



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 6, 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 6:30 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, Police Chief Mike McCoy, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Derek Schryer and Press

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

Audience Comments Washington residents John and Sharon Amdall thanked staff for approving the employment contracts for department heads. They addressed “fear mongering” and a “logical, professional reaction”. Their comments are attached and made part of these minutes. Resident Luke Sawicki is trying to understand the leak detection system. He spoke with Mr. Snider the following week and still doesn’t understand how this is just good customer service. He thinks if fees are being paid, why isn’t there written policy for the leak detection. Kris Hasten, representing the Washington Food Pantry Garden addressed the possible infringement of the evidence building but found that the garden won’t be affected. She wanted to share that the Washington Food Pantry Garden started in 2005, is about 6,000sqft and is near the Five Points parking lot. It’s the second largest provider of fresh food in area. They have many volunteers and provide food to more than 10 food pantries, including WHIP and St. Pats. They donate up to 700lbs of produce in one week during peak summer weeks and grow a variety of vegetables. She shared that the high school helped build cages and helped harvest. They changed the sign to better communicate that it was a food pantry garden. Graphic designers from the high school helped with the sign. Their garden produces 5,000 – 6,000 lbs., of food total. She thanked the City and fire department for supporting their garden. She wanted to inform everyone about the garden and also noted there is an underground water line that runs from the fire department to the garden.

Agenda Nothing added or deleted at this time.

Deletions/Additions

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the April 15, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting and January 29, 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Addition of Axon Unlimited Data Storage
- C. Purchase Authorization - Wastewater Treatment Plant SCADA Migration to Ignition
- D. Purchase Authorization - Water Treatment Plants SCADA Migration to Ignition
- E. Purchase Authorization - SCADA Service Support Agreement and T&M Maintenance
- F. Purchase Authorization - Glendale Cemetery Columbarium Phase II
- G. Purchase Authorization - ClearGov Budgeting Suite and Digital Budget Book Subscription Services
- H. Acceptance of 2023 Motor Fuel Tax Documentation Review

Aldersperson Adams motioned to accept the Consent Agenda; Aldersperson Butler seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communications/ Mayor Manier read a proclamation proclaiming May 12-18, 2024 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week.

Proclamation Alderperson McIntyre motioned to accept the proclamation; Alderperson Stevens seconded. Police Chief McCoy shared that they will have a Council presentation on May 20, 2024 honoring the accomplishments and awards of Washington Police officers.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Appointment Mayor Manier introduced the reappointment of Ellen Dingleline to the Police Pension Board. Alderperson Brownfield motioned to accept; Alderperson Stevens seconded.

Mayor Manier clarified the difficulty in filling the vacant position left by Mike Hillary due to the 16 hours of continued education that is needed.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayor Manier shared that Student Government Day will take place this week and his grandson will be the Student Mayor, Planning and Zoning Director Oliphant's daughter will be Student City Clerk, Clerk Brod's son will be the Student Township Supervisor. It was also noted that Alderperson Stevens' grandson will be a Student Alderperson and Alderperson Blundy's son will be the Student City Planner.

City Administrator Communications City Administer Snider shared that two City employees helped the City receive an award from the Illinois Chapter of American Public Works Association. The award acknowledged projects that were less than \$5 million and the project on Hilldale Ave., was recognized. Jim introduced Engineer Dennis Carr and Engineer Technician Ross Fuller who played a big part in the project. He presented them with a plaque. Administrator Snider stated that they are superb employees and have demonstrated their professionalism in many ways. He stated that Mr. Carr continues to amaze him with his talent, dedication and quality of work. He noted that Mr. Fuller moved into this position that holds the hand of the project to its residents. Projects are a constant challenge and although Mr. Fuller is quiet, he is a great individual and interacts well with residents. His efforts save the City Administrator and Council a lot of grief.

Alderperson Stevens asked for an update on the Jefferson and Main building. Public Works Director shared that they have received checks and they are working on replacing vehicles. They are moving forward on clean-up and possible repairs to the building. She asked about Bus24 engineering. Engineer Carr shared that IDOT put out a communication last week and we were not on it and the next opportunity would be July. IDOT has asked Mr. Carr not to release information yet. She shared that people on Facebook have said that it hasn't taken place because sidewalks and water mains. Engineer Carr stated that those comments are false. She asked about a placeholder for budgeting the watermain. Engineer Carr reminded her that it was part of the IEPA Water Rate Study Proposal as well as the Water Tower.

Alderperson Stevens motioned to put the LaHood's Community Project Funding Application Process on the Committee of the Whole agenda; Alderperson Blundy seconded. Administrator Snider shared that Council had received a report and we have a timeline that is driven by the House of Representatives. He communicated with Council the two projects that included Water Tower #3 and the Lakeshore Drive extension. He noted there is no budgeting because we have not been awarded anything. Administrator Snider received feedback from four members of Council with one against the proposal. He feels the application has been submitted and there is nothing to discuss at this time except if someone wants to find more funding. Alderperson Stevens would like to discuss the projects to be able to ask questions. Alderperson Martin is excited about these two projects but doesn't know what we would talk about.

Aldersperson Stevens would like to talk about the STGB award and wonders about the logistics and timeframe. Mayor Manier noted that Nofsinger received two grants.

4 Ayes: Blundy, Martin, Smith, Stevens

5 Nays: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Manier

Mayor Manier broke the tie. Motion failed by roll call vote.

Aldersperson Blundy asked if Kingsbury is on the list for the street sweeper. Public Works Director Rittenhouse explained that they concentrate on service requests first, then address lower priority items so they can do a few at a time.

Planning and Zoning Director Oliphant clarified that the brewpub project will start to move faster once it is closed up. Aldersperson Blundy expressed concern for the Community Project Grant noting that the City has agreed to provide water to Illinois American customers which will increase consumption to where a third tower is needed. He said previous discussions regarding Illinois American customers noted that we don't need the third tower. Engineer Carr shared that Mr. Oliphant is a good grant writer and the language will help get the grant. Water Tower #3 will be our next project but it is not needed at this exact moment. He explained that when we flip both towers to the high-pressure zones, it will help the lower pressure zone as well. Aldersperson Blundy expressed concern with putting something up without the demonstrated need due to the water quality study. Engineer Carr explained that when a business is looking to move to Central Illinois and they call out for sites, they will ask about the water supply. We have had to turn down developments due to a lack of water supply. He also clarified that fire flow is different than capacity, as fire flow is instantaneous. Engineer Carr shared that we are selling about 100,000 gallons a day and the language helps us look better in an application.

Engineer Carr clarified that stormwater drainage at Nofsinger will drain to the box culvert under Cruger Road and we are not changing that culvert.

Mayor Manier clarified that they are tweaking the presentation slides for the amphitheater and it will be presented soon.

2024 MFT Contract Bid Award City Administrator Snider shared information regarding the MFT bid award MFT. He noted that information is found in the memo to Council and it included that American Asphalt was the lowest bidder at \$324,546.

Aldersperson Martin motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

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

R-1408(8-24) Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Labors' Int., Union of North America Local 231 5/1/24 – 4/30/27 and related bonuses **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution would approve a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Washington and Labors' International Union of North America Local 231 from May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2027, and related bonus payments.

Title: Resolution approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Washington and Labors' International Union of North America Local 231 May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2027, and related bonus payments.

Administrator Snider explained that negotiations went smoothly. Council decided to follow the same structure as the police and it was well received. He noted there is a general 3% pay increase and a one-time \$6,000 bonus. There were some adjustments to the Mechanic 2 position details and they realigned to be in line with the state's minimum wage requirements.

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.

Second Reading Ord: City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for review:

3529 (10-24) Authorize Donation and/or Sale of Items Owned by the City Designated as Surplus Property **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance will authorize the donation and/or sale of personal property designated as surplus property.

Title: Authorizing Donation and/or Sale of Various Items and Property Owned and Used by the City of Washington Designated as Surplus Property

Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ord: City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
3530 (11-24) Approve **Synopsis:** Adoption of the following ordinance authorizes an Intergovernmental Agreement with Tazewell County which provides to the City of Washington a grant in the amount of \$25,796.28 to use in support of and in connection with the County approved recycling collection program.
Intergovernmental Agreement – Tazewell County Recycling Grant

Title: Approve Intergovernmental Agreement - Tazewell County Recycling Grant
Aldersperson Stevens motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ord: City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
3531 (12-24) Approve **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would authorize an agreement between the City of Washington and J. Brian Heller of J. Brian Heller, P.C. for the provision of services as hearing officer for the system of administrative adjudication/code hearing unit of the City of Washington.
Agreement Between the City and J. Brian Heller of J. Brian Heller, P.C.

Title: Approval of Agreement Between the City and J. Brian Heller of J. Brian Heller, P.C.
Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ordinance: City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:
3532 (13-24) Rezone **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would rezone three parcels at 200 N. Wilmor Road from the R-1 District, Single- and Two- Family Residential, to the C-1 District, Local Retail
200 N. Wilmor Rd., from the R-1 to C-1 **Title:** Request by Washington Police Department to Rezone 200 N. Wilmor Road (the "Subject Properties") from the R-1 District to the C-1 District

Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve; Aldersperson Brownfield seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Aldersperson's Comments Aldersperson Martin shared that he went to Advocacy Day. He spoke with many representatives and everyone spoke against removing the grocery tax. Everyone feels the governor can take it out of the state's portion and leave municipalities alone. He asked if there is a better way to communicate about BUS24. He feels the road is worse than Baghdad.

Aldersperson Martin motioned to bring BUS24 as a discussion item on the Committee of the Whole agenda; Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayor Manier explained that the state is aware of the situation. The governor approached Mayor about it. Mayor Manier also explained that just because it is on the Capital Bill, it doesn't mean that it will get done soon, noting that in 2019 it was \$54 million and he wonders what that will be in 2027 or 2028. He also shared that IDOT is short on employees.

Aldersperson Martin motioned to discuss the chicken ordinance at the Committee of the Whole agenda; Aldersperson Blundy seconded.

4 Ayes: Blundy, Martin, Smith, Stevens

5 Nays: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Manier

Mayor Manier broke the tie. Motion failed by roll call vote.

Aldersperson Martin motioned to discuss the Jackson Street and Hamilton bridge and road location, history, how much it would cost and the road connection at the Committee of the Whole agenda; Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Aldersperson Smith shared that on Saturday, May 11th, the NALC from the post office will be collecting canned goods from local mailboxes and it will go to WHIP. Mayor Manier thanked Aldersperson Stevens

Aldersperson Blundy asked how potholes are reported to IDOT. Public Works Director Rittenhouse explained that we contact the road maintenance crew and we only report them if they are bad. He noted that if there is damage to a vehicle, a resident would need to contact IDOT for a claim. Mayor Manier noted that Ms. Baxter's team receives phone calls and they refer the residents to IDOT's phone number. Aldersperson Stevens noted the City patched some potholes before a parade.

Engineer Carr clarified that the engine braking signs are on order and IDOT apologized for how long it took them to respond to our package. We will then work with IDOT for placement. He further noted that road closures will need to be discussed based on where IDOT allows placement.

Engineer Carr shared that he received the pre-final plans for the Eagle Avenue sidewalk and they will review utilities to see if they have to be relocated. We will then reach out to a building owner about a driveway that might be affected and they hope the items near the school will be done before school starts in the fall.

Aldersperson Blundy expressed that people have accused him of not being in favor of the brewpub but it is not true. He noted that they were given a 24-hour notice before a tour and he would like a more advanced notice. He supports the brewpub and feels we have obligations to surrounding neighbors. He shared that Council was sent information from the Historical Society about reimbursement for damage and the developer said they would work with those neighbors. He is hearing about the contractor who posted on social media about progress and driving two neighbors crazy. Aldersperson Blundy feels we should invite the developer back in to resolve issues.

Adjournment At 7:32 p.m. Aldersperson Smith moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Martin seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

Washington City Council Comments

May 06, 2024

We are John and Sharon Amdall and we live in Washington.

First, we would like to thank the highly competent, professional, dedicated staff of the city of Washington. Thank you for your service to the community and its residents.

Second, we would like to thank the senior staff of the city for their leadership in establishing employment contracts to protect them from political actions by present or future Councils. We feel this was very wise ... and entirely appropriate given the behavior we have observed from some members of this Council.

This is NOT “fear-mongering” ... as stated by a Council member during the last Council meeting. Instead, this is the logical, professional reaction to the behavior of some Council members.

Senior staff... we appreciate what you do. Thank you. We are thrilled to know that you are now somewhat protected against the political whims of present or future Council members.

Thank you

John & Sharon Amdall