

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MONDAY – NOVEMBER 14, 2016  
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM - 380 N. WILMOR ROAD  
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 14, 2016 to order at 6:38 p.m. in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington.

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

Absent: Alderman Dingledine.

Also present: City Administrator Culotta, Public Works Director Andrews, Controller Baxter, P & D Director Oliphant, Police Chief Papis, City Treasurer Dingledine, Assistant City Attorney Schryer, 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 – Mr. Steve Hullcranz commented that he was out at Menards and the striping the City is doing on Freedom Parkway looks great.
3. Approval of Minutes: Alderman Brucks moved and Alderman Butler seconded to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Tax Levy – Controller Baxter shared the following: property taxes account for between 5-8% of the total budgeted revenues; we receive on average 5-6% of total property taxes; we are at 5.26 % of total based on prior year levy; using County tentative EAV information, we rounded down this year as it was a little off last year for an EAV of \$340,000,000 which is a 2.52% increase over the prior year; the police pension actuary study is seeing a significant increase to the Police Pension levy at \$134,981, important to note that there is a City total funding requirement and this year it is \$500,000, however we have options of which funds it can be taken from so we are showing different options on the Police Pension levy. She shared the following four options for consideration: Option 1) Maintains tax rate of \$0.42525, fully funds the Police Pension increase out of the tax levy, and decreases the General Fund levy; Option 2) ends up with same result with the tax rate the same, does not increase the Police Pension levy and keeps it the same as prior year, and realizes we have to still pay the total \$500,000 Police Pension levy which all gets absorbed through the General Fund levy; Option 3) maintains total tax levy amount in dollars and not in rate, General Fund levy would decrease \$194,909, and tax rate drops to \$.41481; Option 4) significant increase in tax rate, maintains General Fund levy as it is, in order to fund in full amount results in tax levy increase of \$194,909, tax rate would increase to \$.47214; and the 13.8% increase would require a public hearing. Following clarification that Options 1 and 2 are basically the same other than how the funding is being shown the general consensus was to move Option 1 forward to City Council for consideration.
- B. Police Department Badges – Police Chief Papis brought forward for discussion the costs in moving from badge stars back to badge shields for officers and the desire to do so. He shared that the standard is typically sheriffs having stars and municipal officers having shields and with the need to get new badges for our Sergeants it is a good time to consider the change back to shields. Mayor Manier clarified that the badges were replaced a number of years ago and we are unable to locate the previous issued shields. Alderman T. Gee shared that Public Safety has heard the request and recommended that it come before the Committee of the Whole for consideration. Police Chief Papis shared that the preferred vendor would be Smith and Warren at a projected cost of \$6,430. Following a brief discussion on the importance and funding the cost of replacing the shields, it was

the consensus to move this forward to City Council for consideration. It was also noted that car decals would be replaced only when vehicles transition out of service.

- C. Zoning Code Text Amendments – P & D Director Oliphant shared the following in regards to two Zoning Code text amendments that will be coming before Council on November 21<sup>st</sup>: 1) a text amendment that will bring back the definition of a ‘front yard’ that was inadvertently deleted with a previous ordinance text amendment that clarified the definition of a corner lot; and 2) a text amendment that covers a number of various items within the flood plain section of code that brings us in line with the latest model ordinance, which all communities are required to adopt prior to the new NFIP maps becoming effective on February 17, 2017. He shared that we are also proposing one change to be made outside the regulated requirements that would prohibit fencing within the 100-year flood plain and not just within surface drainage easements. He shared that a public hearing was held with the Planning & Zoning Commission and they are recommending approval of the amendments.
5. Downtown Square Streetscape – P & D Director Oliphant asked for Committee’s direction on how to proceed with the Downtown Square Streetscape project. He shared that while we were fortunate in receiving ITEP grant funding for the McClugage/Centennial recreation trail extension we did not receive funding for the streetscape project. He asked Committee to recall that Council had approved an engineering services agreement back in June with Hutchison engineering to do design engineering for one block of the Square, which included various items such as sidewalk rehabilitation, new crosswalks, street furniture enhancements, etc. He shared that work is ongoing and they have completed the survey work as part of the contract and are now waiting on feedback from us for which block of Square is being considered and also for feedback on how or if we want to go forward with scope of project. He shared that IDOT has also indicated that there will be another call for projects in spring of 2018. City Administrator Culotta indicated that staff is looking for direction on how to proceed and that we do have funds available in TIF that could be used to do a block or more if there is desire. He shared that we have received some input from the specialty shops who have shared their ideas as well. Alderman Butler asked for clarification on the types of things that would be done within a block and Mayor Manier shared that sidewalks and crosswalks would be included and it is hard to piece meal it when you think of the big picture without funding. Alderman Butler expressed concern when the project had not been determined without the funding. Alderman J. Gee shared that with the result of the funding request denial is there is a desire to do incremental enhancements. Treasurer Dingleline asked if there are differences in costs depending on which side of the Square and Public Works Director Andrews shared that some sides will be more challenging than others and if we did pursue one block at time we would also be looking at TIF receivables and keeping that in line with one year’s revenue one year at a time working our way around the square. He shared that a block at time was the concept pursued to keep us strictly in the sidewalk adjoining the parking lane where it would be considered maintenance and we could approach it without a higher level of review and permitting with IDOT. Alderman J. Gee asked if a dollar amount was announced with the possibility of spring 2018 and Oliphant shared that no formal announcement has been done yet and it’s just an expectation from IDOT’s perspective at this point. Alderman Brucks shared that he has recently walked the entire Square and the south side sidewalk has a couple of tripping hazard areas that need to be considered and could be the first area we start at. Alderman J. Gee asked that if we implement phases could we still apply for ITEP funding in spring of 2018 and Oliphant shared that yes we could and would be in better position as we have shown an investment in the project already. It was the general consensus to come up with a plan and phase it in over a period of years to match what the revenue stream would be.
6. Other Business – None
7. At 7:14 p.m. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman J. Gee seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.