



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 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, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith and Stevens

Absent: Alderpersons Blundy

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: Keith, a resident from Jackson Street is opposed to connecting the two streets. He thought the issue was about the bridge. Teresa, a resident from Hamilton Street also opposes the connection of two streets. She worries about children's safety in the area. Veronica and her sister, residents from Hamilton Street shared that she has grade school children who walk in the area. She is opposed to connecting the streets. Kim, a resident from Jackson Street, would like Council to pause the idea of connecting the streets. Tom, a resident from Hamilton Street noted that Jackson Street doesn't have any sidewalks. He is opposed due to the safety of children. Roberta, a resident from Jackson Street shared that her children walked up the street to school. She shared that previously, two telephone poles were used to cross the creek. She feels it is not necessary. A resident from Hamilton Street uses the park frequently and walks on the street to get her kids from school. Patricia Smith from Wagner Street feels there is lots to complain about and shared that when she was walking to get a petition signed, she met a lot of neighbors. A resident from Hamilton Street shared that walkers use the street going to school and the park. She feels the larger trucks may make it unsafe.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alderperson Smith motioned to accept the April 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes; Alderperson Brownfield seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Mayor Manier stated that connecting the roads hasn't been discussed or decided and there is no voting tonight. He shared that he understands because he used to live on two streets that were connected.

4. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. *Pearl Technologies/BNCO Consulting Audio/Visual Meeting Streaming Proposals and Ergonomic Home Furniture Proposal* – City Administrator Snider shared that Pearl Technologies submitted a quote that was about \$5,000 more than their previous quote and they are also looking for a quote for someone to handle the technology for the meetings. Jeremy Caldera submitted a quote to run the meetings for six months with a hope to have it run in-house after. Administrator Snider also researched furniture which is provided for them in the packet. It includes a desk that is moveable along with staff tables, clerk desk, and chairs. He shared that Five Points has been cooperative in this process and he wouldn't move forward with audio/visual until the furniture is decided. Mayor Manier shared that discussion with Five Points is needed. Alderperson McIntyre is in favor. He noted that prices in tech are not going down. Alderperson Smith is in favor with moving forward and wants to make sure it is okay with Five Points. Alderpersons Stevens, Adams, Brownfield, and Martin are in favor. Alderperson Brownfield asked if the technology is moveable if we cannot use that space. Administrator Snider shared that he will schedule a sit-down with Five Points. Jeremy from Pearl Technologies shared that the audio is portable. Alderperson Butler is

neutral. Administrator Snider said he would first work with Five Points to try to get the same room and an agreement. He feels it is important to have the same place and time for residents to find us. He has also had conversations with Lincoln Office but they aren't as experienced with this type of request. He thinks it will take a month to get the RFP together for the furniture.

- B. *Business Route 24 Discussion* – Engineer Carr shared that this was a request from Council to discuss. Alderperson Martin would like this discussion so that citizens know what they can do. He wonders if letters and photos can be sent or can someone write an article. Engineer Carr shared that the front office at City Hall gets calls and they direct them to IDOT's number. He shared that claims go to IDOT. Engineer Carr is not sure who they could write letters to, noting that IDOT is short on personnel. He noted that many IDOT workers live in or around Washington and also drive on BUS24. He also shared that communicating with IDOT could give insight or it could get us removed from them. Administrator Snider appreciated Engineer Carr's candidness and noted that this is a political process that he has experienced before. He shared that our engineer is trying to maintain a good relationship with IDOT and noted that hiring a lobbyist, could be constructive. He cautioned staff from contacting IDOT. Alderperson Stevens said Mayor Manier has taken credit for the expansion of RT8 and asked what he did to help that along. Mayor Manier shared that he went to Springfield many times and met with different representatives. He noted that it was a 4–5-year process. He shared that IDOT knows about the situation and they are having issues with manpower and prioritizing. He noted that the process takes a long time and we are at their mercy. He shared that the governor is aware of BUS24. Alderperson Stevens heard that IDOT wants the City to purchase the road and wondered if it was holding things up. Engineer Carr clarified that ADA responsibilities are the state's responsibility and many of the ramps will have to be reconstructed. Alderperson Stevens asked if calls about the potholes can make a difference and she is going to encourage people to do that. Alderperson Butler shared that the idea about the City purchasing BUS24 was not IDOT, it was a previous employee and it was quickly determined that it wasn't a good idea. Alderperson Martin asked about fixing part of the road. Engineer Carr explained that taking responsibility will cause our insurance liability to go up. Alderperson Martin noted that we are entirely at the mercy of IDOT.
- C. *(This agenda item was discussed first in the meeting) Jackson Street Pedestrian Bridge Update* – City Engineer Carr shared that we talked about this in the past to discuss maintaining pedestrian access. Council had made the decision to put in a culvert and add a sidewalk because it is more fiscally responsible. He also shared that two weeks ago, they discussed the two watermains that were connected, allowing for the removal of two dead-ends and increasing the water quality. He explained that the current bridge has started to break apart, is unsafe and needs to be closed. Once they replace the structure, they will need to use Jackson Street to bring in the trucks for the Washington Park Berm Project. He noted at that time, Council can choose to extend Jackson to Hamilton to provide better access. Engineer Carr shared that there will be no removal of pedestrian access and this would be safer because it would be a sidewalk that is off the road and would continue up to Lincoln Grade School. Engineer Carr shared that many residents have said that kids walk in the roads and the safest thing would be to put in sidewalks. This discussion was requested by Council. Alderperson Brownfield asked about handrails and Engineer Carr shared there is about 30 feet of grass next to the sidewalk. Alderperson Brownfield noted that a new council member wanted to know more about this. Alderperson Brownfield in favor of the culvert but not connecting the road. Alderperson Adams agreed and shared that he sees some benefit for the extension but not right now due to finances. Mayor Manier feels the area was originally done by two different developers and they chose to not connect the roads at that time. Alderperson Martin noted that this it could increase the value of the houses and the safety of the road. He feels the trucks backing up would be unsafe as well and he doesn't think it will increase traffic because they don't connect a lot of other streets. Engineer Carr clarified that there is not room for a cul-de-sac and the best practice is to not leave a dead end. Alderperson McIntyre said he agrees with Alderperson Martin and the culvert makes the most financial sense. Engineer Carr clarified that the berm allows for the installation of a pipe culvert. Alderperson McIntyre is in favor of adding sidewalks down Jackson Street. Alderperson Stevens feels things are confusing because if the Council decided to connect the two streets, then the watermain would be moved, but the watermain was moved first. She noted the timeline of different discussions regarding the project and the culvert makes joining the roads easier. Engineer Carr clarified for Alderperson Stevens that there would be a curb and grass so that cars won't drive on it. Alderperson Stevens asked about including something to block cars similar to the bike path and Engineer Carr wondered where the traffic will come from if the neighbors don't want to use it as a through street. Engineer Carr clarified that this has been discussed multiple times determining that if the park district accepts the berm, we don't need the bridge

and council hasn't directed staff to pursue otherwise. Alderperson Stevens feels it is not fiscally responsible to put in a sidewalk if Eagle Avenue was \$200,000 and she is not in favor of tying the two roads together. Alderperson Smith is in favor of putting in the culvert, not joining the roads, consider sidewalks later. Alderperson Butler shared that it was decided in 2022 to put in the culvert and wondered how this got the neighbors all riled-up thinking this is dysfunctional. He noted that there hasn't been a decision to connect any roads. Alderperson Martin feels that there has misinformation provided that things will change. He also asked for clarification on how to put items on the agenda. He made a point of personal privilege and asked if it will be addressed. Mayor Manier apologized to the residents for misinformation they may have received and thanked the residents for providing input. He shared that they will move forward to the culvert. Alderperson Adams clarified that Alderperson Martin had just asked for the background of the project and doesn't know how we got here. He noted that there was never discussion about voting for a through street. He voted yes so Alderperson Martin could get the knowledge and feels that whoever told the citizens that they were putting in a road, it was not the case. Alderperson Stevens shared that she voted yes because there are three new council members and shared that she put information on her Facebook page and that is where people got the idea for the road. She thinks people are here, so it is not pushed aside. Alderperson McIntyre is new and finds it interesting that the culvert wasn't an option in 2022 and thinks what we are doing now is the smart thing. He appreciates the resident's input and feels it speaks volumes that they showed up. Alderperson Stevens shared that the proposed detention berm was in the 2022 stormwater report. Alderperson Adams feels the need to be mindful on social media and if you see the comments, you should clarify that it is not what is going to happen tonight.

- D. *International Property Maintenance Code Adoption and Stagnant Pool Water Code Amendment Discussion* –Planning and Development Director Oliphant explained that there are two parts to consider including the stagnant pool water and the adoption of the new code. He shared that not many calls are received, but we don't have good language for this topic. He further explained that we have had use Tazewell County Health Department for help with enforcement. He suggests using similar language as East Peoria. Mr. Oliphant shared that adjustments are recommended to the property maintenance code, noting that our code is pretty good, but this would give us another tool to help with dilapidated structures and inoperable vehicles. He further noted that almost every municipality in our region has similar language. Alderperson Brownfield supports the recommendations. Mayor Manier appreciated the well written recommendation.
- E. *Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets (RDMS) Project Application Consideration* –Planning and Development Director Oliphant explained that in the spring of 2022, we applied for the Phase 1 Streetscape project but we were not selected. He shared that this has a 20% local match, there is a little less in funding and he thinks there will be fewer applicants. He feels the Streetscape project might be our best chance. He noted that work on items outside of BUS24 should be okay, but we will need to vet this with IDOT to make sure we don't spend money on something that could be torn up in the future. He noted that a grant agreement could be put in place by the end of the year and construction could be done in FY25/26. Alderperson Adams is in favor. Alderperson Stevens noted that we applied for a DCEO grant in 2022 and further noted the lights on BUS24 and RT8 were not included. Planning and Development Director Oliphant said we are looking at the north side of the Square and the match would be about \$254,000. Alderperson Stevens, McIntyre, Butler, Smith and Brownfield are in favor. Planning and Development Director Oliphant added that we would plan for this in next year's budget.
- F. *Water Tower 3 - CMT Engineering Agreement Supplement* – City Engineer Carr shared that this discussion was requested by Council and this is an engineering supplement for CMT to present for \$3,000. Alderperson McIntyre noted the application for the LaHood grant and wondered if we had budgeted for this. Engineer Carr said shared that road projects, watermain on BUS24 and others were included in that discussion. Alderperson McIntyre expressed concern. Alderpersons Adams and Brownfield are not in favor. Engineer Carr clarified that the upcoming study will show some information for Water Tower #3 but he doesn't yet know if the fire-flow and capacity will be included. Alderperson Stevens wanted to know what type of business turned down Washington due to waterflow. Mayor Manier noted that companies prefer a property that is ready for development. Planning and Development Director Oliphant confirmed the infrastructure and streamlining will entice developers. Planning and Development Director Oliphant clarified that some property on Freedom Parkway is still zoned multi-family residential and having the roads and infrastructure is important. Alderperson Stevens asked about the form-based code presented in the Comprehensive Plan and Mr. Oliphant shared that it is being explored but we are not just relying on the land use. Consensus of the Council was to not to move forward.

5. OTHER BUSINESS: Alderperson Stevens noted the process to put something on the agenda, noting that Pekin allows a motion and a second and it is on the agenda. She feels Council can change the policy to put items on the agenda. Mayor Manier feels the need to look at the process noting that discussion happens at various times throughout the meeting and we need to find one place to discuss.
6. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:53 p.m. Alderperson Brownfield moved to adjourn; Alderperson McIntyre seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

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