

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

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 12, 2016 to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington.

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

Absent: Aldermen Brucks and T. Gee.

Also present: City Administrator Culotta, Public Works Director Andrews, Controller Baxter, 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 – Mr. Chris Nichols, 1933 Colt Drive, expressed that it is his hope that City Council considers the impact of other taxing bodies when looking at incentives. He was speaking in regards to the City's W223 property.
3. Approval of Minutes: Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman J. Gee seconded to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Dallas Road (Mr. Spiezio Presentation) – Mr. Paul Spiezio, 900 Dallas Road, shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding his desire to see the 30-mph speed limit reduced to 25-mph on Dallas Road and stop signs installed at both Dallas and Westminster and Dallas and Mitchell. A number of his comments are as follows: Dallas Road is the only residential street with a 30-mph speed limit; emails have been sent to the City with speeding concerns; he would be willing to pay for speed bumps; recommendations were made to take this concern to the Public Safety (PS) Committee where a study was recommended to be done; at the July PS meeting the federal funding of the Dallas Road Improvement Project was reviewed; at the August PS meeting it was reaffirmed that future funding would be jeopardized if the speed was lowered to 25; at the September PS meeting he shared that he spoke with IDOT representatives and Mr. Parks from the IDOT office and if the speed limit were reduced there would be no risk to future funding. He invited Aldermen to come sit on his porch and Alderman Butler sat from about 11:30 to 12:30 and approximately 70% of the cars were on their cell phones; at the November PS meeting the findings of the study were reported and Public Works Director Andrews shared that the findings did not make a case for a speed limit change; an invitation to attend this Committee of the Whole meeting was extended; there was a failure in using judgement in the engineering study and more due diligence needs to be done; and he has contacted surrounding communities and none reported being sued over an incorrect stop sign.

Public Works Director Andrews shared that Mr. Spiezio's remedies are not recommended approaches to control speed. Alderman Butler shared his appreciation for Mr. Spiezio's presentation and he did enjoy sitting and observing from his front porch. He shared that drivers on their cell phones did seem to be driving faster. He shared with Mr. Spiezio that the City must maintain the speed in accordance with the agreement which is 30-mph in order to not risk future funding. He shared that the City is looking into the purchase of two crosswalk signs as well as a lighted 'this is your speed' sign that has proved to be successful in reducing speed. Alderman J. Gee commented that through his Illinois Municipal League conferences the experts report that stop signs are not to be used for speed controls. Mr. Spiezio expressed once again that this is a huge concern and has spent hours researching on the facts and data only. Mayor Manier expressed that he hopes they can appreciate the steps we are taking to address the concern and Mr. Spiezio shared they certainly do.

- B. Dallas & Cruger Roundabout Design Contract Review – Public Works Director Andrews provided an overview of the design information noting the following: kickoff meeting was back in August with Terra Engineering on the Nofsinger realignment, which is an IDOT funded study of \$250,000 with us kicking in \$35,000 for additional considerations on the W223 property; a 20 year projection on traffic study has been done with what we anticipate as a full build on the W223 property; the finding was instead of a right in right out at Wellington extended at a future build, under a normal buildout of 10-15 years it might be the trigger for a second intersection; IDOT and Federal Highway (FHWA) have agreed to another access point at Wellington extended; the different various alignment alternative were discussed; the preferred alignment is with Nofsinger north of the Bypass aligning the intersection configuration with Dallas Road; traffic studies have been conducted; currently the studies warrant only a four way stop at Dallas and Cruger on a full build out of the W223 property; the in between configuration would be consideration of a roundabout at the intersection which is not a full stop, but you would have to slow down as you approach; discussions in August were if we moved ahead with the project to go ahead and queue up the remainder of Dallas from Westminster to Cruger to curb and gutter and urbanized; it has cleared both IDOT and FHWA and has been sitting on shelf waiting for funding; we took the roundabout to the public meeting back in May and let them know that it is an option we would be considering; our current budget for funding is set up at \$1.25M construction and engineering services for Nofsinger realigned and if IDOT funding were released we could move forward assuming 100% IDOT or FHWA funding on the turn lanes on Route 24 and a 50/50 cost share on the local realignment; discussion has been that the Peoria office has applied for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding which would be a 90/10 cost share; we could liberate funding from our cost share match to apply directly toward the remaining segment of Dallas in that consideration for a roundabout; want to ensure, given the timeline of working with agencies, that a roundabout could run concurrent with the other project; as warrants stand would only meet four way stop controls; considerations of a roundabout and if we advance Dallas would be general local funds rather than federal; outside of the HSIP there is not a lot of opportunity for us to share directly in federal funds without going through the PPUATS competitive pool which is four years out right now; and there will be a call for projects in January and we are prepared to share a submittal on this project. He shared that Karen Dvorsky from Terra Engineering is here to field questions.

Alderman Dingledine shared the reason to bring this forward was to determine if everyone was on the same page and his desire is to not pursue a roundabout due to its expense and not being adequate for the situation. Alderman J. Gee shared that he is in favor of a roundabout and is an excellent way to manage traffic through an intersection by keeping traffic moving at a managed rate. He shared that he has heard many positive comments about them, his experience with them has been good, and this is a great location for one. Mayor Manier asked if there have been traffic count studies on roundabouts vs. four way stops and Karen shared that roundabouts can accommodate a wide variety of traffic and can't recall the upper threshold for a single lane but the traffic at this location projected for the next 20-years would only require single lane roundabout. Treasurer Dingledine expressed a concern with trucks getting around in the roundabout and Karen shared that it would be designed for trucks with a mountable 4" and a paved area that trucks could use in making the turn. Andrews shared that he did put an exhibit in the packet showing the r-o-w needed and it is set up to work within the existing r-o-w on Dallas along the south side of Cruger but on the north side since we have the property in hand we would do an additional dedication to accommodate the needed r-o-w. Alderman Dingledine asked how it would affect the existing house on the southeast corner of the roundabout and Andrews shared that there is a provision in the island for left turn movement. Alderman Brownfield asked how far to the east would we have to reduce speed and Andrews shared that when we hit the full traffic projections on Dallas we would have to introduce a four way stop or drop the posted speed to 40 on Cruger Road. He shared that we would have to revisit it and look at a similar step down like we did on S. Main Street. Treasurer Dingledine asked the cost difference between a roundabout vs a four way stop and Andrews shared that the four-way stop would be the cost of four stop signs. Karen shared that the roundabout cost would be based on pavement, earthwork (this sits at a low point in the field so a fair amount of earth work would need to be taken into consideration), and a drainage culvert. She indicated that she could certainly put some costs together. Andrews shared that one driver is the box culvert that would go under Nofsinger realigned or Dallas extended which would be part of 223 project so there would be some intentional detention upstream of the box culvert that would be in the footprint of the IDOT cost share. He shared that it

could be between \$500,000 and \$1M. City Administrator Culotta asked if a roundabout would have a greater area of service than a four way stop and Andrews shared that for a through movement yes...a roundabout always navigates at a certain speed similar to navigation of the Downtown Square.

- C. Workers Compensation Renewal – Controller Baxter shared the following in regards to the workers compensation renewal: our current agent, Winter Insurance, shopped the market and has brought forth three (3) proposals for consideration; BITCO is the incumbent carrier; staff has concerns with Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF) in area of lack of loss control and risk management assistance and the ability to assess additional charges from the Pool up to 3 years after the policy term; based on those facts and that BITCO has continued to decrease the premium (a 20% decrease this year and an overall decrease since the inception of the policy in 2011 of 53.1%) along with the loss control services they provide, staff is recommending to renew with BITCO at a total annual premium of \$110,755. Alderman Dingleline asked to have the risk management explained as it appears IPRF's coverage is more and Controller Baxter shared that we did look into that and inquired as to our property and liability insurance where there could be an overlying coverage to make up the difference. She shared that a response was received from Alexander Financial Services and it is no longer a concern as there will not be an additional charge for the additional coverage provided. Alderman J. Gee asked who IPRF is run by and Controller Baxter shared that she wasn't sure but they are not run by the State of Illinois. She shared that we were with them about 15-years ago, prior to combining our property liability and workers compensation. It was the general consensus to move the renewal forward to City Council for consideration.
- D. Verizon Equipment Agreement, Water Tower #1 – City Administrator Culotta shared the following: staff has been approached by Verizon to install cellular equipment on the top of Water Tower #1, located on 911 Drive; currently there is non-operational Nextel equipment still in place; there is space to accommodate Verizon's equipment; staff has worked with them to study the feasibility of the agreement and have had initial discussions on terms of the agreement as well; we proposed a monthly fee of \$2,200 with a 3% escalator and a 5-year opt out clause; Verizon is acceptable to the 3% escalator but is not willing to increase their original monthly fee offer of \$2,000, which is already a little higher than market for the area, and is requiring a 10-year minimum agreement so they can capture their investment. Mayor Manier shared that they are willing to remove the Nextel equipment and Public Works Director shared that their equipment would then go into the existing mounts that housed the Nextel equipment. He shared that we received a payout from Nextel that allowed them to walk away without dismounting their equipment and this would be ideal to generate revenue with working equipment. Alderman Butler asked if there would be any disaster scenarios as 10-years is a long time and is there a risk to the water system. Andrews shared that there is more of a concern with leaving the abandoned equipment on the tower without it being maintained or serviced and in this proposed agreement we are named as mutual insured on each other's policies so coverage would be in place for anything that would potentially occur. Alderman J. Gee asked if they will perform periodic inspections on the equipment and Andrews shared that there is a maintenance component in the agreement. City Administrator Culotta shared that if everyone is comfortable with the \$2,000 monthly fee, 3% escalator, and 10-year term staff will continue the analysis of the agreement and terms and will also have legal look it over prior to bringing it before City Council for consideration.
- E. Washington Volunteer Fire Department Agreement – City Administrator Culotta shared the following in regards of terms the Department would like us to consider: a term of 2-years; potential cost share on acquisition of a replacement tanker; and an increase in the fee for services they are providing. Alderman Butler asked where we stand from our concerns one year ago, and that a 6% increase just because there has not been one is not good communication. Culotta shared their rationale for the 6% increase proposal is additional call volume and to enable them to have more paramedic coverage on weekends in order to respond to multiple responses at one time. Alderman Butler asked where we stand with our concerns with the Board structure. Culotta shared that there has been no active discussion in regards to the Board structure. Mayor Manier shared that we are getting no feedback from the Board at all and we need more feedback. He shared that it has been nice to have updates from Executive Director of Operations Roger Traver at least once a month but our message back to the Board is we need more feedback back from them on the rationale for

expenditures. A brief discussion ensued on the lack of feedback being provided on operations and equipment needs, both existing and new, and maintenance of existing equipment. It was noted that there are no problems with the services that are being provided, an excellent job is being done, it is only in the lack of feedback being provided on the rationale of expenditures. Alderman Butler commented that we had put this Board structure on hold and we need to decide if it is still on the table for discussion with the Board. It was noted that the Board structure remains an item for discussions. Culotta will bring this forward to them for discussion. Treasurer Dingledine mentioned that they are to provide us with a copy of their annual audit so we should have a copy to distribute for information as well.

- F. Purchase Authorization Discussion – City Administrator Culotta brought forward for discussion a proposed text amendment that would increase the expenditure range that certain department heads and supervisors can approve. He shared that currently the limits are \$250 for supervisors and \$500 for department heads and following discussions, the Finance & Personnel Committee expressed support for increasing the limits to \$1,000 for department heads and \$500 for supervisors. Alderman Dingledine shared that he is in favor of making the change as there are times when it is needed. Culotta shared as an example that you can't have four tires replaced on a vehicle because of the \$700 cost. He also shared that this amendment does not change the authority level for the City Administrator. It was the general consensus to move the proposed amendment to City Council for consideration.
 - G. Emergency Backup Snow Removal Assistance – Public Works Director Andrews shared that we did start contracting out for snow removal assistance for parking and alleyways and had brought back alleyways last year to do in house. He shared that they are now looking to bring parking back in house as well and bids were sent out for emergency assistance on an on-call basis only and no responses were received. He shared that they have followed up on direct quotations from at least 3 sources and should have them for Council consideration next week.
- 5. Other Business – None
 - 6. Executive Session – for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. At 8:03 p.m. Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Butler seconded to move into Executive Session. On roll call the vote was:
Ayes: 6: Moss, Dingledine, J. Gee, Moehle, Butler, Brownfield
Nays: 0
Motion declared carried.
 - 7. At 8:17 p.m. Committee reconvened and Alderman Brownfield moved and Alderman Moss seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk