



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Washington Fire Department Training Room - 200 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

Call to Order Mayor Gary W. Manier called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

Roll Call *Present:* Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

Also Present City Administrator Snider, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Mike McCoy, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Derek Schryer and Press

Pledge of Allegiance All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Manier.

Audience Comments Dave and Tracy Lucas from Dallas Road commented regarding a grant application relating to Dallas Road, annexations, water and septic and the location of a possible sidewalk. Planning and Development Director Oliphant will reach out to her with more information. Her comments are provided.
Jeff Giebelhausen, owner of The Peak of Summit, formerly Sunnyland Smokehouse, spoke regarding his liquor and gaming licenses. He shared that several council members visited him. He shared details regarding his improvements to the property. He shared that he bought the establishment with the understanding that the gaming license had a one-year waiting period. He shared that he has had issues with the fire marshal and a turnover in staff. Mr. Giebelhausen noted the need for gaming as a revenue stream.

Agenda Nothing added or deleted at this time.

Deletions/Additions

Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:

- A. Approve Minutes of the June 3, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Bills and Payroll
- C. Approve Property and Liability Insurance Renewal
- D. Payment Authorization - GPEDC Funding

Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to accept the Consent Agenda; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution: City Administrator Snider provided the following resolution for review:

R-1414 (14-24) **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would provide permission to partially close Illinois Temporary Closure of a State-Maintained Road Highway code on Saturday, September 21, 2024 for the "Washington Autumn Fest".
for a Public Event **Title:** Approve Temporary Closure of a State-Maintained Roadway for a Public Event

Administrator Snider offered to provide more information regarding the fiscal impact of overtime for Public Works employees.

Aldersperson Stevens motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution: City Administrator Snider provided the following resolution for review:

R-1415 (15-24) **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would declare the International 7400 Truck Commonly Declaring Various Known as LIN #1, which is in the possession of the City of Washington to be "Surplus".
Items as Surplus **Title:** Approve Declaring the International 7400 Truck Commonly Known as LIN #1 to be Property Surplus Property

Public Works Director Rittenhouse explained that this truck has engine issues which would make it difficult to resell.

Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

First Reading Ord: City Administrator Snider provided the following resolution for review:

Authorize **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would authorize the sale of one used International 7400 Donation/Sale of Truck, commonly known as LIN #1 designated as "surplus property".
Property Owned by the **Title:** Authorize the Sale of One Used International 7400 Truck, Commonly Known as LIN #1 City Designated as Designated as Surplus Property
Surplus Property

First Reading Ord:
Countryside Banquet &
Catering Commercial
Grant Program Project

City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for review:

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would approve a redevelopment agreement with Kristi LaHood Cape doing business as Countryside Banquet & Catering, for the redevelopment of 659 School Street.

Title: Approve Countryside Banquet & Catering Commercial Grant Program Project
Planning and Development Director Oliphant clarified that this ordinance is for Phase 1 of the project. Alderperson Butler asked about Phase 2 of the project that is mentioned in the memo. He noted that the requester is responsible for Phase 2. Alderperson Butler requested clarifying language prohibiting additional applications for this project by the requester. Alderperson Blundy agreed. Alderperson Stevens noted this was the only request from FY23/24 and there is \$300,000 for FY24/25. Mr. Oliphant clarified that the application window has closed for now. Alderperson Stevens would like to place put a moratorium on applications until council figures out what they are doing. Alderperson Martin clarified that reimbursement is provided after invoices are paid.

Second Reading Ord:
3536 (17-24) Second
Reading Ordinance:
Amending the Budget
for the Fiscal Year
Beginning 2024 and
Ending 2025

City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for review:

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would amend the City of Washington's budget for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending on April 30, 2025.

Title: Amend the Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2024 and Ending 2025

Alderperson Adams motioned to approve; Alderperson Martin seconded.

Alderperson Blundy feels this project was a want two years ago and it wouldn't be done unless it was fully funded but three years later, we are three times the cost and now it is a need. He expressed concern about not being presented with other options. He suggested considering rehabbing of the old building, long term leases and restructuring the current police department. He noted that Council has approved \$1.9 million, and he didn't vote yes on the budget because he was concerned about this item. He feels things can be cut to save money and is concerned that the fire department contract is coming soon. Alderperson Martin noted that this project does not produce taxes, but it is vitally important to the city. He noted that we have \$900,000 in grants and buildings are now twice as expensive as they were six years ago. He feels that he doesn't know enough about evidence buildings to recommend items to cut costs and the city hired a professional firm to do this. He recommends moving forward. Chief McCoy and Administrator Snider agreed with the recommendation to move forward. Alderperson Blundy doesn't feel there is an urgency to spend the grants, but Alderperson Martin feels the building and engineer costs could increase if it is postponed. He also noted that the old building could be sold or reused. Alderperson Stevens shared that this vote is for amending the budget. She supports a new evidence building but not amending the budget. Alderperson Butler noted there is no longer an urgency to use the grants. He expressed concern with spending \$2,000 per month for outside storage and wondered about the expense to run a building of this size. Alderperson Butler shared that the interest cost on \$1.6 million is about \$6,500. He shared concern that initially the architect estimated the project at \$5 million then it was reduced to \$1.9 million and wondered if they can reduce it more. Alderperson Butler noted that the bids came in higher than cost estimate and the memo noted this was due to no utilities at the new location. He feels they can rebuild on the current location. He does not support amending the budget or the new evidence building. Alderperson Smith and Administrator Snider clarified that insurance did not cover the rent of the new storage facility and they are close to settling the claim. He noted the estimate for the building was \$125,000 and after expenses the city will net about \$115,000. Alderperson Adams feels it is a need and it has been discussed for two years. He noted that tearing down the old evidence building and rebuilding on the same site would then require building a new building for public works. He feels the city has done due diligence and he is embarrassed that the city is hauling evidence to East Peoria for storage.

3 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Martin

5 Nays: Blundy, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

Motion failed by roll call vote.

**City Administrator
Communications**

Administrator Snider shared that there have been issues with the website.

**Bid Award - WTP1
Chlorination Upgrade**

Public Works Director Rittenhouse shared that staff received two bids and both were above budget. He shared that they originally thought they would need a custom-built scrubber. Peoria metro chose a Dryden scrubber that is or equal. CMT recommended rejecting the bids so they can do design changes that could reduce cost. They considered moving the scrubber to reduce cost. The project was rebid and they received three bids. \$465,000 was budgeted. CMT recommended accepting the bid from Commercial Mechanical Inc. for \$409,000. Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Administrator Snider asked for Council to provide feedback regarding the evidence building project. Alderperson Brownfield noted that prices are just going up so we need to get this rebid as soon as possible. He fears it will be like Strand and get pushed along. Alderperson Blundy recommends rejecting current bids, cutting items and using the \$1.9 million that we have. He would like to see if the existing building can be used. Mayor Manier asked if Council is interested in rebidding and most of Council nodded. Alderperson Butler would like to look at alternate locations and was concerned with choosing a firm who was interested in the building construction. He feels they may be able to reduce the cost more. He is not in favor of amending the budget. Consensus was to move forward with exploring options.

Alderson Comments Regarding Alderson Stevens' request for an update on Candlewood Bridge, Administrator Snider said he will resend the update that was sent last week. He noted they are still waiting on IDOT. Alderson Stevens asked Public Works Director Rittenhouse about the landscaping and yard waste container on old evidence building property and wondered if someone had dumped it there. Alderson Blundy asked about the license plate readers trial. Chief McCoy said he will find out more information and let him know.

Adjournment At 7:12 p.m. Alderson Smith moved to adjourn; Alderson McIntyre seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.


Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

I'm here tonight as a concerned resident of the Township portion of Dallas Rd. I was recently made aware of a grant that the city of Washington applied for which includes the reconstruction of Dallas Rd. between Cruger and Westminster; during the June 3rd, 2024, City Council meeting the majority voted yes to apply for all grants this included the Dallas Rd. realignment.

Questions were asked during the meeting how the city can apply for a grant for Dallas Rd., which is a Township maintained road. The answers provided by staff was that part of Dallas Rd. is in the city of Washington due to annexations of properties into the city, the city had extended water along that stretch of Dallas about 10 or 12 years ago to encourage annexation. Discussion also took place regarding jurisdictional transfer and or forcible annexation of the properties on Dallas Rd. that have not yet annexed into the city. I am here tonight to understand how the city can proceed with a jurisdictional transfer and a forcible annexation.

1. If the grant is approved what is timeline we are looking at?
2. If there is a forced annexation the city should supply water to those home effected.
 - a. I am not willing to pay higher taxes for no benefit.