He introduced Ms. Baxter who provided that this was discussed at a previous meeting and updated. The rate would be \$.14085/kWh for a two-year term.

Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve moving forward with contract, Aldersperson Schone seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

**Adopt Resolution A:**  
*Resolution Adopting a  
New Employee  
Handbook for the City of  
Washington*

City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following resolution details: This was discussed at length at the last Committee of the Whole meeting. It included updating benefits and current employment laws. It also references the State of Illinois Employee Ethics Act that has been included

Aldersperson Stevens motioned to approve the updated handbook, Aldersperson Schone seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

**Adopt Resolution B:**  
*Resolution Approving  
Amendment to  
Professional Services  
Agreement with Good  
Energy, L.P.*

City Administrator Jim Snider provided the following resolution details: This resolution would approve a professional services agreement Good Energy who are increasing their consultant fee rate from \$.00075/kWh to \$.001/kWh. This has been asked of other cities as well.

Aldersperson Stevens motioned to approve the agreement, Aldersperson Adams seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

**Aldersperson's  
Comments**

None provided at this time.

**Adjournment**

At 7:57 p.m. Aldersperson Stevens moved and Aldersperson Schone seconded to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Valeri Brod, City Clerk