

CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Meeting

Monday, July 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Library in Five Points, Washington

Call to Order Mayor Manier called the regular meeting of Monday, July 26, 2021 to order at 6:30 p.m. the library at Five Points, Washington, 360 N. Wilmore Road, Washington, Illinois.

Roll Call Present and answering roll call were Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens and Yoder.

Also Present City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Zoning Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, City Attorney Derek Schryer.

Present Remotely none

Pledge of Allegiance All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Review The agenda was reviewed and stood as presented.

Approve Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:

- a) Approval of minutes of July 6, 2021 City Council Meeting
- b) Bills and Payroll
- c) Approval of Monthly Financial Reports through June 30, 2021
- d) Pay Request – C&G Concrete – Legion Road Project
- e) Toro Mower Replacement Consideration
- f) NPDES Permit Fees Approval
- g) Alexander Financial TIF Subsidy Payment #2
- h) Additional Purchase Authorization - Asphalt

Aldersperson Brownfield moved and Aldersperson Cobb seconded.

Alderman Stevens noted that the minutes should reflect a meeting day of Tuesday instead of Monday. She also stated that she voted “no” on the Consent Agenda. She also asked to insert the word “Crosswalk” in reference to the painting of Curger Road and Main Street.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Announcements and Proclamations Dominic Lang and Jeff Little from the Washington St. Jude Run came forward to share the overview of their event. Mr. Little explained that there were over 200 runners, every dollar that they raise goes to St. Jude, this was possible with donations from local business as well as residents. He shared that they work to be the top satellite run for St. Jude. They accomplished that goal this year and this was their 14th year for the run. Mr. Lang shared that they raised \$425,000 for the run this year with lifetime fundraising efforts over \$3 million. He thanked the entire community for their support.

He also recognized the leadership of Police Chief Mike McCoy for starting the event 40 years ago and his continuing to leadership.

Audience Comments

Christian Jacobson Flex of Washington addressed Council concerning the sewer line. She shared that she is speaking on behalf of the trees. She stated that we flooded the creek by breaking an EPA regulation. She noted the value of trees to the air quality as well as how they affect property values and noted the time it takes to grow the trees. Ms. Flex noted that Washington was founded as Holland's Grove due to a grove of oak trees and would like to respect those trees.

Tom Gross of Washington shared that he was alerted about the Trunkline from the Sierra Club. He stated that the Trunkline is slated for the last virgin timber and wetland in Washington. He shared that he learned that the engineering firm, Strand, released minimal technical data that other engineering firms can analyze. He also stated that the Strand information stated that there were two creek crossings when there are six. Mr. Gross also stated that the City did some of the work in secret from the property owners and they were not informed of meetings. He stated that he was alarmed at the increase in price for the project and that City Council was misled.

Joyce Blumenshine of Peoria came forward to share information regarding the environmental impacts of the trunkline. She stated that she was astounded at omission and errors in the communication. She also stated that the IEPA was told that there were no wetlands in the area. She said the current exposed sewer lines pose pollution risks and this area has a risk of high erosion rates. She also stated that the creek can change its course which can cause further concerns.

Pat Wagner shared that the trunkline is estimated to cross Farm Creek six times which runs a higher risk of contaminations and increases the project cost. She stated that the maintenance and wetland mitigation costs have yet to be studied. Ms. Wagner stated that 93% of the path has trees that are a favorite habitat of the Indiana Bat which is an endangered species. She went on to note that the cutting removal and replacement of trees is an expensive process. She stated that the removal of trees is not in the City's Comprehensive Plan and noted her concern for the project cost increase and her concerns for the future economic and environment impacts.

Jewel Ward of Washington came forward to share that she has seen positive results from the community and Council conversations and that we all want long-term success for the community. She stated that many people were not interested in the trunkline until the cost escalated and environmental concerns were found. She asked that the residents and City Council work together for a solution. She stated that there was a communication failure in this project when other options were not explored and that hiring an independent group to review the trunkline will prove that the best route will be taken and money would not have been wasted. She asked for everyone take a step back and review the project before moving forward to ensure the best possible solution.

Standing Committee-
Finance & Personnel
Committee

Chairman Daniel Cobb, Finance & Personnel Committee, shared no items at this time.

Standing Committee-
Public Safety
Committee

Chairman Brian Butler, Public Safety Committee, shared no items at this time and introduced Chief McCoy to provide traffic review information. Chief McCoy shared details about three traffic studies:

Study #1 occurred June 18-25 in the 100 Block of N. Main Street.

The speed limit is 25mph and the average speed was 31mph.

Study #2 occurred June 25 – July 7 on E. Adams Street.

The speed limit is 25mph and the average speed was 16mph.

Study #3 occurred July 9-17 near Cummings Lane and Deer Lane

The speed limit is 25mph and the average speed was 27mph.

Study #4 occurred July 16-23 on S. Wilmor

The speed limit is 25mph and the average speed was 27mph.

Standing Committee-
Public Works
Committee

Chairman Mike Brownfield, Public Works Committee, introduce City Engineer Dennis Carr who shared project details about hooking up the Hilldale and Crestview watermain, continued spray patching, the start of chip sealing in the south eastern side of town, the North Street box culvert bid will take place tomorrow, and he is reaching out to get quotes for Kingsbury mill and overlay and will have a recommendation for Council at the next meeting. Mr. Schone shared that they did a walk through of Water Treatment Plant #2 for an HVAC bid opening and Waste Water Treatment Plant #1 for a bid opening for demolition work.

Mayor
*Approval of City
Administrator
Recruitment Proposal
- GovHR*

Mayor Manier brought forth a recruitment proposal for the City Administrator position from GovHR.

Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

On roll call on the motion to approve was:

Ayes: 8 Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Cobb, Dingledine, Stevens, Yoder

Nays: 0

Motion declared carried.

Aldersperson's
Comments

Aldersperson Stevens noted that the Mayor referred to the Public Comment Rule of Procedure and that it would be the presiding officer's discretion to allow for more public comment time. Alderman Butler clarified that the total time limit that exceeds 20 minutes would have to be approved by Council. Alderman Stevens read the Rules of Procedure that confirmed Alderman Butler's statement.

Adjournment

At 7:03 p.m. Aldersperson Cobb moved and Aldersperson Brownfield seconded to move.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri Brod, City Clerk