



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.

Wilmor Fire Station, 200 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, IL 61571

Mayor Manier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., in the training room with a quorum present.

Present: Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Martin, McIntyre and Smith

Absent: Alderpersons Butler and Stevens

Also Present: City Administrator Snider, P & D Director Oliphant, City Engineer Carr, Finance Director Baxter, Public Works Director Rittenhouse, Police Chief McCoy, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, City Clerk Brod, Attorney Derek Schryer

1. ALDERPERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD: Nothing provided at this time.
2. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD: A resident spoke regarding the Jackson Street pedestrian bridge. She asked what is being done. Kristi LaHood Cape, owner of Countryside Banquets, would like Council to move forward with the grant that she has applied for. She asked Council to consider all the events that she hosts for local schools as well as other visitors. She shared that she has done new improvements and would like the new parking lot. She shared that she is personally investing in the improvements and would like council to invest in her business as well.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alderperson Brownfield motioned to accept the March 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes; Alderperson Smith seconded. Passed by voice vote.
4. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. *Fire Department Awards* – Police Chief McCoy shared that Acting Fire Chief, Jeramy Doerr from the Fire Department is also present. Chief McCoy shared that on December 10th, Washington Police and Fire responded to a subject having chest pain. Paramedic Dan Grothe arrived and found a neighbor doing CPR. A manual shock was delivered. Washington Fire Department ambulance, staffed by Paramedic Ricaldone and EMT Harriman, arrived. Rapid transport and additional advanced cardiac life support provided enroute resulted in the patient’s survival. The patient’s wife expressed her gratitude for the team. She stated that Mark is her best friend and she would have lost him if the team was not there.
Chief McCoy shared that on March 13th Washington Fire Department responded to a female in preterm labor at 23 weeks. During transport the patient unexpectedly started to deliver the baby. EMT Harriman pulled the ambulance over and assisted in the delivery. The child had no pulse. Rapid transport to the hospital was continued while CPR and oxygen was provided by Assistant Chief of EMS Marco Ricaldone. Upon arrival at the hospital, NICU staff continued lifesaving support and the baby was taken to neonatal intensive care. He survives and his name is Leo.
Mayor Manier expressed his appreciation and thanked Mr. Doerr and his team for keeping everyone safe. Our fire department and paramedics are appreciated.
 - B. *Countryside Banquet & Catering Commercial Grant Phasing Consideration/Final Grant Program Guidelines* – Planning and Development Director Oliphant explained that staff is looking for feedback regarding phasing the Countryside parking lot project. The work would be done in several phases beginning with the east side of the lot. The Phase 1 estimate is \$139,000 and the Phase 2 estimate is \$230,000. Mr. Oliphant explained that they will open the grant program by the end of the week and

applications will be due May 29th. They will then be brought back to Council. Alderperson Brownfield noted that this was previously discussed and this one is a one-off due to the unique situation. He and Alderperson Adams support moving forward with it. General consensus of Council is to move forward.

- C. *Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Grants Application Consideration* – Planning and Development Director Oliphant explained that Tri-County Regional Planning commission will be rolling out four different grant programs and this year they decided to roll them out under the same umbrella. He shared that they do not all align with the same fiscal years and the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) is earmarked for FY27/28. He further explained that we have previously applied for STBG, formerly called the STU program. Funding for the Dallas reconstruction was received through this program as well as the three phases of Cruger Road and Freedom Parkway. The STGB program has two components. One is traditional which is reconstruction/new construction and it receives 80% funding dollars. The traditional program will receive \$7 million and preservation program will receive about \$1.75 million. Staff has brainstormed a few ideas which include North and South Main Street. They have to be a FAU eligible route which includes streets with a higher traffic volume. He shared that North Main has a portion that is under the county jurisdiction and roads must meet certain criteria on the pavement condition inventory. South Main would cost about \$650,000 with city share being \$130,000. As for traditional projects, they are looking at the second phase of Dallas Road which would connect with the new Nofsinger project and it is estimated at \$1.5 million with the city's share being \$450,000. Phase 1 of Lakeshore could also be considered for STBG funding and would be roughly \$3 million, with the city share being \$900,000. Staff is asking for direction from Council.
- Alderperson Martin favors looking into Lakeshore drive with the potential of meeting up with Freedom Parkway. Mr. Oliphant noted the federal program would cover 70% of the cost. Mayor Manier noted that they have looked at doing that portion for some time and the next phase of Cherry Tree might benefit. He shared that we were in the top three of the scoring system, two different times but were aced out for Camp Street. Alderperson Blundy is leaning towards Dallas because the new Nofsinger is coming through and this would align everything. Mr. Oliphant clarified that we can apply for all the projects so long as we provide resolutions that would cover them. He noted he saw the draft scoring and thinks Dallas would score a little higher than Lakeshore. Alderperson McIntyre sees value in all of them and is in favor of moving forward with all. Alderperson Martin feels Lakeshore would be beneficial as it would provide more exits to Cherry Tree Shopping Center. Consensus of the Council was to submit all four projects. Engineer Carr shared that all of Lakeshore could cost \$7-7.5 million and the city would have 30% of that cost, so it would need to be budgeted.
- D. *Changes to Rules and Regulations Specifying Additional Markers to be Flush with the Ground at Glendale Cemetery* – Public Works Direct Brian Rittenhouse shared that Glendale Cemetery allows for additional markers on a grave. There has been an increase in additional markers on one grave and making markers flush will help with maintenance. This would not apply to military markers. Alderperson Brownfield feels the staff does a great job taking care of the cemetery and we need to do what we can to help them out. Alderpersons Blundy and McIntyre agreed.
- E. *Possible Resolution to Approve an Employment Agreement with the City Finance Director, City Planning and Development Director, and the City Public Works Director* – City Administrator Snider explained that Council approved the agreement with the City Engineer and it was expressed that there would be value in this for all department heads. He feels this is a good management practice and adds to the feeling of security. He noted that politics can affect the work environment and likes that department heads are not politically exposed. Alderpersons Adams and McIntyre feel that there should be something with their job description and annual reviews. Administrator Snider clarified that this would become policy unless changed in the future. Alderperson Blundy suggested terms for the agreement. Administrator Snider shared that this is not the norm. He noted that Council only sets policy. He shared that other communities have found this to be productive when maintaining performance. He also noted that if staff isn't performing, they can be let go without severance. Administrator Snider noted that the Phase 2B project and the next election is causing concerns for the future work environment and he would like to give staff this security. Alderperson Martin is okay with this. Administrator Snider clarified that our code states that Council doesn't have the authority to terminate an employee, and it would be the job of the city administrator. Alderperson Brownfield is in favor.
- F. *Update on Recent Items Added to the Proposed FY25 Budget* – City Administrator Snider shared that the budget is fluid and will be brought for vote next week. He noted the three items to review. He shared that they hope to bring the Public Works contract to the next agenda and it will include a uniform restructuring. Chief McCoy will be requesting bicentennial badges for the police department

which will cost about \$10,000 and the columbarium at the cemetery may expand. Alderperson Blundy expressed concern for the cost of the badges. Chief McCoy noted that patches are more expensive than badges.

- G. *Glendale Cemetery Columbarium Expansion - Phase II* – Public Works Director Rittenhouse shared that Phase 1 was done in 2016 and it is almost full. We have 14 single niches and 1 double niche available. Staff feels this will give us another 6-8 years of columbarium burials. Alderperson Brownfield noted that he was on Council and didn't know how fast it would sell. Mr. Rittenhouse explained that columbarium burials increased after Covid. Alderperson Smith expressed favor. General consensus of Council was to move forward.
 - H. *Washington Park Berm/Jackson Street Pedestrian Bridge Update* – City Engineer Dennis Carr shared that this has been discussed for some time and they have been clearing trees in preparation for the berm. It is being done in-house and will save money. He noted that if the berm project is accepted, we wouldn't need the bridge anymore and it would save \$150,000. He explained that previous discussion was to either put the bridge in or extend the roads, and Council favored the bridge. Mr. Carr explained that they extended the watermain in the area which will increase the water quality. He also shared that the Park District is in favor of the berm and they are asking the city if we could finish the project after Good Neighbor Days and before the Ledgestone event. Engineer Carr explained that the bridge is not needed but it can be replaced with a culvert and sidewalk. No comments or questions were provided by Council.
5. OTHER BUSINESS: Alderperson Brownfield asked if the City will help with funding the bicentennial. Mayor Manier shared that most activities will happen after May 1st and will come to next year's budget.
6. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:22 p.m. Alderperson McIntyre moved to adjourn; Alderperson Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk