

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY – JUNE 13, 2016
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM - 380 N. WILMOR ROAD
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 13, 2016 to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington.

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

Absent: Alderman J. Gee

Also present: City Administrator Culotta, Controller Baxter, Director of Public Works Andrews, P & D Director Oliphant, Police Chief Papis, 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: Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Moss seconded to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
4. Nofsinger Road/U.S. Route 24 Intersection – Public Works Director Andrews shared the following in regards to the May 26th public open house meeting concerning the intersection: 1) meeting was well attended with approximately 100 in attendance; 2) a summary of comments and their dispositions are being compiled for inclusion in the project report; 3) one reoccurring concern is the additional traffic in the NW neighborhood due to the disconnection of Willow Drive from Nofsinger Road; 4) as a means of resolve, the future build out of Hunters Glen could offer Jagens Way as a means to alleviate traffic on Santa Fe; and 4) with the anticipated increase of traffic on Santa Fe, do we make considerations during this study or wait until later. Mayor Manier asked if the issue is a result of a distance requirement and Andrews shared that there is a 300' requirement from edge of travel way and stretches it out a little longer to through lanes and once you go to 300' it pushes us to 500' making Willow Drive off the table as a through street. Mayor Manier asked if there was any interest to have Willow Drive at Nofsinger be a right turn only. Andrews shared that he has not addressed a right out only for Willow as of yet. Following discussion, the general consensus was to continue looking into access and exit road alternatives.
5. Health Insurance – Controller Baxter shared the following in regards to the City's health insurance renewal: 1) the Finance Committee agreed to shop the reinsurance market this year with the intention of looking into the agent relationship this fall; 2) renewal date is July 1st; 3) we received nine (9) proposals with the most competitive quote coming from our incumbent carrier ACE American; 4) the deductible is unchanged at \$50,000; 5) currently we would stay with a 12-month term and look at options to increase the length of the term this fall; 6) the quote represents a 3.6% increase in fixed costs; 7) average claims are lower than the current funding so we would continue funding at the current rate which results in a 0% increase; 8) dental renewal with Guardian also results in a 0% increase; 9) applying the fixed cost increase of 3.6% represents a .8% increase overall for renewal; 10) this translates into an increased premium of \$20 per month for family and \$4 per month for single, and as indicated by union contracts and non-union policies any increase is to be shared equally by the City and employees, the total increase passed on to employees would be \$10 per month for family and \$2 per month for single; 11) the Health Insurance Committee agreed to a recommendation by Staff to split the wellness incentive currently applied to the premium between tobacco and wellness in order to comply with the affordability stipulations of the Health Reform regulations which would split the \$50 incentive for family to \$25 for tobacco and \$25 for wellness and split the \$25 incentive for single to \$15 for tobacco and \$10 for wellness. The general consensus was to move forward with the renewal and to really take a hard look at the agent relationship this fall.

6. Property & Liability Insurance – Controller Baxter shared the following in regards to the City’s property & liability insurance: 1) Dennis Hermann from Alexander-Murray has shopped the market and obtained two competitive proposals from both the incumbent carrier, HCC Insurance, and Travelers Insurance; 2) the only difference in coverage is the property deductible where HCC is quoting a \$1,000 and Travelers is quoting \$2,500; 3) both proposals represent an increase of between 2.5% and 5% as compared to the prior year for similar coverage; 4) increased coverage was requested which accounts for a portion of the increase at 1.5% in all property levels; 5) we are adding cyber liability coverage which was quoted at an additional premium of \$6,332 for HCC and \$5,214 for Travelers; 6) as of Friday Travelers would be the low bid at \$156,491 compared to HCC at \$162,084; and 7) with the only difference in coverage being the property deductible amount Staff requested a quote from HCC for the property premium with a \$2,500 deductible which was received today. She shared that after receiving the quote HCC Insurance would now be the low bid. She asked for Mr. Hermann to share options with the Committee. Mr. Hermann shared that both quotes are good quotes and to give both carriers a fair advantage he could ask each carrier to offer their final numbers by a set time. Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Committee to have Mr. Hermann submit the request for final numbers to both carriers with a time and date deadline.
7. 400 N. Lawndale Discussion – P & D Director Oliphant shared that we have received a court approved judgement as part of the case to remove any life/safety issues for the house at 400 N. Lawndale and our options are to either proceed with a demolition or solicit for repairs. Alderman T. Gee asked for a history on the property up to this point. Oliphant shared that there was some painting going on and tarps were placed on the roof but were only cosmetic repairs. He shared that the tarps have recently been repaired which is not considered a substantive repair and the City has mowed the property as well. Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Committee to proceed with the process of demolition rather than taking on the risk of repairing the structure.
8. Curb/Sidewalk Construction Policy – P & D Director Oliphant shared the following regarding the City’s current curb/sidewalk replacement policy: 1) current policy is a 50/50 cost share program for sidewalk and curb replacement; 2) current policy does not address future maintenance of curbs or how to handle the gaps in sidewalk construction in subdivisions; 3) Morton’s policy has been reviewed by the Public Works Committee and is recommending we mirror what they have in place in regards to sidewalk construction and include language that would address the future maintenance of curbs as well; 4) Morton’s policy requires any remaining sidewalks to be constructed within 3-years after acceptance of the infrastructure improvements or where at least 75% of the lots in a subdivision have had construction on the lots. Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Committee to draft the language and move it forward for consideration.
9. Zoning Code Text Amendments – P & D Director Oliphant shared the following in regards to upcoming Zoning Code text amendments: 1) the first amendment clarifies how residential corner lots are defined and would allow the builder or owner to claim where the side and rear yard is upon submittal of the site plan as part of the building permit. With a corner lot having two front yards, discrepancies can occur and this will provide flexibility and clarity and allow for better site design; and 2) the second amendment sets a 7’ maximum fence height in commercial zoning districts. Currently our code does not address fencing in commercial districts and staff has typically used the residential fencing regulations for commercial fencing. He shared that first reading of this ordinance is set for next Monday’s City Council meeting.
10. Alternative Transportation – P & D Director Oliphant shared that occasionally we will get inquiries for alternative transportation options within the City with the majority of them being more of a demand response alternative from our older population. He shared that recently we have received a request from a teacher at the High School on behalf of students with needs who are looking for alternative transportation as well. He indicated that the CityLift service through CityLink will pick up within a ¾ mile radius of an already fixed route, and if there is interest in pursuing alternative transportation options he could reach out to CityLink about an additional fixed route in addition to the stop at Washington Plaza. It was the general consensus of the Committee to reach out to CityLink about additional options.

11. Reimbursement of Sewer User Charges Policy – Public Works Director Andrews shared the following in regards to the City’s current reimbursement policy for residences that were thought to have been on City sewer but were found to actually still be on septic: 1) these occurrences are infrequent but have happened three (3) times since 2007; 2) the current policy provides a reimbursement of past sewer charges for up to a maximum of seven (7) years and a waiver of the sewer connection fee; 3) when the policy was adopted the sewer tap fee was \$100 and is now \$4,317 and a seven year reimbursement check could be as high as \$4,300 at our current rates; and 4) this was discussed at the Public Works Committee and members felt it might be appropriate to continue to waive the sewer connection fee but discontinue the reimbursement of sewer fees. Following discussion, the general consensus of the Committee was that the Public Works Committee recommendation was sound and to move forward with the policy change.
12. N. Main Street Parking Lot – Public Works Director Andrews shared three (3) options in regards to layout plans and timing issues regarding the N. Main Street parking lot: Option 1) a standard configuration for 90° parking which would necessitate an encroachment along the Zinser Place sidewalk in order to provide for an isle width that would allow for two-way traffic, thus eliminating an exit back onto N. Main Street; Option 2) 60° angled parking would require an exit back onto N. Main Street, but keeps the paving within boundaries of the existing sidewalk; and Option 3) would be to partially pave 90° parking on one side and allow the other side to progress as the future streetscape develops. He shared that we would also want a standoff distance of 3’ from the adjoining building due to evidence of shared/tied foundation elements. He shared that \$50,000 is budgeted this year for the project and we are looking at approximately \$33,000 to surface without any concrete work. Following discussion, the general consensus of the Committee was to move forward with Option 1 as it provides for more parking, keeps the entrance and exit on Zinser Place, and the budget allows for the concrete work to be completed as well.
13. Liquor Code Text Amendments: Hours of Sale – City Administrator Culotta shared that the Liquor Commission was favorable to lessening the Sunday sales 12:00 Noon restriction as well as allowing Class A-2 license holders to remain open until 2:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving day morning. After reviewing adjoining community regulations and following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Committee to proceed with the amendment showing a 10:00 a.m. Sunday sales restriction and allowing for Class A-2 license holders to remain open until 2:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving day morning.
14. Other Business – Mayor Manier mentioned that we might want to look at heat schedule considerations due to the high temperatures we are having and Public Works Director Andrews indicated they will implement this with Public Works crews.
15. At 7:49 p.m. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman T. Gee seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk