

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 12, 2016
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM - 380 N. WILMOR ROAD
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 12, 2016 to order at 6:49 p.m. in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington.

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

Absent: Alderman Moss

Also present: City Administrator Culotta, Public Works Director Andrews, Controller Baxter, P & D Director Oliphant, and Police Chief Papis.

MINUTES

1. Aldermen wishing to be heard on non-agenda item – None.
2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item – Steve Hullcranz shared that five more pedestrian/crosswalk signs came in today and they will coordinate with Public Works and Police Department in getting them out for use. He shared that he has been gone for several weeks and when he got back he witnessed the signs working well for pedestrians who were crossing Wilmor Road.
3. Approval of Minutes: Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Brownfield seconded to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - A. Code of Ordinances Amendment: Closing Process for Water/Sewer Accounts – Controller Baxter shared that the proposed amendment has been talked about for quite some time and now with the changing to monthly billing and AMR it is a good time to introduce this for consideration. She shared they currently do not shut water off in between owners/tenants which can create problems with the biggest being residents moving in and using water without us knowing they are there. She shared that in some cases a resident could move in and use water and move out before we are aware making it difficult to bill and collect for the water usage. She went over several benefits that would occur if the water shutoff procedure was implemented at the time of final billing on a water account. She indicated that the amendment will also include a policy that we currently use for multi-family units where if a tenant leaves and usage occurs, the usage amount is billed to the owner of the property. Alderman Dingledine commented that it should be easier to know when a property is using water with the new automated meter reading and Controller Baxter shared that when the analytic software is in place it will generate reports that showing usage and will be beneficial in tracking those properties. A brief discussion ensued on how multi-family unit meters are accessed and shut off now and could potentially be in the future. Alderman Dingledine asked why consideration isn't being given to the implementation of a fee for remediation and Controller Baxter shared that they did consider this but felt it would be a challenge to consistently apply due to the number of situations that could occur. Alderman Brucks asked what percentage we would be resolving of our semi-annual water account write-offs if this shut off procedure were implemented and Controller Baxter shared that the percentage would be close to 30 to 40%. Alderman Dingledine asked if something could be done with rental properties that would make it the responsibility of the either the owner or management team to contact us when a unit becomes vacant. Controller Baxter shared that we do work with some now that are pretty good at keeping us in the loop when a unit is vacant but we also have some that are more difficult to work with. She shared the solution that is working the best at this time is requiring the meter to be read and billing the owner for the usage. It was the consensus of the Committee to move the proposed amendment forward to City Council for consideration.

- B. Purchase of Police Department Squad Cars – Police Chief Papis brought forward for consideration the bid results for the purchase of two 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Explorer squad cars. He shared that the Public Safety Committee reviewed the bids at their August 15th meeting and directed that they be forwarded to Committee of Whole for further guidance. He shared that four bids were received as follows per vehicle: Mangold Ford (Eureka), \$29,175; Uftring (Washington), \$29,535; Currie Motors (Frankfurt), \$28,473; and Morrow Brothers Ford (Greenfield), \$30,284. Following a brief discussion on local vs. low bids, it was the consensus of the Committee to move the proposed bid award forward to City Council for consideration.
- C. Actuarial Proposals: Police Pension Fund & Retiree Health Fund – Controller Baxter shared that a request for actuarial services was sent out recently for both funds. She shared the Police Pension Board has met and reviewed the proposals and will narrow to the top two proposals following phone interviews that will be conducted on September 15th. She shared that in order to meet deadlines in the RFP the City Council will need to award a contract at their September 19th meeting. She went on to provide a brief history of the City's use of actuary services. It was the consensus of the Committee to move the Pension Board's final two proposals forward for City Council consideration.
- D. Right-of-Way Vacation: Park Boulevard – P & D Director Oliphant shared the following in regards to the ROW vacation request: the Park District would like to replace their existing maintenance building located at the end of the Park Boulevard right-of-way off of Lincoln Street just north of the School District 52 property; they would like to build something similar on the same footprint as the existing building; after a review using the City's GIS, the existing building is 13-14' into the Park Boulevard right-of-way as well as a row of parking spaces; the ROW was established as part of Heyl's 1st Addition Subdivision which included many platted residential lots on both sides of the Park Boulevard which were never built; there is no record of the ROW being vacated; and there are no known city utilities within the ROW and the City does not maintain it. He indicated that he has shared with the Park District our reluctance in issuing a building permit for another building that infringes upon the ROW. After looking into the original construction of the building in 1974 the site plan did not indicate any ROW and City records do not show any vacation of the ROW so we would be hesitant to issue a permit without a vacation of the Park Boulevard ROW. If vacated, the owner to the north (Park District) and owner to the south (District 52) would have rights to half the adjacent ROW. Following discussion on several topics from the amount of ROW that is vacated, the historic maintenance, and potential utilities it was the consensus of the Committee to move the proposed vacation request forward for City Council consideration.
- E. Terra Engineering – W. Cruger Road Phase 2 Multi-Use Path – Public Works Director Andrews provided a recap of the TAP funding commitment that was received for the project. He shared that Public Works Committee has discussed and is favorable with the proposed contract with Terra Engineering for engineering services and asked that it be advanced to Committee of the Whole for further consideration. He shared that IDOT's standard agreement for Consultant services, prepared by Terra Engineering using cost plus fixed fee of the estimated project cost for a time and materials, not to exceed fee of \$57,007.99. He shared that this compares favorably to the standard percentage estimate of \$70,000 used for the grant application and it is felt that Terra's ongoing services to the City on the Nofsinger Road intersection have helped to leverage this level of competitiveness. Following a brief discussion on timing of the project and how it relates to the Nofsinger Road intersection realignment it was the consensus of the Committee to move the proposed contract forward to City Council for consideration.
- F. Ameren Progressive City Grant: Potential Projects Discussion – City Administrator Culotta shared that the City has been selected as one of Ameren's Progressive Cities for 2016 in recognition of the city's efforts to make Washington a great place for both residents and businesses. He shared that as part of the selection, a \$2,500 grant is being awarded to the City to be used toward a community project that would improve services or enhance the quality of life for our residents and businesses. He shared that Ameren is excited about how the City will use the grant and would like to do a presentation late October or early November. Following a brief discussion, the consensus was to use the grant for lighting in the new N. Main Street parking lot.

5. Other Business – Mayor Manier shared that he has asked Police Chief Papis and Public Safety Chairman Butler to have discussions with the Public Safety Committee on the possibility of lowering the speed limit on Boyd Parkway (Bypass). He shared that he met with Representative Sommer this morning who talked with Senator Brady last week and IDOT does not dictate the speed limit along the roadway and if the City want to lower it they can by resolution. He indicated that Representative Sommer threw out the speed limit boundary change from Diebel Road to Grange Road. He shared that some communities with state federal highways through them have a speed limit of 45 mph and with the amount of residential development on both sides of the roadway it is something we should take into consideration. Alderman Butler shared that it is dangerous driving with the amount of speed vehicles are travelling. Mayor Manier indicated that both Representative Sommer and Senator Brady shared that if we are being proactive in creating a safety zone through there we may get Nofsinger quicker so we really need to be taking a look at it. Police Chief Papis asked if any funding would be available to help with traffic enforcement and Mayor Manier replied that Representative Sommer and Senator Brady will be taking this up when they are back in session and taking it to Committee adding that they would need a resolution from the City to get their work done on this. Alderman Dingleline shared that he would not be in favor of reducing the speed limit along the roadway as we can't change the way people drive but he is in agreement with Alderman Butler that it is dangerous travelling. He indicated that he would like to see more consideration given to monitoring the speeds with radar. Mayor Manier indicated that this has been done in the past but as Council we have asked that officers not be out there taking radar. Alderman Dingleline shared that he would rather spend the resources doing radar to control the speeds rather than reducing the speed limit as it is more about the habits of the drivers that cause accidents. Mayor Manier shared that State Troopers have been out there as well and report that the thing about speed is if we reduce from 55 to 50 drivers will drive 65 compared to 75. Alderman T. Gee shared that he is in favor of having more state and county speed enforcement of the roadway as well. Alderman J. Gee shared that he is in agreement with Alderman Dingleline and a reduction in the speed limit will cause more problems than solve. He asked if we have looked at options such as permanent signs that tell you what speed you are travelling as those work and get people to slow down. Alderman Butler shared that we could do both, more enforcement and lowering the speed limit. Alderman Brucks shared that his feeling was that we don't want to increase our patrol on the roadway and Mayor Manier shared that there was a time where we were seeing 2-3 patrol cars out there all the time taking away from time spent within the community, which is something that Public Safety will have to talk about as well. Police Chief Papis shared that the optimum way of enforcement will be working jointly with the state and county and that if we had funding earmarked for overtime we could do enforcement without interrupting the needs of our neighborhoods as well.
6. At 7:35 p.m. Alderman J. Gee moved and Alderman Brucks seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk