

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY – NOVEMBER 13, 2017
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM - 380 N. WILMOR ROAD
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

Mayor Manier called the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 13, 2017 to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington.

Present: Aldermen Brucks, Adams, Moss, Butler, Dingledine, and Cobb.

Absent: Alderman Brownfield and Gee were absent.

Also present: City Administrator Culotta, Controller Baxter, Public Works Director Andrews, P & D Director Oliphant, Police Chief McCoy, City Treasurer Dingledine, City Clerk Brown, and members of the press.

MINUTES

1. Aldermen wishing to be heard on non-agenda item – None.
2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item – Mr. Dan Silverthorn shared his appreciation for the Committee to discuss a nonpartisan election system this evening and thanked them for listening.
3. Approval of Minutes: Alderman Dingledine moved and Alderman Moss seconded to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2017 regular Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Proposed Sewer Lateral Ordinance – City Administrator Culotta shares that currently there is no section in the City Code to address responsibility in the sanitary sewer system and that the public and private portions of the system are not defined. Public Services Director Andrews shared that Section B(I) and (II) of the proposed ordinance sets more clarification on responsibilities. Alderman Brucks shared his concern that it could present financial hardship to homeowners and that tasks would be better managed by the City rather than a contractor and would rather see integration for the City to take hold of responsibility of the sewer lateral. Alderman Dingledine shared that an inspection occurs on repairs where standards have to be met and the City supervises it to make sure it is done correctly. He shared that is why it was brought to Committee to see how far we want to have responsibility and having to go out into the roadway would be an extreme circumstance. He shared that the proposed ordinance eliminates confusion. Andrews shared that in circumstances where you have to go out into the roadway for repairs a roadway restoration permit would come into play and an inspection would occur as well. It was the general consensus of Committee to move this item to Council for consideration.
- B. City Council Rules of Procedure: Public Comment – City Administrator Culotta shared that 1st reading of the proposed ordinance was done at the last city council meeting with 2nd reading scheduled for November 20th. Alderman Butler shared that this was a discussion several months ago and after working through the process of bringing our rules and procedures on this topic up to date we now will have rules and procedures in place that are not conflicting with other regulations. He shared that these will now encompass all City meetings and not just City Council meetings and time allowances for speaking have been balanced so everyone will have a chance to be heard. It was the consensus of Committee that this will provide more clarity in going forward.
- C. Transportation Plan Update – P & D Director Oliphant provided an update noting the following: 1) \$30M has been received through the PPUATS FY 2018 Special Transportation Projects funding that will be split between us and East Peoria to each complete our own transportation plan; outside of this East Peoria will also be undertaking their comprehensive plan; two team submittals have been received and both were interviewed last week; our recommendation is to utilize the Houseal

Lavigne Associates and HR Green team to complete the plan; their submitted proposal came in at \$31,736 but would be decreased to the not to exceed figure of \$30M upon execution of an agreement; and we would look to get started as soon as possible as the funding will need to be utilized by June 30, 2018.

- D. City Elections – Mayor Manier opened for discussion the topic that has been brought forward on changing the City election system from a partisan to nonpartisan system. Alderman Adams shared that he talked to 25 people within his Ward and 24 of the 25 did not have an issue for this question to be placed on the ballot for residents. He shared that he would be for the change in the system but it would be good to have more information. He shared that it was brought up during the last election and we said we would take a look into it and we represent our citizens and made a promise. Alderman Dingleline shared that he has no preference one way or the other but felt that more information is needed to be better informed before a change is made and that the upcoming election timeframe is too narrow for it to be on the ballot. He shared that he was uncertain of what the gain would be if the change were to occur as well. Alderman Brucks shared his concern with any other potential changes that we would have to do and would not be in favor of the change if it would have other implications to the current management structure of the City. He shared that any unintended consequences would not be fair to residents if the change were to occur and we hadn't gained the information necessary to make an informed decision that we could share with them. Alderman Butler shared that the aldermanic form of government is set up to have partisan elections and understands that some, by referenda, have gone to nonpartisan but has concerns with the unanswered questions, does not see the urgency, and would not be in favor of a resolution by January. He shared that we should continue to gather information, learn more about the process, and not spend resources as there are a lot of things to consider. Alderman Moss shared that she has talked to a cross section of people in the community with 50/50 results. She shared that she would not like to see our form of government change, would have to see something positively change over what we currently have, and that more information is needed to better educate our residents if the question is placed on the ballot. Alderman Cobb shared that he is all for letting our residents decide but there are still a lot of unanswered questions that need to be researched so we can better understand the changes. Mayor Manier shared that there is nothing we do at the local level that affects party lines and you work with whoever is in a particular role. He noted that primary election cost savings would not come into play as the Township will still have partisan elections. He shared that the general consensus of the discussion is that more information would be needed and we are not ready to move this forward. He shared that it is a decision that does not have to be made this evening, it could be next year's election, and we will look into the legal cost of having more research done in the future.
- E. Budget Schedule – City Administrator Culotta shared that the draft schedule is similar to last years and includes an earlier start on the CIP portion. He shared that most will happen at regularly scheduled meetings but has built in a couple of dates to accommodate any need for additional meetings as well. Alderman Dingleline shared his appreciation for the work done on the schedule to get things done in a timely manner. Alderman Brucks asked if it might take a Saturday morning or another time to get input from our newly elected as our times are limited in our regular meetings. Culotta shared that he can sit down individually with them and not have to schedule another meeting. Aldermen Cobb and Adams were fine with doing that option. Culotta shared that the Public Works Committee will be holding a special meeting next week on the City's CIP as well. Alderman Dingleline shared that the purpose of the special meeting is to begin identifying the capital improvement needs of the community and how they are funded. He encouraged anyone planning to attend to travel around the City to get priorities in mind. Mayor Manier shared that we don't want to wait until May 1st to have projects and want them identified earlier. Alderman Dingleline shared that we will be identifying grant monies as well and we want to be ready with projects to do when money is available. It was the consensus of the Committee to proceed with the budget schedule as presented.
- F. Tax Levy – Controller Baxter shared the following based on the FY17-18 budgeted revenues and property tax distribution of taxing bodies: property taxes account for 5.3%; of the total tax levy 80% is committed to retirement and pension costs; the City's tax represents 5.19% of entire tax bill; 75% goes to schools; we don't have a lot of control over the entire tax bill; pension costs are \$1.337M of

total tax levy increase over last year and funding is a state mandate requirement; the EAV is given to us by County and they are projecting \$352K but we are using \$351K to be conservative; and new building and development is targeted to generate an additional \$32K. She shared the following four options for consideration: Option 1) maintains current tax rate of \$0.42112, could realize additional revenue of \$32K with new building and development and maintain the tax rate if final EAV is what is projected, an overall increase of 2.22%, the General Fund decreases to \$141K, is less than 5% increase so no truth in taxation hearing would be required; Option 2) minimizes the impact on the General Fund levy, and minimizes the increase in tax rate at \$0.42740 which is an overall increase of 3.75%; Option 3) maintains the General Fund levy, brings the entire levy up \$86K at a \$0.43663 tax rate or 5.99% increase and would require a truth in taxation hearing; and Option 4) maintains levy amount, the General Fund decreases by \$86K, and tax rate would drop to \$0.41196. Following a discussion on how we can longer keep reducing the City's General Fund, it was the consensus to move Option 3 forward for to City Council for consideration.

5. Revenue Enhancement Options - Road Improvements – City Administrator Culotta shared that this went before the Finance & Personnel Committee about a month ago where we looked at existing revenue sources we can adjust and other sources that we do not currently utilize. He went over the following options: Existing Revenues 1) utilize special assessments to help fund improvements; 2) utilizing tax increment financing; and 3) utilizing franchise fees, no open agreements for negotiation at this time but could be utilized in the future. New Revenues 1) business district tax that would allow a special tax rate in certain areas, for example a 1% increase would generate \$700K that could be used to extend Freedom Parkway to Cummings; 2) establish a new stormwater utility fee to be used for operating or capital in maintaining or expanding our stormwater system; and 3) natural gas tax that would be imposed on those in the business of distributing, supplying, furnishing, or selling natural gas that would cap at 5% of gross receipts. Specific Revenues 1) our home rule tax is ½% below the average rate for home rule communities in Central Illinois, a ½% increase would bring us to the area average of 1.75% and would generate an estimated \$800K in new revenue, the burden isn't solely on our residents, and there is a timing component in passing an ordinance by April 1st if we would want the new rate to be effective July 1st; 2) a new local food and beverage tax that we don't currently impose that could range from 1-2% and generate \$250K annually minus our cost to administer; 3) a new local motor fuel tax that some communities currently utilize that could range up to &0.04 per gallon and at \$0.03 would generate \$160K annually minus our cost to administer; 4) a new local liquor tax that some communities in the area currently utilize that range from 1-4% and at 2% could generate \$69K annually minus our cost to administer; and 5) our current 5% telecommunications tax is 1% below the maximum allowed and if raised to 6% could generate an additional \$52K annually. He also noted that he has been in contact with a business that could take on the responsibility of collecting any fees that we may not be currently collecting and charge us a percentage of what is collected. Following discussion, it was the general consensus to move forward with the ½% increase of the City's home rule tax which would bring us to the area average of 1.75%.
6. Other Business – None.
7. At 8:27 p.m. Alderman Dingleline moved and Alderman Brucks seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk