

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Brownfield at 5:00 p.m.

**Present:** Alderman Mike Brownfield, Alderman Brett Adams, and Alderman Dave Dingleline

**Also Present:** City Engineer Dennis Carr, City Attorney Brittney Miller, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Utilities Superintendent Brian Rittenhouse, Alderman Lili Stevens

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**1. Non-member Aldermen Wishing to be Heard on Non-Agenda Item:** Alderman Stevens thanked staff for a quick response to an email that a resident had.

**2. Citizens Wishing to be Heard on Non-Agenda Item:** John and Sharon Amdall asked that the City Council discuss and provide clarity on the handling of storm water financial responsibilities. A copy of their remarks is attached. Allison Montgomery said that several prior Public Works Committee minutes have not been added to the website. She said that the City Attorney's attendance should be reflected in the minutes. She said that her remarks about recent surveying work on W. Cruger Road near her property were not accurately reflected in the September minutes. They will be updated. Finally, it was noted that the July PWC minutes have not been approved. They will be included for approval at the November PWC meeting.

**3. Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2021, Meeting:** Motion to approve made by Alderman Dingleline, seconded by Alderman Adams. Motion approved.

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. STORM WATER EASEMENT MAINTENANCE DISCUSSION:**

The City Code is ambiguous in providing clear direction on the maintenance within any storm water easements (SWE's). To be discussed is a code amendment draft that would provide for revised definitions of "storm water conveyance system" and "vegetative cover." The proposed amendment would also insert language to require that digital copies of documentation within the subdivision code be submitted in addition to the required physical copies.

Staff requests direction on proceeding with the draft code amendment ordinance. Because this includes an amendment to the subdivision code, it would first require a public hearing and recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to City Council consideration.

*Comments: The City does maintenance of its basins annually. Alderman Dingleline asked that there also be regular maintenance of SWE's. He also expressed his support for having digital copies be submitted to be used in the City's CAD and GIS software. The Committee was supportive of the changes and recommended that the topic be scheduled for further discussion at next week's Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**B. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT FUNDING CONSIDERATION:**

Last year, Council approved a Citywide Stormwater study. However, as of late, grant money is being allocated to communities serving low-income or impoverished areas. This leaves staff and Council to prioritize infrastructure projects versus stormwater projects, as they both are funded from the general fund.

Just a month ago, Council members and citizens spoke strongly on fixing issues in the Trails Edge subdivision. For some of these problems along 100-year flood routes and stormwater surface drainage easements, the funding is just not there without stopping infrastructure projects. These citizens are not the only complaints heard, as staff have also heard from Washington Estates residents about the drainage area from Gilman to Bus 24 at past committee meetings. There are multiple properties, entire neighborhoods, and even massive swaths of the city draining to the issues at hand. An SSA for some of these areas would outline a majority of the city, which is why having a stormwater utility cover all properties would appear to be a better option. While every property does not have drainage issues, every property does add to the drainage problems.

The City seeks direction on funding mechanisms to address the various drainage-related projects.

*Comments: Alderman Brownfield said there is a need for a funding source given the cost of the study and the*

*known issues around the city. Eureka and Morton have utilities on their water bills. Many cities have a flat rate for residential properties and base the non-residential rate on the amount of impervious surface. Alderman Dingledine noted that there is a need to build up a fund over time to be able to take on various projects. Holland and Spruce is one primary location. Alderman Adams asked what is needed on an annual basis and noted that these needs won't be going away. Alderman Brownfield stated a preference for a flat fee. The committee directed this to be placed on next week's Committee of the Whole agenda and asked if any other examples of utilities can be included as background.*

**C. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT #2 GENERATOR DISCUSSION:**

The City has budgeted for a new generator and is working on a location with Strand. Altorfer has indicated that it will take about 30 weeks for its delivery following the purchase. A 750 kw generator has been recommended. Strand is still looking into possible location of new generator. The City does a manual check of the generators once per month.

*Comments: Bring back to council when location and estimates are known.*

**STAFF UPDATES:**

- A. CIPP Lining Update: Hoerr has completed the East end lining project. They will be working on the West Lake Project this week.
- B. Knollaire Liftstation Discussion: A transformer in the Knollaire liftstation went bad. It flooded a resident's basement. Staff was called, they called Britton Electronics to come troubleshoot the electrical issue while they used the Vaccon to keep the liftstation empty. Britton put in a transformer to get the station running again. City Staff will look into generator for this station.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Parr-Hue: Staff has completed the water main on Parr Hue. A letter will be sent to the residents stating they can connect to it.
- The next comprehensive plan open house is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 28 at Five Points. More details on the timing of it will be released once it has been confirmed.
- Prairieview landscaping completion: Prairieview had yet to show up to place sod on Lawndale, Holland, or Bobolink. Doubtful they will be in this week with the rain.
- Hilldale/Lawndale: Stark is working on driveways, should have driveways done next week.
- North Street: Ameren was working on relocation. Stark would hopefully close down road next week.
- Phase 2B third party engineer selection: The committee had selected Hamilton Consulting Engineers and they will be presenting at tonight's council meeting.
- The fog seal treatment was completed recently on some of the cul-de-sacs.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion approved by Alderman Adams, seconded by Alderman Dingledine. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

# Public Works Comments

Monday, October 4, 2021

At several recent City Council and Committee Meetings, residents have commented about storm water problems. The City of Washington has commissioned a comprehensive Storm Water Assessment that is due to be completed early in 2022. During the coming year, our expectation is that storm water will be on the agenda for many more City Council and Committee Meetings.

From what we have heard at the City Council and Committee Meetings, there has been no discussion on the financial responsibilities to address storm water issues. Yes, if storm sewers are plugged or in need of repair, the City does make these improvements. However, there has been no discussion that we have heard about who bears the financial responsibility to address storm water issues that might be a result of changes made by a property owner or errors in the original property development. Yes, we realize that this is very tricky because, if one property owner takes ill-considered action to fix their own problem, they can make it worse for their neighbors.

The City has been clarifying the financial responsibility for water meters, for water connections, and for sanitary sewer connections. There has been significant discussion to precisely define where the City's responsibilities stop and the property owner's responsibility begins.

Our request this evening is for similar clarity on storm water issues. We feel that this clarity from the City Council will provide City Staff the guidance that they need as they work with property owners on storm water issues.

Please include clarity on storm water financial responsibilities as the City Council and Committees move forward to implement the recommendations from the comprehensive storm water study.

THANK YOU!

John & Sharon Amdall

901 Wellington Dr.

Washington, IL 61571