



# CITY OF WASHINGTON COUNCIL REPORT

May 17, 2024

## CITY ADMINISTRATION – Jim Snider

- **Pearl Technology Proposal and BNCO Consulting Agreement on Council Agenda**

Following council member support at last Monday's COW meeting, I've moved the contracts with Pearl Technology and BNCO consulting agreement to Monday's Council Meeting for consideration. We expect the equipment to arrive in 12 weeks. The RFP for the council chamber furniture will be posted next week. I'll keep you informed of our progress.

- **From Brad Cole – Illinois Municipal League Update**

### 2024 Spring Legislative Session Continues

Two weeks of session days remain before the Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn its 2024 Spring Legislative Session. Both chambers of the General Assembly are scheduled to adjourn on Friday, May 24, 2024. If the scheduled adjournment date is delayed or postponed, please look to IML's regular communications like the *Statehouse Briefing* and IML's social media platforms for important updates.

Upon the General Assembly's adjournment, IML will provide a comprehensive End of Session Summary with specific information about the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 budget and legislation that passed both chambers that will affect municipalities. The End of Session Summary will be supplemented by updates to IML's *2024 Proposed State Mandates Report* ([available via this link](#)) and the *2024 Proposed Legislation Imposing Local Preemption Report* ([available via this link](#)), as well as the *2024 Legislation of Municipal Interest Approved by Both Chambers Report*.

### Bill Highlights

- [HB 588 – Regulation of Intercity Buses Act \(Support\)](#)
- [HB 0991 – Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax Act \(Support\)](#)
- [HB 3908 – Firefighter Maternity Leave \(Oppose, Preemption Bill, Revenue Reduction Bill, Mandate Bill\)](#)
- [HB 4722 – Private Party - Vehicle Relocation \(Oppose, Mandate Bill, Preemption Bill\)](#)
- [HB 5395 – Network Adequacy Standards \(Oppose, Mandate Bill, Revenue Reduction Bill\)](#)
- [HB 5824 – Zero-Emission - Vehicle Act \(Oppose, Key Bill, Preemption Bill, Mandate Bill\)](#)
- [SB 536 – Public Funds Investment Act \(Support\)](#)
- [SB 2911 – Property Tax - TIF Incentives \(Oppose, Key Bill, Mandate Bill, Preemption Bill\)](#)

### Legislative Update Video

IML Legislative Affairs Director John Coultas posted a legislative update video ([available via this link](#)) on May 10, 2024, which may be viewed on IML's Education Resources webpage ([available via this link](#)). An archive of legislative update videos can be found on IML's website ([available via this link](#)).

### Proposed Elimination of the Grocery Tax

On February 21, 2024, Governor JB Pritzker unveiled his proposed SFY 2025 budget, which includes a proposal to eliminate the 1% statewide sales tax on groceries, which is dedicated for local governments in Illinois. This proposed elimination would cut approximately \$325 million from municipalities. Since that time, IML has continually advocated

against the elimination of the grocery tax.

**In the event the statewide grocery tax is eliminated and the authority to levy a grocery tax locally is granted, for both home rule and non-home rule municipalities, IML is developing resources for those who may wish to adopt the tax locally. If enacted, IML will promptly release helpful information including a model ordinance to adopt and explaining important details about necessary timelines.**

IML has created a dedicated webpage, [iml.org/grocerytax](http://iml.org/grocerytax), with more information including the estimated financial impact for some municipalities. The model ordinance and related information will also be posted on this page, once available.

## **ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr/Ross Fuller**

- The Jackson St. Pedestrian Bridge has been closed due to the structural failure of the handrail on the west approach. The culvert will be installed when Leman's can deliver it. This is expected to be the first week of June.
- Pavement removals have been completed on the north bound lane of Cummings as a part of the Freedom Pkwy extension. This is the last phase of removals throughout the future intersection. The contractor has been told that the rec trail must be completed before Good Neighbor Days. Due to weather conditions, UCM was not able to pour any of the intersection back this week. We are hopeful that this will be completed next week. Stark began the grading work for the rec trail on Freedom on the Walmart/Menards side. Curb will be removed so that ADA ramps can be installed near the eastern entrance/exit to Walmart.
- Lonewolf Concrete has replaced the curb and sidewalk/approach for the 105 S. High St. parking lot that the City recently purchased. This was done in preparation of paving work that City crews will be completing in June. The parking lot is scheduled to be milled on Thursday, May 23. With the exception of Thursday, the parking lot will remain open until it is paved.
- Gensini Excavating has started work on IL State Rt. 24 for the Noffsinger realignment. Pavement removals on the inside lanes are nearing completion. Traffic control will remain in place until the new turn lanes and medians are constructed. Upon completion, traffic control will be shifted so that work on the outside lanes and shoulders can be done. The traffic turning movement restrictions for Nofsinger will continue.
- MTCO has relocated the utility box on Catherine/High that conflicted with a new utility pole location. We have been in contact with Ameren and expect to see gas relocated before the official start date of June 3.
- A letter is being sent to the residents along Eagle Avenue regarding the new sidewalk project. For every property except the business closest to Business 24, we are able to stay completely on ROW. The business is in support of the project as long as we minimize impacts to the business utilities. The residents are being directed to the City's GIS Hub site where there us a Storymap for this project.
- There was a bid opening for the Felkers Drainage Improvement Project. We had two bidders with the low bid being Knapp Concrete out of Goodfield, IL.
- American Asphalt Surface Recycling is targeting mid-July to begin the Hot In-Place Recycling work for the 2024 MFT Project.
- Due to a staff directed plan change in the Northeast Square Drainage Improvement Project, we are considering moving it back one fiscal year so that construction can coincide with the summer break for St. Pats. Staff is also considering starting construction this year but finishing that pipe run next summer, but we are weighing the pros and cons at this point.
- Staff met with IDOT to discuss the potential of including a mill and overlay of Santa Fe and Willow from existing Nofsinger to Courtney as part of the Nofsinger Realignment Project. These sections of roadway were left out of the 2024 MFT project due to the detour traffic and construction vehicle traffic that will likely find their way onto those roads. While there is a small chance of IDOT's Central Office accepting the mill and overlay, we felt it best to at least try.

## **FINANCE – Joanie Baxter**

- Continuing to work with Tyler on trying to import details for the new FY budget from ClearGov. The conclusion is this year we will need to enter those details ourselves and hopefully they are working on an enhancement so that budget details entered through ClearGov may be imported. We will be entering them through the Tyler online portal that we used for operational budget development prior to this year.
- Continuing to work with Tyler on remitting Form 1095s that are required to be filed electronically. The IRS program continues to accept but with errors, even after all issues have been resolved.

- End of fiscal year/beginning of new fiscal year processes, including preparation of all new FY blanket purchase orders and assistance with first payroll of new FY.
- Participation in Student Government Day.
- Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for May 10, 2024
- Utility Billing (May 4 – May 17, 2024)
  - A total of 5,516 bills were processed for May with 716 emailed or 13%
  - A total of 562 penalties were assessed for delinquent April bills
  - A total of 285 cutoff notices were processed for April billing for accounts still outstanding
  - A total of seven disconnects were sent final notices for April delinquent accounts
  - A total of three disconnects for March and two for April were sent to Collections
  - New accounts and account closings processed:
    - 12 ins
    - 14 outs
  - Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 48 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified

## **HUMAN RESOURCES – Maureen Chambers**

*\*Out of Office\**

## **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant/Joe Boyer**

- The June PZC meeting will have one case: A request by Viable Builders, LLC, for a seven-foot front yard variance to allow for the construction of a triplex to be constructed in a portion of the front yard at 1101-1105 Lawson St. This will allow for better stormwater drainage given the topography near Wilmor Rd. Staff supports the request.
- Just a reminder that the Washington Commercial Building and Property Improvement Grant Program application is live. Applications are due by May 29. Staff will review them and bring each of them to the June 10 Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion prior to the drafting of possible agreements. Several businesses have at least inquired about this program over the last few months. Additionally, an item will also tentatively be on that agenda to discuss a revised Countryside Banquet & Catering grant program request for financial assistance with the partial repair of the parking lot.
- Concrete will be poured on the first floor of the brewpub site by the end of the week (weather permitting) and work continues to get the second floor framing completed. The first floor framing should begin soon. Plumbers have begun work on the second floor to construct the drains. Plans have been submitted for the replacement of a fire escape for the 114 Walnut building. Minor adjustments to the plans are in progress before the work can begin.
- A building permit has been issued for the renovation of the 120 Walnut building and work has begun. It is tentatively aimed to be completed in September.
- There has been renewed interest from some of the property owners on N. Main and E. Cruger to connect to the City's water as a result of a failing community well. Annexation, if feasible, is a requirement to receive City services. It is possible that at least two annexation first reading ordinances could be on the Council's agenda as soon as the June 3 meeting. Some of the properties on E. Cruger could not be annexed unless others on N. Main were also annexed, as they are not contiguous. Consideration could be given to providing water to properties on E. Cruger that could not be annexed, though they would be subject to paying the non-resident water rate. Staff will be sending informational letters to each of those owners to gauge their interest in annexing and receiving City water. Those on N. Main are adjacent to a main. However, it would need to be extended to connect to the E. Cruger lots.
- This month's PPUATS Technical meeting included a discussion of how to reallocate the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program funds that the City was awarded in 2019 for a recreation trail extension on BR 24. Shortly after that award, IDOT announced that the reconstruction of BR 24 was in the State's capital improvement program and the project has been paused since then. The recommendation is to reallocate the use of the funds into the current TA cycle, which has a deadline in late June with projects to tentatively be awarded this fall.
- Staff plans to raise the electrical permit fee to \$65 from \$40. This is to ensure that the City's costs are covered through the use of its electrical inspector, Dick Young.
- Staff participated in this year's Student Government Day. There is always great dialogue amongst the students and it gives them a glimpse of the impact that local government can have.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief McCoy/Deputy Chief Stevens**

- For awareness purposes we note the speeding citation issued with the greatest difference between the posted limit and the cited speed during this reporting period: 62 MPH on Washington near McDonald's (35 MPH zone), beating out *three* other contenders at 60 in the 35 very near this spot.
- Outdoor warning sirens (sometimes called tornado sirens) are tested at least monthly. We don't normally report the results here, but we are this month to remind you this happens. Each siren has integrated testing, with lights indicating a pass/fail status. We view those after each test for all sirens. We also watch sirens during testing, normally watching 2 – 5 sirens in a month based on staff availability. In May, we watched 4 cycle through the test. One of those, the siren next to WMS, malfunctioned. As normal, we contacted Ragan Communications to have the siren serviced.
- WPD members of CIERT participated in serving simultaneous search warrants in connection with shootings and a homicide in Peoria (City and County). The searches yielded a homicide arrest and evidence, including an AR-style firearm. With CIERT and other associations, we gain the training and experience, the equipment, and the assistance of a qualified team to address any problem in Washington. This event belongs in the "experience" column and solidifies availability of "assistance" when we need it.

## **PUBLIC WORKS – Brian Rittenhouse**

- Street sweeping and mowing continues.
- The Street Department continues working on asphalt preparation. Asphalt paving will take place in June.
- Well #11 repair has been completed. Staff is working with Concentrics to make sure all SCADA programming works with the new pump and motor.
- Hydrant flushing is completed. Staff will start working on mainline valve exercising, which will take place over the next few weeks. Both hydrant flushing and valve exercising is preventive maintenance staff performs annually.
- Staff is working with the Chamber to help with Good Neighbor Days preparation.
- Staff will work on planning and coordinating lead service line replacements. The EPA is requiring municipalities to develop a Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan over the next few years and replace lead service lines within a certain timeframe. At the moment there are 17 lead lines from the water main to shut off that the City knows about and need replaced. Another 6 of the 17 will also require replacement from the water shut off to the resident's home. Most of these lines are located on Walnut Street and will take coordination with IDOT. Attached is information that was sent to residents that the IEPA is requiring.
- National Public Works Week starts Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, to honor the Public Works professionals who advance the quality of life for our community. This group goes above and beyond, time and time again, taking care of the City's utilities and its residents. This week is a great time to recognize our Public Works staff and the work they do to make Washington a great community.



CITY OFFICIALS

Gary W. Manier, *Mayor*

Valeri L. Brod, *City Clerk*

Abbey M. Strubhar, *City Treasurer*

Jim Snider, *City Administrator*



ALDERPERSONS

Michael J. Brownfield, *Ward I*

Lilija V. Stevens, *Ward I*

Brett M. Adams, *Ward II*

Jamie K. Smith, *Ward II*

Bobby Martin III, *Ward III*

Brian H. Butler, *Ward III*

G. Michael McIntyre, *Ward IV*

John J. Blundy, *Ward IV*

The attached Information is provided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and is required to be given to property owners who have lead as part of their water service line.

The City is aware of the lead service line that delivers water to your property. We are currently working on a Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan to change your line over to a plastic service line yet this calendar year. The City will work with the individual property owner to explain lead service lines and the work necessary to replace the service line. Staff will contact you to inform you when the replacement will take place and it will require some planning and coordination on the City's part.

The City will provide water pitchers and filters to residents that can be used after replacement as a precaution.

If you would like to have your water tested for lead, contact Pace Analytical at (800) 752-6651 for more information.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please call or email.

Brian Rittenhouse  
Director of Public Works  
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brittenhouse@ci.washington.il.us

# YOU ARE SERVED BY A LEAD SERVICE LINE

## Health Effects of Lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems. The most common exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips and dust. However, lead in drinking water can also be a source of lead exposure. In the past, lead was used in some water service lines and household plumbing materials. Lead in water usually occurs through corrosion of plumbing products containing lead; however, disruption (construction or maintenance) of lead service lines may also temporarily increase lead levels in the water supply. This disruption may be sometimes caused by water main or service line maintenance/replacement.

**Work on a lead service line may result in sediment, possibly contains lead from the service line in the building's water.**

Below describes some information about some preventative measures you can take to help reduce the amount of lead in drinking water.

What you can do to reduce lead exposure in drinking water:

- *Run your water to flush out lead.*
  - flushing times can vary based on the length of your lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. The length of lead service lines varies considerably. Flushing for at least 5 minutes is recommended.
- *Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.* Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap, lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- *Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.* You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter that is certified to remove "total lead".
- *Clean and remove any debris from faucet aerators on a regular basis.*
- *Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.*
- *Purchase lead-free faucets and plumbing components.*
- *Remove the entire lead service line.*
- **Please Call : (309) 745-3503 EXT 7 for information on our lead service line replacement program. Including any programs available that may provide financing solutions to assist property owners to replace the customer-owned portion of a lead service line.**
- The supplier must replace the supplier-owned portion of a lead service line when the property owner notifies the supplier that the owner will replace the customer-owned portion of the lead service line.
- *Test your water for lead. Verify your service line.* Please call us to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
  - If test results indicate a lead level above 15 ug/L, bottled water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children, and formula-fed infants.