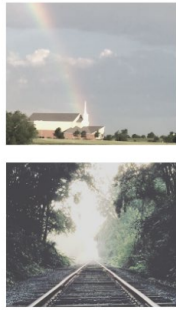


# CITY OF WASHINGTON COUNCIL REPORT

*November 1, 2024*



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

- Road Safe has been working to get all the striping done for the Nofsinger Realignment Project. They have completed work throughout the new intersection of Nofsinger and Rt. 24. Gensini has graded all the disturbed landscape and placed seed and straw mat. New curb has been installed for the cul-de-sacs on Willow and the existing portion of Nofsinger south of Rt. 24. They are scheduled to be paved on Friday November 1. Laser electric has been on-site as well working to get the new traffic signals installed.
- The first phase of the Catherine St. reconstruction project is beginning to come together. Bricks have been placed throughout the first block from Main St. to High St. All new curbs have been installed. Stark is currently working to get ADA ramps prepped for installation. We will be in contact with UCM in the coming days to get a date set for paving. We anticipate that this project will be completed by Thanksgiving.
- The Felker's Storm Sewer Priority Project has been completed. We have been in contact with both consultants and contractors for the next storm water priority project that will be done throughout the section of town southeast of the square. We hope to begin this project this winter.
- Lonewolf Concrete has been in town this week working on the last of the residential sidewalk replacement requests. They also poured new sidewalk from the end of Jackson St to Hamilton. Two ADA ramps that had trip hazards within the ramps have been replaced along with a 50 ft section of sidewalk that had settled near Kern/Muller.
- Pearl Technologies has been coordinating with Five Points to install the camera and wiring for our future council meetings. We are not quite ready to go live, but we will be doing a test run on Monday. We hope that the November 11<sup>th</sup> COW meeting will be the first that is live.
- Hanson has been continuing their right of way acquisition negotiating for the Safe Routes to Schools Project on North and Grant Streets. We have received check requests for a few more of the easements, but they are still working through negotiations with the remainder. We are still targeting the March 2025 letting for that project.

## **FINANCE – Joanie Baxter**

- Spent a considerable amount of time updating and making corrections to the proposed Fire and Rescue contract. Drafted memo to City Council to explain the financial impact of the requests.
- Completed Police Pension Fund Annual Report interrogatories and filed the report due October 25, 2024. Prepared Municipal Compliance Report, reviewed preliminary actuarial report and discussed with actuaries.
- Completed Management Discussion and Analysis as part of the financial statements.
- Reviewed the draft financial statements and consulted with auditors on changes, corrections and questions. Provided additional information needed and made changes as necessary.
- As a follow up to the Council's approval of the Community Solar program – we have been notified that our load has been placed and based on the go live date for the project – it is anticipated that the billing credits will be applied in March 2025 with the corresponding discounted bill received several months later.
- We received notification that Energy Harbor, our municipal electric aggregate company, that had been sold to Vistra, has now been sold to Homefield Energy. Homefield Energy will honor all terms of the agreements and residents will be notified of the name change through a letter.
- Prepared agenda items for the Police Pension Board meeting scheduled for November 4, 2024.
- Utility Billing (October 19 – November 1, 2024)
  - A total of one disconnect was sent to Collections for September disconnects
  - New accounts and account closings processed:
    - 25 ins
    - 26 outs

- Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 37 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified
- There were 32 new residents in October
- A total of 2,205 residents are signed up for direct debit/auto pay – 37.5%

## **HUMAN RESOURCES – Maureen Chambers**

- Preparing November Newsletter. Saw a great example of an email newsletter form versus PDF. Investigating those options, which could contain clickable links and be more user friendly.
- Fall HR Checklist wellness activity was a success. Had 26 participants and hopefully helped people get into a forward-thinking mindset regarding insurance benefits and time-off.
- October 17 Lunch and Learn completed. Had representatives from Aflac and ComPsych come to discuss offerings and services. Well-attended with 34 participants.
- Currently hosting OPEN ENROLLMENT for all employees. Includes a very short online form which lets me know whether changes are desired for next year. I then reach out to each person requesting a change to make sure they have all the information necessary to make an informed decision. Open Enrollment closes on November 8. I take 1-2 weeks to reach out to employees and process enrollment forms. Changes go into effect on January 1, 2025.
- Onboarded new Public Works hire and Police Officer. Possibly one more employee to onboard in late November from PD.
- Planning December 12 Holiday Luncheon and Employee Appreciation gifts.
- Working on developing an Employee Status Change Form to be used to alert HR/Payroll of changes to employee status that employee and Supervisor can sign off on. Not sure if it will work or not or if I like it, but working on it.
- Working with Brian to schedule PW Safety Lunches for end of 2024 and 2025.
- Next projects: Anti-Harassment Training.
- Save the Date: Holiday Luncheon – December 12 at Tres Rojas.
- Processed handful of recruitment/termination/retirement/personnel/benefit items.

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

- The November PZC meeting will have four cases: 1) A request from Steve and Allissa Vander Naalt at 926 Dallas to rezone their property from R-1 to AG-1. If approved, that would allow for chickens to be housed on the property, as they are currently prohibited on residential-zoned properties. The PZC would make a recommendation on the case prior to a first reading ordinance being scheduled at the November 18 Council meeting; 2) A zoning code text amendment to create short-term rental regulations as has previously been discussed with the Council; 3) A code amendment to add AG-1 to the zoning districts that would be allowed to have ground-mount solar provided the various underlying lot size and setback regulations are met; and 4) A code amendment to update the process for sign variance requests to more clearly identify that the Council is the authoritative jurisdiction for such matters.
- The drywall crew for the brewpub is taping and sanding the drywall before completing the painting. Plumbers and electricians are both finishing their work. The electrical switchbox is still tentatively scheduled to arrive around November 15.
- The 120 Walnut (former Knights of Columbus) building will soon have a new water service installed. The roof was removed at the 126 Walnut (former Prep Freeze Cook) building in anticipation of more exterior work. There is no definitive timeframe for its eventual occupancy.
- The multi-unit contractor's building at 1860 W. Cruger is nearly complete and staff anticipates the issuance of a certificate of occupancy within the next week or so.
- Ground has been broken at a minimum on all of the lots on Stephanie Street that are in Trails Edge Section 9. Most or all of them should be completed this winter before the focus begins on the lots on Debates Street.
- A resolution will be on Monday's Council agenda to approve a correction to a 2006 Grace Bible Church sign easement legal description. The legal description does not indicate the actual location of the sign. There are no substantive changes to the easement.
- Staff met with a college student interested in disaster planning to assist with a project that focuses on natural disasters in smaller cities such as the Washington tornado.
- A special Technical Working Group meeting was held to present a targeted industry analysis. It showed the positives and negatives of the Peoria region as well as some peer cities and an aspirational city. This region is quite strong in the medical and agri-business sectors, which also means that there is less room for growth compared to other sectors.

- Staff was invited to listen to presentations made by several German smart city and sustainable mobility startup companies that came to Peoria for a day after spending some time in Chicago. Each of them would like to make inroads in potentially having a presence in the US.

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

*\*No Report\**

## **PUBLIC WORKS – Brian Rittenhouse**

- Staff completed the brush burn for this year. Brush pick-ups are twice a year, in the spring and fall, plus any special pick-ups throughout the year, due to storm events. Staff will assess the amount of brush onsite next fall and determine if a burning is necessary.
- Staff are going through snow routes trimming trees. This is a yearly task where staff identifies low hanging limbs that may hit plow trucks when snow or ice builds up on them.
- Staff investigated a valve on East Jefferson Street and made repairs to the road.
- Staff is working on stabilizing another section of bank that borders the wastewater treatment plant. Staff uses concrete, acquired from various projects throughout the year, to stabilize the bank to reduce erosion. This project started last year and will continue for the next couple of years.
- The column pipe and wire, for Well #12, has been delivered, but Chris Ebert Co. is still waiting on the motor and pump. Once everything is in, staff will coordinate the installation.