



CITY OF WASHINGTON Council Report

January 31, 2025

ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr, Ross Fuller & Mike Genard

- The Candlewood Bridge design is nearly done and awaiting IDOT review. We are looking to schedule a bid opening later this spring with construction to start sometime in May.
- Staff has begun working on the budget with the majority of current efforts being directed at capital projects and a 5-year capital plan.
- Strand has been in communication with two drilling contractors in an effort to get at least one of them to perform a site visit to help assess accessibility and disturbance limits. No timetable for a visit has been scheduled yet.

FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

- Preparation and distribution of 2024 W-2s and 1099-NEC, 1099-MISC, 1099-R, and 1099-S, including electronic filing as required.
- Continued training with ClearGov regarding Operational Budgeting and the new format. Completed setup and import of FY2024 actuals and rolled out to department heads to start the budget development process.
- Preparation and filing of NPDES Report for Wastewater Treatment Plant #2 due January 31, 2025.
- Completed application for Recycling Grant for 2025 due January 30, 2025.
- Filed quarterly report for Evidence Building Grant with Department of Justice due January 30, 2025.
- Preparation for Police Pension Board meeting scheduled for February 3, 2025, including minutes and agenda packet.
- Preparation for Amphitheater Open House.
- Payroll processing for January 17th and January 31st payrolls.
- Utility Billing (January 18 – 31, 2025)
 - A total of 316 cutoff notices were processed for December billing for accounts still outstanding
 - A total of 18 cutoffs were processed for December billing and 23 door knockers were distributed and 25 payment arrangements made
 - A total of three delinquent notices were sent for December disconnects
 - New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 9 ins
 - 15 outs
 - Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 57 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified

HUMAN RESOURCES – *Maureen Chambers*

No Report

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – *Jon Oliphant & Joe Boyer*

- Final building, electrical, and plumbing inspections have been approved for the brewpub. The fire sprinklers have been installed and staff anticipates scheduling a life safety inspection in the near future. Dining room flooring is scheduled to be installed on Monday. The remaining exterior façade is still to be completed. Other interior finishings, such as the baseboards, will be installed soon. The replacement of a portion of the adjacent sidewalk should be completed soon and City and IDOT staff have been in contact with the developer and contractor to approve that work. At the event space at 120 Walnut, carpenters have framed the two upstairs rooms, which could be used as changing rooms or STR's. Plumbers are currently installing bathrooms. Framing of the front façade is ongoing. Electrical work should begin soon.
 - This month's Technical Working Group meeting included presentations from staff from IL DCEO about its Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment Capital Grant program and the Illinois Business Financial Services about its SBA 504 Loan Program.
 - Staff has been communicating with several property owners that have properties listed as short-term rentals on national websites about the need to come into compliance with the City's recently adopted STR regulations. The hope is to have each of them have at least initiated the process to obtain either a special use permit or a Certificate of Registration by the end of February.
 - A Washington Tourism Grant application has been submitted for the 2025 Paint the Path project, which is scheduled for June 14 on the recreation trail between Five Points and the fire station. It is held by the Washington BRIDGE Education Foundation and helps generate funds to assist with the development of local students. This will be the fifth annual event and draws people from throughout the region. The event organizers anticipate more participants by adding a professional artist category to compete in a juried contest with cash prizes. The foundation is partnering with Five Points Cares, which is hosting an inaugural pickleball tournament to coincide with this event. An award of \$1,500 has been made for the event.
 - Staff has been excited about the progress made in the rehabilitation of the homes at 104 E. Jefferson and 118 N. High. Both were formerly structures that had been in disrepair. A local resident and broker purchased them recently and has added new life to them and the neighborhood. Interior work on both will begin soon. Finding buyers for these homes is the best-case scenario for staff, as the Court process to seek legal remedies for property improvements can be lengthy and costly. While the overall condition of the housing stock in Washington is excellent, staff hopes to be able to identify local citizens to purchase other properties should there be other dilapidated homes in the future.
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PUBLIC SAFETY – *Chief McCoy & Deputy Chief Stevens*

- Two frozen pipes caused damage at city facilities since the last Council meeting: a storage area at the PD suffered water damage when a sprinkler head froze and broke. The space heater in that area was not working and has been replaced. At the former evidence facility, an overhead water line broke, leading to damage including a collapsed ceiling in the internal office. This is the facility that was previously damaged by fire.
 - A car vs. pedestrian crash at Peoria and Wood did not result in serious injury (at least that was the report at the time of the crash). A southbound pedestrian, crossing at the corner, was struck by an eastbound motorist.
 - Officers monitored the detours necessitated by the water main repairs on Peoria Street near Bondurant
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PUBLIC WORKS – *Brian Rittenhouse*

- The Distribution and Collections Department continues to repair water leaks. The Street Department helps by taking care of the patch after the leak is fixed. They also help by setting up and tearing down the traffic control for each leak.
 - Staff expects to have Well #12 back in operation in February. I will update Council when it is back in operation.
 - Staff is still working with Selective and Hoerr on the Public Works Storage/Evidence Building. They are set to have an engineer on site the first week in February to evaluate the roof trusses and the metal beam for damage. This is needed to determine how many trusses are to be replaced and if the metal beam needs to be replaced.
 - Commodity bid packets will be going out and available next week. With a bid opening set for Tuesday, February 25th. Staff would anticipate bringing recommendations to the COW meeting in March.
 - Staff is working on the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. This includes reviewing the current fiscal year and where projects stand along with looking at future projects and where they fit in over the next few years.
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