



CITY OF WASHINGTON COUNCIL REPORT

August 2, 2024

CITY ADMINISTRATION – Jim Snider

- **Lagoon Feasibility Report from Strand Engineering**

Mike Waldron with Strand Engineering is now planning to present the Lagoon Feasibility Study at the September 9th City Committee of the Whole meeting. A schedule conflict on August 12th caused him to reschedule.

- **IML Update on upcoming General Session Fall Veto Session**

IML Board of Directors Approves 2024 Veto Session Legislative Agenda

During its Summer Board Meeting on July 27, the IML Board of Directors approved IML's 2024 Veto Session Legislative Agenda ([available via this link](#)). The agenda will guide IML's advocacy during the General Assembly's Fall Veto Session. The agenda consists of the following legislative items:

Non-Home Rule MFT (Outside of Cook County): [SB 159 \(Sen. Hunter, D-Chicago\)](#) authorizes all non-home rule municipalities to impose a local Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) not to exceed \$0.03 per gallon by ordinance, without the need for referendum approval. Similar authority was achieved during the 2024 spring session for non-home rule municipalities to impose a general sales tax.

Municipal Audit Relief: [SB 2875 \(Sen. Turner, D-Springfield\)](#) increases the number of small municipalities (under 1,000 population) exempted from annual, onerous audit requirements by expanding the population threshold and reassessing other criteria that trigger such an audit, providing immediate financial relief.

Aquarium and Museum Act Cleanup: Current state law erroneously excludes villages and towns from having the authority to levy a tax to help fund museums and aquariums if they are municipally operated. [HB 1075 \(Rep. Lilly, D-Chicago\)](#) replaces references to "cities" in the existing Act with "municipalities," granting all municipalities the authority to levy the tax as intended.

Parity for Officer-Worn Body Camera Reporting Requirements: [HB 4604 \(Rep. Slaughter, D-Chicago\)](#) eliminates burdensome reporting requirements in the Law Enforcement Camera Grant Act equalizing them with those of the Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act.

Both chambers of the General Assembly have scheduled their Fall Veto Session from November 12-14 and November 19-21. IML will provide additional updates regarding the Fall Veto Session as they become available. IML encourages you to contact your local legislators in support of IML's [2024 Legislative Veto Session Agenda](#).

In addition to the 2024 Veto Session Legislative Agenda, IML will review all legislation that is filed, track all legislation that impacts municipalities and oppose preemptions and unfunded mandates. All legislation, as well as IML's position on the bills we are tracking, is available on our website at iml.org/billtracking.

ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr/Ross Fuller

- The Business 24 Reconstruction Design Engineering was finally on the Professional Transportation Bulletin!!!!
- IDOT will be sending a joint funding agreement for signal work that will be done during the Business 24 mill and overlay project that is going out to bid later this year. IDOT has confirmed with me that they are seeking an expedited award so that the mill and overlay can be done this calendar year. The ADA work will then follow next year.
- Working through a plan adjustment to the Felkers plans with the contractor. The project is now waiting on the structures to get built by the concrete precast company.
- The Nofsinger realignment project continues to progress. Gensini has been working to get the new concrete road poured. The south bound lane has been poured out. 1,116 cubic yards have been poured. They plan to begin concrete work on the north bound lane on Friday August 2. Traffic has been shifted on Rt. 24. Shoulder removals have been completed so that work can be done for the new intersection at Nofsinger and Rt. 24.
- The Freedom Pkwy extension is coming together as expected. Traffic signals have been installed at Freedom Pkwy and Cummings. We have requested that the traffic control on Cummings be removed. The lights will remain inactive for the time being. All concrete work for the Freedom Pkwy extension has been completed. UCM is working to remove the weeds that have grown throughout the ROW. We anticipate that the new road will now be open to traffic by mid-September.
- American Asphalt is in town doing Hot-In-Place Recycling on roads as a part of this year's MFT project. Work has been completed on all roads north of Rt. 24 that were a part of the project. We are very happy with how these roads have turned out after the process. The contractor is currently having repairs done on a truck. Work will resume next week for the other section of roads that include North St, Terrace, Victoria, West, Central, Ridge, and Crestview.
- The Catherine reconstruction project is underway! It is great to see this project finally begin; Stark had some setbacks with other jobs that were beyond our control. All the brick pavers, sidewalk, and approaches have been removed from Main St. to High. Stark plans to begin underground work for the sanitary sewer next week.
- Met with the resident at 601 E. Adams to discuss one of the storm water priority projects. This property will be directly affected when new storm and sanitary mains are installed. The resident provided us with beneficial information that will help us with the project.
- C&G has completed the Eagle Sidewalk Project. The project turned out really nice with the residents along the corridor working with the resident engineer and contractor to make it a complete success.

FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

- Preparation for FY23-24 Audit:
 - Continued implementation of DebtBook for GASB 96, including training, reporting and launch calls
 - Workpaper prep. and analysis, including Long-Term Debt, Grants, Deferred Revenue, Fixed Assets, Leases and Subscriptions
 - Review of workpapers and final journal entries
 - Uploading workpapers and other required information for the audit
 - Auditors will begin field work on Monday, August 5th
- Preparation of Mid-Year Recycling Grant Report for 2024
- Preparation and submittal of quarterly report for Department of Justice Evidence Building Grant. No expenses are eligible until the NEPA is completed and approved. Project period for grant is through 3/31/2027.
- Prepared agenda and minutes for Police Pension Board meeting held on July 29. Newly appointed trustee, Doug Brod and new Treasurer Carol Crocker were present for their first meeting with the Board.
- Working with Selective and Brian on insurance claim for Public Works Storage/Evidence Building fire. Discussion will be held at the August Committee of the Whole.
- Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for July 19, 2024 and August 2, 2024.
- I prepared the calculation for any amounts due from WACC in regard to the amendment approved on January 2, 2024. WACC would only be responsible for a payment to the City if the .25% Home Rule Sales Tax did not exceed the debt service on the WACC bond by \$75,000. The calculation is actually based on the calendar year results for the sales tax which equated to \$607,167 for 2023. The debt service was \$358,563 for FY2023-24, thus the HR Sales Tax exceeded the debt service by \$248,605 and there is no payment due from WACC for calendar year 2023. WACC has been notified accordingly.
- Utility Billing (July 13 – August 2, 2024)
 - A total of 313 cutoff notices were processed for June billing for accounts still outstanding

- A total of seven disconnects were sent final notices for July disconnects
- A total of 34 cutoffs were processed for June billing for accounts with an outstanding balance and 31 door knockers were distributed and 28 payment arrangements made
- A total of four accounts were sent to Collections for June disconnects
- New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 36 ins
 - 45 outs
- Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 87 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified
- There were 24 new residents in July

HUMAN RESOURCES – Maureen Chambers

Vacation

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant/Joe Boyer

- The August PZC meeting has one agenda item: 1) A 21' front yard variance request from Nathan Boynton at 119 Hilldale to construct an porch/deck addition that would be approximately 4' from the south front property line. It is a corner lot and the side that the proposed addition would face is adjacent to City right-of-way and a road has never been constructed there.
- Most of the second floor at the brewpub site has been drywalled. HVAC ducting is being installed on the first floor. The first floor work is taking a little longer because most of the HVAC, electrical, and kitchen equipment is located there. The roof is nearly complete.
- Staff anticipates the finalization soon of a building plan to rehab the remainder of the 501-505 Walnut structure. The plan must be submitted before the rebuilding can begin. The City Attorney will no longer pursue legal action at staff's recommendation, as the new owner has addressed the prior life safety concerns.
- The Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets application has been submitted to complete engineering and construction of the first phase of a streetscape project on the north side of the Square. It is anticipated that the IL Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will make an announcement on awards this fall.
- A Petition for Annexation has been received for 1033 N. Main Street. As a result, a first reading ordinance will be placed on Monday's Council agenda. This is the second such request in this area following the 2021 annexation of 1103 N. Main. Staff anticipates potentially receiving more annexation interest as a result of a community well that is in poor condition and the desire to connect to City water.
- The administrative adjudication process continues to be very successful. Through July, 177 code enforcement violations have been issued (many of these do not require utilization of the adjudication process) with 130 of those remediated by the owner. Of those not abated voluntarily, 25 have been referred to the Hearing Officer and 12 of those were subsequently addressed by the owner upon receipt of a summons. Six inoperable vehicles have been towed with several others removed by the owners upon being served with a summons.
- Staff anticipates the issuance of a building permit soon for the start of construction of a multi-unit building at 2140 Washington Road.
- The Business Directory on the GIS Hub site that is linked through the City's homepage has gone live. It will provide a summary and contact info for the brick-and-mortar businesses located in the city limits.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief McCoy/Deputy Chief Stevens

- We have selected 3 new Field Training Officers who will train for the position before our new officers graduate basic training.
- Sergeant Sutter is retiring, with his last duty day being August 10. He is changing careers, becoming a stockbroker.
- Third shift officers responded to a report of a teen in cardiac and respiratory arrest, administered care, and the patient was transported by ambulance alive.
- Two putative signatories to a recent but undated "petition" to the Council regarding "quality of life policing methods" contacted WPD to report they did not authorize or sign the petition, only learning of it on their receipt of a written response from WPD.

- A resident reported belief that speeding eastbound trucks in the 300 block of Walnut are causing vibration damage to his property. We referred the resident to IDOT for his request to lower the speed limit from 35 MPH to 25 MPH. We placed a traffic counter at the address and found between midday Thursday and about 7 AM Wednesday* there were 508 large vehicles, with very few over 40 MPH. Speeding vehicle counts (anything 35.1 MPH and greater) were 0-2 per hour except for 6 -7 AM weekdays, which had 4 speeders with an average speed of 38.3 MPH. The 85th percentile truck speed was 34 MPH and the 50th percentile was 31 MPH. There were no patterns that lend themselves to anything but ad hoc speed enforcement.
- 7 AM Wednesday was the start time for lane limitations for lead line replacements.
- WPD made a conditional offer of employment to an officer with 8 years' experience. Caleb Eckhoff is currently working in Eureka and starts at WPD August 12.

PUBLIC WORKS – Brian Rittenhouse

- Crews are replacing lead service lines on Walnut. The 200, 300 and 500 blocks are completed. Crews will work on the 600-block starting Monday, August 5.
- Staff will also continue to investigate galvanized service lines to make sure the service material matches what we have inventoried.
- Crews picked up around 20 resident brush piles around town. Due to the low number of calls we completed it on a call-in basis. If staff receives enough phone calls, 40-50, or damage was severe enough, the City would offer a special city-wide brush pick up.
- Staff is working on finalizing the water tower painting specifications. This project should go out for bid next week or the following.
- Staff is working with Selective Insurance to get a status update on the fire claim. Staff will update the Council at the August COW meeting.
- Staff received the new 1-ton dump truck to replace the truck that was in the fire.
- It is estimated that the new street sweeper should arrive sometime towards the end of September.