



**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Washington Fire Department Training Room - 200 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois**

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**Call to Order** Mayor Gary W. Manier called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

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

**Also Present** Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Mike McCoy, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, City Clerk Valeri Brod, Attorney Jay Scholl and Press

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**Pledge of Allegiance** All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Manier after a brief moment of silence to recognize the passing of Dr. David Krick, Washinton citizen, community leader and father of City Treasurer, Abbey Strubhar.

**Audience Comments** Nothing provided at this time.

**Review Agenda** 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 January 2, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting and the January 8, 2024 Special City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Bills and Payroll
- C. Accept Financial Reports for Periods Ended November 30, 2023
- D. 2023 Year-End Development Activity Summary

Alderperson Brownfield motioned to accept the consent agenda; Alderperson Adams seconded. Alderperson Stevens asked for clarification regarding the home-rule sales tax information. Ms. Baxter walked Alderperson Stevens through the materials. Alderperson Stevens asked about Item D on the consent agenda, specifically regarding permits for the Grist Mill project. Mr. Oliphant shared that the permits covered the skeleton of the building. He noted another permit will be issued soon and clarified that the various inspectors will approve plans. Alderperson Stevens and Mr. Oliphant discussed interior plans, noting they have been seen briefly as he is not involved with that aspect. He further noted that reviews would be done by the life-safety inspector, plumbing inspector and electrical inspector and receive a required seal from a licensed architect.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Announcements/  
Presentations/  
Proclamations** Mayor Manier thanked City staff Paula Arnold, Joanie Baxter, Jon Oliphant and Clerk Brod for their communication on social media about the extreme winter.

Alderperson Stevens asked about the brewing of beer at the Grist Mill. Mayor Manier shared that to his knowledge, they are not brewing beer onsite.

**City Administrator  
Communications** Mayor Manier noted that Administrator Snider is not in attendance tonight and proceeded to share information regarding the agreement with the Chamber of Commerce. Alderperson Stevens interjected to ask Mr. Carr about the Council Report, the swing sets at Birchwood Park, and the FEMA application. Mr. Carr explained that the report is focusing on transitioning the property from the City to the Park District. She noted a fundraiser to raise money for the park.

**Resolution:** Mayor Manier provided the following resolution for consideration:

*R-1402 (2-24)  
Chamber of Commerce  
Work Agreement* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution will approve an agreement between the City of Washington and the Washington Chamber of Commerce regarding tourism and economic development services for a two-year period ending on April 30, 2025. Among other things, the agreement provides for the payment of \$30,000 to the Washington Chamber of Commerce in FY 23-24 and \$35,000 to the Washington Chamber of Commerce in FY 24-25 for services rendered.

**Title:** A Resolution approving the Washington Chamber of Commerce Work Agreement  
Alderperson Stevens motioned to accept; Alderperson Adams seconded.

Alderperson Stevens noted an increase and asked if Mr. Oliphant goes to meetings. Mr. Oliphant shared that he goes to most meetings. She expressed concern about the timing of the current contract and noted that they have operated a while without a the money and they waited so long to ask for it. She expressed concern for promised items that haven't happened and asked if it will be monitored. She thinks we should expect to have the service they promise. She

noted that Carrie Johnson is a part-time person in the office who works hard. She expressed appreciation for the new Chamber president.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Aldersperson's Comment** Aldersperson Brownfield and Mayor Manier thanked Public Works for their work during the extreme weather.

Aldersperson Smith referenced feedback regarding the approval of the Five Points agreement and the park district. She would like to motion to revisit the request and have someone from the park district share about their request to receive water at cost permanently. Mayor Manier noted that the City paid for water loss during a water leak two years ago. He also noted that Aldersperson Blundy pointed out that the park district is another taxing body and noted concern asking one taxing body to support another taxing body. Mayor Manier expressed concern for additionally considering schools and churches as other taxing bodies. Aldersperson Smith and Mayor Manier clarified that their request was a permanent ask.

Aldersperson Smith motioned to have the park district come back so they can revisit their request; a second was not provided.

Aldersperson Brownfield feels the park district should ask to come back and we can't make a motion for them to have to come back. Aldersperson Butler agreed. Aldersperson Butler noted that it would be out of the ordinary to ask them to come back so we can give them money. City Engineer Carr shared that he reached out the park district to see if they wanted to come but they had a prior commitment.

**Executive Session** Citation(s): 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5) – The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

At 6:49 p.m., Aldersperson Martin motioned to move into executive session; Aldersperson Adams seconded.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Adjournment** At 7:06 p.m. Aldersperson Butler moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Adams seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk