



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Washington Fire Department Training Room - 200 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

Call to Order Mayor Gary W. Manier called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., with a quorum present.

Roll Call *Present:* Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

Also Present City Administrator Snider, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Keith Braskich and Press

Pledge of Allegiance All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Manier.

Audience Comments Washington resident Patricia Smith thanked the police who called her to address her concerns. Officers were placed on Peach and Wagner and caught a speeder. Chief told her that a mobile stationary radar unit is in storage and she hopes it is coming. She has a petition for sidewalks and only one person has said no. She walks dogs after dark. Ms. Smith and her neighbors are concerned about water rates and she has noticed two fees on her bill. She has been away with almost no usage and her bill still has fees. Beverly Manner supports sidewalks and doesn't want to raise water rates. She doesn't care that Bloomington raised their rates.

Review Agenda for Deletions/Additions Nothing added or deleted at this time.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the March 18, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to accept the Consent Agenda; Aldersperson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

City Administrator Communications City Administer Snider presented the following items:

Approve Tactical Law Enforcement Medicine Agreement Deputy Police Chief Stevens shared that this will formalize the relationship with the doctor that has provided medical support for the tactical team for several years. This will help pay some of the expenses. The agreement will provide \$2,000 to the doctor for expenses. Dr. Wipfler shared that he is an emergency physician who has worked with law enforcement since 1994. Their unit has been involved in about 250 callouts. There has been a recent trend to start supporting the patrol officers as well. They would like to continue supporting their community. Dr. Wipfler shared that the payment would go for ballistic gear and radios. He also shared that he has been working with Chief McCoy since 1997 to develop this program. Deputy Chief Stevens clarified the difference between MEG and CERT.
Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Approve GraniteNet ESRI Integration Software Agreement City Engineer Carr explained that in 2021 a sewer camera van was retrofitted with the GraniteNet software which can only be accessed from the van or one computer at Legion. They would like to get the videos tied to our GIS unit. This will integrate the platforms allowing staff to insert GraniteNet items into our GIS system. This would cost \$16,108 and we have the funds available this fiscal year.

Alderson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderson Brownfield seconded.

Engineer Carr clarified that there is a \$7,000 implementation fee and \$6,000 per year after. He also clarified that it could be done before May 1st.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Approve Catherine St., Construction Engineering Agreement City Engineer Carr explained that a larger engineering firm is needed for the larger projects. He noted that this will allow coordination between other projects in the vicinity and will be more cost efficient to have one full-time engineer instead of three separate engineers for each project. He further explained that a few other projects may be able to use the same engineer. Staff budgeted for the Construction Engineering for each individual project, allowing available funds in the Streets, Storm, Sewer, and Water Funds for this contract. Staff requests approval to enter into an agreement with Millennia to perform the construction engineering assistance for a cost not to exceed \$599,300.

Alderson Adams motioned to approve; Alderson McIntyre seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Approve Nofsinger Realignment Soil Modification Change Order City Engineer Carr explained that with all of the fill leaving the construction site, the contractor and engineer are concerned about how the clay soil will hold up to the construction traffic. He noted the aggregate will not be suitable and IDOT is allowing for a 12-inch subgrade instead of four inches. He also noted that this will last longer and will give a better base for the future road. There were a few winterization items that were not needed, so the cost savings would offset the increase. Administrator Snider shared that cost is about \$84,000.

Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson Adams seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Stevens asked about a watermain installation near Jackson Street and if it goes through the creek. Public Works Director Rittenhouse explained that it will loop the watermain so there are no dead ends. Alderson Stevens shared that she was informed by a neighbor about the vac-con on Westgate and Kingsbury. Public Works Director Rittenhouse shared that he can look into it and get back to her with more information.

Resolution: City Administrator Snider provided the following resolution for consideration:

R-1404 (4-24) Approve an Employment Agreement with City Engineer **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution would authorize the execution of an employment agreement between the City of Washington and City Engineer, Dennis Carr.

Title: Resolution to Approve an Employment Agreement with City Engineer Dennis Carr
Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson McIntyre seconded.

Alderson Brownfield asked if Council is interested in similar packages for other department heads. Administrator Snider clarified that this is done in some municipalities, it depends on the political environment and staff have asked for protection. Alderson Blundy doesn't see any advantages to the agreement. Administrator Snider noted that the private sector is merit based but in politics, a new mayor or council can change the form of government. He also noted that there have been a lot of comments about the trunkline engineer, which were slanderous. This will provide some comfort. Alderson Martin noted the severance is just for termination without cause. He sees no problem with it for all department heads. Aldersons McIntyre and Adams agreed. Alderson Stevens thinks every employee should feel confident in their position. She feels the City Administrator runs the show.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

First Reading City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
Ordinance: *Approve Request by B.A. Bodner Co., LLC, to Rezone Two Parcels Near Centennial Drive, McClugage Road, and Spring Creek Road from R-1A to C-2* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would rezone two parcels near Centennial Drive, McClugage Road and Spring Creek Road from the R-1A (Single-Family Residential) to the C-2 (General Retail)
Title: Request by B.A. Bodner Co., LLC, to Rezone Two Parcels Near Centennial Drive, McClugage Road and Spring Creek Road (the “Subject Properties”) from R-1A to C-2
Planning and Development Director, Jon Oliphant shared that Bruce Boder wants to purchase the lots and rezone them. The lots were annexed into the city earlier this year, the developer does not have concrete plans, but will likely include office spaces and possible flex spaces. This rezoning would allow him to market the property and begin planning.

First Reading City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
Ordinance: *Approve 2024 First Time Homebuyer Program* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve the transfer and reallocation of volume cap in connection with private activity bond issues, and related matters.
Title: Approve 2024 First Time Homebuyer Program

First Reading City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
Ordinance: *Adopt Annual Budget for FY 2024-2025* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve the City of Washington’s Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending on April 30, 2025 in the amount of \$41,357,632.
Title: Adopt Annual Budget for FY 2024-2025
Administrator Snider explained that Finance Director Baxter has provided summaries and details. He noted that this is our largest budget and 51% is capital related. He also noted there are road and stormwater projects included, and he looks forward to the economic impact in years ahead. Alderperson Stevens noted four budget amendments for FY24 and two do not have an amount budgeted. Finance Director Baxter shared that because it is a new fund, there was no budget and she just wanted to make sure they were covered for bond issuance expenses. She also noted that money previously spent was part of the bond. Finance Director Baxter clarified the public hearing for it is today. Administrator Snider explained that money not used in FY24 is carried over to FY25 and he hopes to have more information regarding streaming soon. He also noted that \$150,000 is more than what we need and he may provide a proposal for a professional council desk. Finance Director Baxter clarified that the \$50,000 budgeted for paratransit it is under L.A. Alderperson Stevens noted a previous goal setting session that included an item regarding a capital improvement plan and the space study. Administrator Snider clarified that it was discussed at the strategic planning meeting and the consensus from Council was that it was not needed but if Council would like to direct it, they can add it to the budget. Administrator Snider shared that roughly \$900,000 is set aside for the Fire Department contract. Finance Director Baxter shared that she can bring back more information. Alderperson Blundy noted that it is \$1 million and Finance Director Baxter shared that the last installment of the firetruck is on the budget. Administrator Snider hopes there will be a meeting with the Fire Department soon and he will bring information back to Council. Alderperson Stevens asked about traffic calming devices. Deputy Chief Stevens noted that traffic counters will be delivered soon.

Alderperson’s Comments None provided at this time.

Adjournment At 7:23 p.m. Alderperson McIntyre moved to adjourn; Alderperson Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk