



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: August 12, 2024

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Agenda Item: Jackson Street Right-of-Way Vacation Consideration

Explanation: Staff has received a request from the owner of 511 Jackson Street, Emily Barry, about vacating a portion of the 60' wide right-of-way to the west of her property. The ROW separates her property from Washington Park. Ms. Barry has asserted that her family has maintained the greenspace for 75 years and she would like to have title to it.

The ROW was dedicated decades ago but no infrastructure has ever been constructed within it. The ROW aligns with Harding Street to the south and staff hypothesizes that when the adjacent subdivisions were being planned decades ago, Harding was to extend further north to connect with Jackson. A small tributary of Farm Creek runs through part of the ROW and much of it is in the 100-year floodplain, which prohibits most possible development.

The attached map shows the aerial photograph of the ROW. It includes a rough depiction of the eastern edge of the tributary bank (blue), a 5' buffer from the bank (yellow), and a 10' buffer from the bank (red). Under a traditional ROW vacation, each adjoining property owner is entitled to receive half of the ROW width. The Washington Park District owns Washington Park. However, if only a small area to the east of the tributary were to be vacated, the Park District may not have interest in owning a very small strip of land that is not connected to Washington Park. Ultimately, municipalities are not involved in the land conveyance associated with vacations and they are settled between the adjoining property owners.

Fiscal Impact: The City currently incurs little to no annual cost for the maintenance of the ROW because there is no infrastructure there and much of the land is wooded. If there was consensus on vacating any part of the ROW, Ms. Barry will be requested to initiate a survey to determine the actual whereabouts of the vacated land.

Action Requested: While the requested vacation would not impact any City infrastructure and it is unlikely that a road or utilities would be constructed there in the future, staff would not recommend a vacation to the west of the yellow line on the map in order to keep maintenance control of the tributary. Keeping ownership of the tributary and at least a small buffer to its east would ensure that the City had access should any maintenance be necessary. Staff seeks feedback on the vacation request at the August 12 Committee of the Whole meeting. Should the consensus be to vacate a portion of the ROW, an ordinance will be drafted and scheduled for approval at a future City Council meeting following the completion of the survey.



Possible Right-of-Way Vacation Map

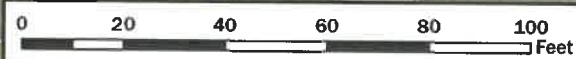
511 Jackson Street

Legend

- Right-of-Way
- Approx. Creek
- Creek Buffer**
- 5'
- 10'



Date: 7/15/2024



This map indicates approximate data locations and may not be 100% accurate. Parcels are provided and maintained by Tazewell County.