



CITY OF WASHINGTON Council Report

December 2, 2024

ENGINEERING – *Dennis Carr, Ross Fuller & Mike Genard*

- The first phase of Catherine St. reconstruction is nearly complete. The landscapers have finished placing sod and we are just waiting on finalizing the last of the quantities before we can make a final payment.
- The Nofsinger realignment project is nearing completion as well. Laser Electric has continued working to install the new traffic signals. Ameren is targeting next week to install the transformer to energize the signals. Once that is completed, we are awaiting Gensini to finalize some of the last items before we can begin the process of turning the signals on flash and getting the road open in December. As we begin to finalize those details, we will get that information out to Council.
- Hanson has been continuing their right of way acquisition negotiating for the Safe Routes to Schools Project on North and Grant Streets. We have received check requests for a few more of the easements, but they are still working through negotiations with the remainder. We are still targeting the March 2025 letting for that project.
- Strand walked the area north of the railroad tracks along the Hasten's property to review the potential compromise alignment. They plan to visit again with a drilling contractor to identify areas that would need to be disturbed to perform the boring needed.
- Working with Stark to prepare for the Washington Park Berm. We are discussing when they want the hauling to begin as well as the additional timeframes for the rest of the work.

FINANCE – *Joanie Baxter*

- Prepared two grant applications in the amount of \$125,000 and \$170,000 for the Evidence Building for submission to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).
- Follow up on assessed valuation questions and drafting of email to Council of clarifications as well as preparation of tax levy and abatement ordinances and memos.
- Jill prepared and I reviewed payroll for November 22, 2024.
- Utility Billing (November 16 – 27, 2024)
 - A total of 274 cutoff notices were processed for October billing for accounts still outstanding
 - A total of eight accounts were sent delinquent notices for November disconnects
 - A total of three accounts were sent to Collections for October disconnects
 - New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 14 ins
 - 16 outs
 - Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 32 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified

HUMAN RESOURCES – *Maureen Chambers*

- Nothing to add at this time. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – *Jon Oliphant & Joe Boyer*

- The December PZC meeting will have one item: A zoning code text amendment to prohibit the allowance of cemeteries on properties that contain residential uses. The code currently grants the Council the ability to approve these by resolution following a public hearing held by the PZC.
 - The brewpub contractors are getting to the punch list stage of the project. While much of the work has been completed, the biggest holdup is the receipt of the large breaker panel, which is expected to arrive in early December. The 120 Walnut event space project will start-up again after Thanksgiving. The plumbers have installed the larger water main to support the sprinkler system and will soon begin rough-in work. Staff is awaiting the submittal of plans for the corner building at 126 Walnut. Carpenters have been working on the roof and parapet.
 - This month's PPUATS Technical meeting included discussion on a recommendation of the various federal transportation grant programs. The City previously submitted applications for STBG Traditional (i.e. new construction/reconstruction) projects for the construction of Lakeshore Drive and the reconstruction of Dallas Road as well as Preservation Set-Aside projects for the resurfacing of both N. Main and S. Main. The recommendation of the committee is to make an award of \$427,726 to the S. Main project. This is to be brought to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Board for possible approval at its meeting. If awarded, the funds would be earmarked for FY 27-28, though the project could potentially be expedited if the City has the necessary local match in place and receives approval to do the project earlier.
 - Staff has been reviewing info pertaining to the amphitheater to gain a better understanding of the projected infrastructure cost and possible revenue from development on the property. This is planned to be a part of a discussion at the December Committee of the Whole meeting.
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PUBLIC SAFETY – *Chief McCoy & Deputy Chief Stevens*

- We have no substantial new developments to report at this time.
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PUBLIC WORKS – *Brian Rittenhouse*

- Chris Ebert Co has started the installation of Well #12. Staff will start the process of getting it back in service in the next couple of weeks.
 - The Wastewater Effluent Trough Project was completed.
 - Plow trucks have been looked over and are ready for the Winter.
 - Sewer Jetting and Televising for the Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) Program will take place over the next several months. Staff will be performing this yearly routine maintenance on sanitary sewers West of Legion Road.
 - Staff will also be performing Stormwater Outfall Inspections over the next several months followed by any maintenance needed.
 - Happy Thanksgiving to Washington Residents, Council and Staff.
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CITY CLERK – *Valeri Brod*

- Our new YouTube channel is up and running. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofWashingtonIllinois> to view live or recently recorded meetings. A link can also be found in the Meeting Center of our City's website.
- Thank you to Brandon Vermillion, Tom Bessler, Brian Rittenhouse and other members of Public Works who worked to layout our final two sections at Glendale Cemetery (Sections 20 & 21) and mark the area for the foundations of the Columbarium Expansion Project.
- Thank you to all those that supported me during my journey to received my Registered Municipal Clerk (RMC) designation. This designation is a three-year process of continued education and training.