



## City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Washington Fire Department Training Room - 200 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

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**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, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
*Absent:* Alderpersons Blundy, Martin

**Also Present** City Administrator Snider, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Treasurer Abbey Strubhar, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Derek Schryer and Press

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

**Audience Comments** Washington residents John and Sharon Amdall provided comments regarding the reduction of taxes. They feel the comments are political and asked for Council to create a forecast estimate before making decisions. They noted multiple needed road projects and infrastructure issues. Their comments attached.

Washington resident Leri Slonneger noted the appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission and reviewed the rules of officers on the commission, including references to term limits. She stated that they have never had a chairman and Planning and Development Director Oliphant leads the meetings. She noted that Mr. Goken, on the commission had asked for the pre-draft minutes to see if his comments are included. She expressed frustration for the timing of meetings. She shared that her son was the electrician for Brunks and she asked to review the colors that Brunks had chosen for their lights, windows and doors but Brunks had already ordered them before they had their meeting.

**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 July 1, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Nofsinger Realignment Pay Request 1
- C. Approve Hilldale Phase 3 Final Pay Request
- D. Payment Authorization for STP #2 NPDES, MS4 Stormwater & SWPPP Permit Fees
- E. Approve Bills and Payroll

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

6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Mayoral Communications:** Mayor Manier presented the Acceptance of resignation of Abbey Strubhar as City Treasurer, effective 7/17/24 and appointment of Carol Crocker as City Treasurer, to fill the remaining vacant term, effective 7/18/24.

*Acceptance of resignation of Abbey Strubhar as City Treasurer and appointment of Carol Crocker as City Treasurer, to fill the remaining vacant term.* Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.

6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayor Manier thanked Ms. Strubhar for her service. Ms. Strubhar shared that she served the city for more than three years and has accepted a new job and her schedule no longer allows for her to serve as City Treasurer. She thanked everyone and explained that it was a tough decision. Mayor Manier invited Carol Crocker to the Council table at 6:41 p.m., and noted that the transition will be effective on Wednesday. Finance Director Baxter explained that the timing allows the City to get signature cards and bills and payroll done.

**Appointment of Shelly Marshall to Historic Preservation Commission to Fill Expired Term** Mayor Manier appointment of Shelly Marshall to Historic Preservation Commission to fill an expired term.

Aldersperson Adams motioned to approve; Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

Mayor Manier noted that Ms. Marshall will replace Walt Ruppman on the commission.

6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Appointment of Johnathan Neis to Historic Preservation Commission to fill an expired term.** Mayor Manier appointment of Johnathan Neis to Historic Preservation Commission to fill an expired term. He shared that Mr. Neis will replace Dan Bagley on the commission.

*Historic Preservation Commission to Fill Expired Term* Alderperson Stevens motioned to approve; Alderperson Smith seconded. Alderperson Stevens asked how people are notified about the switch. Mayor Manier shared that the individuals had resigned at their last meeting and there are four other expired terms to fill.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayor Manier explained that an elected official contacted the individuals being appointed on a Sunday to try to get information about how the mayor made the appointments. Mayor Manier shared that he creates a list of people who have reached out asking to serve and members of Council can reach out to him regarding his appointments. He expressed disappointment.

**City Administrator Communications** Administrator Snider introduced Public Works Director Rittenhouse who shared information regarding the replacement of lead service lines. He explained that they sent out letters earlier this year. They are going to hydro excavate curb stops to give a better idea of where it connects to the mains. They will then shut down one block at a time and work with IDOT, the street department and traffic control to fix the issues on Walnut Street.

Administrator Snider introduced Deputy Police Chief Stevens who shared information about an email that went to Council relating to a request that council not restrict police from “quality of life” arrests. He explained that the Police Department is committed to maintaining a quality of life and Council has no plan to direct the Police about legitimate actions. The Police will make arrests when necessary.

*Water Treatment Plant 1 – Chlorine Improvement Engineering Supplement* City Engineer Carr explained the chlorine improvement engineering was done before they found lead service lines which they tested before they could flip the chlorine at the treatment plant. IEPA has since changed their guidelines and while the City researched lead lines, they found other areas of concern. To be proactive, the City wanted to test for more lead lines and galvanized pipes. Now they are finished testing; they have a need for a supplement for \$9,405. Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Nena Ace Hardware Commercial Grant Program (Request to Waive Second Reading)* Planning and Development Director Oliphant shared that the owners are requesting a waiver of the second reading in order to meet the date of a planned re-opening of the store. Alderperson Stevens feels all second readings should be waived.  
**Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve a redevelopment agreement with Nena Hardware, Inc., for the redevelopment of 1880 Washington Road.  
**Title:** Nena Ace Hardware Commercial Grant Program Project (Request to Waive Second Reading)  
Alderperson Adams motioned to waive the second reading; Alderperson Smith seconded.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve the ordinance; Alderperson McIntyre seconded. Alderperson Brownfield noted that Ms. Cape from Countryside Banquets may be frustrated if the second readings are waived due to her long process.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Brooks Accounting & Tax Service Commercial Grant Program* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve a redevelopment agreement with Brooks Accounting & Tax Service, Inc., for the redevelopment of 2165 Washington Road.  
**Title:** Brooks Accounting & Tax Service Commercial Grant Program Project  
Alderperson Stevens motioned to waive the second reading; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.  
5 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
1 Nays: Butler  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderperson Brownfield motioned to approve the ordinance; Alderperson Adams seconded. Alderperson Stevens feels Ms. Cape’s situation is different due to adjustments made after Council had agreed.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Mt. Vernon Plaza Commercial Grant Program* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve a redevelopment agreement with Robert C. Schierer, Not Individually but Solely as Trustee of the Robert C. Schierer Trust Under Trust Agreement Dated September 4, 2015, As Amended for the redevelopment of 1217-1255 Peoria Street.  
**Title:** Mt. Vernon Plaza Commercial Grant Program Project  
Alderperson McIntyre motioned to waive the second reading; Alderperson Smith seconded.  
5 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

1 Nays: Butler  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Adams motioned to approve the ordinance; Alderson Smith seconded.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Washington Family Restaurant Commercial Grant Program* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve a redevelopment agreement with Dan Ramadanani Doing Business as Washington Family Restaurant for the redevelopment of 1269 Peoria Street.

**Title:** Washington Family Restaurant Commercial Grant Program Project  
Alderson McIntyre motioned to waive the second reading; Alderson Smith seconded.  
5 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
1 Nays: Butler  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve the ordinance; Alderson Adams seconded.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:  
*BLC Properties, LLC Commercial Grant Program Project* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve a redevelopment agreement with BLC Properties, LLC, for the redevelopment of 290-304 Muller Road.

**Title:** BLC Properties, LLC Commercial Grant Program Project  
Alderson Stevens motioned to waive the second reading; Alderson Smith seconded.  
5 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
1 Nays: Butler  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Adams motioned to approve the ordinance; Alderson McIntyre seconded.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Russell's Cycling & Fitness Commercial Grant Program Project* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve a redevelopment agreement with Joe Russell Doing Business as Russell's Cycling & Fitness for the redevelopment of 10 Valley Forge Plaza.

**Title:** Russell's Cycling & Fitness Commercial Grant Program Project  
Alderson Stevens motioned to waive the second reading; Alderson Smith seconded.  
5 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
1 Nays: Butler  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Adams motioned to approve the ordinance; Alderson McIntyre seconded.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Police Supervisor Selection Committee Code Amendment* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would amend Section 31.41 of the City Municipal Code dedicated to the Supervisor Selection Committee making the City Administrator and two City Council members, appointed by the Mayor, members of the Committee; with the City Administrator serving as Chairman. Additionally, it would require anyone outside the Washington Police department eligible for Sergeant to be proposed by the Chief of Police.

**Title:** Police Supervisor Selection Committee Code Amendment.  
Alderson Stevens asked about who comprises the members of the committee noting that they come from committees that have gone away. It will be reviewed.

**Second Reading Ord:** City Administrator Snider provided the following ordinance:  
*3537 (18-24) Countryside Banquet & Catering Commercial Grant* **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:** Countryside Banquet & Catering Commercial Grant Program Project.  
Alderson McIntyre motioned to approve;  
Mayor asked to clarify which version from the packet they are motioning to accept.  
Alderson McIntyre clarified that he motions to approve the redlined version from the packet.  
Alderson Butler seconded.  
Alderson Brownfield further clarified that if Council approves this version, Ms. Cape can't apply for additional future grants regarding her parking lot. Attorney Schryer confirmed.  
Alderson McIntyre amended his motion to approve the redlined version *except* for the addition of Section 5.12; Alderson Butler seconded.  
6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Aldersperson Comments** Aldersperson Brownfield stated that Council members should not go outside of this group. A resident reached out to him about a Council member visiting them at their home on Sunday and they were made to feel uncomfortable. Aldersperson McIntyre thanked staff for sidewalk project near the grade school because he feels it is great for safety.

Mayor Manier introduced Engineer Carr who provided information about BUS24. Mr. Carr explained that he shared with PJStar that BUS24 is an IDOT project, not a City project. He shared that residents should expect mill and overlay this fall and ADA improvements next year. Everything is weather and contract permitting.

**Adjournment** At 7:08 p.m. Aldersperson Smith moved to adjourn; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

## Washington City Council Comments - July 15, 2024

We are John and Sharon Amdall and we live in Washington.

At the July 1 City Council meeting, some Council members suggested the idea of reducing sales and property taxes for residents as more businesses open. Their theory is that the taxes from those businesses would offset the proposed tax reduction.

For those who see themselves as politicians, this is of course a great position to take.

However, for those who care about the long-term future of this community, this fails to consider the money needed for the long-term sustainability of this community.

Please please please, create a forecast estimate of necessary infrastructure spending for the next 20-30 years before making any such short-sighted political decision.

Washington has extensive infrastructure that needs to be maintained forever .... and of course we are adding more over time. And regulations will continue to raise the cost.

As of 2018, we had 20 miles of vintage streets that have reached the end of their useful life ... which means complete reconstruction, such as was done for Hilldale and Lawndale. What will be the estimated cost for future projects? Perhaps \$3-4M ... per mile? Perhaps \$3-4M/mile times perhaps another 16-17 more miles? Big numbers.

We have an additional 54 miles of streets that need mill&overlay every 21 years ... at perhaps \$1M per mile?

And more streets are being added. And we will have big costs when IDOT re-constructs Business 24.

We need a new water tower .... and, of course, the trunk line project. We have storm water issues to be addressed. Lead pipes. And on and on and on. Infrastructure requires costly construction, and then maintenance .... forever.

We have ONLY been able to do what has been done in the last few years because of the foresight and fiscal discipline of prior Councils. Please consider the financial legacy you will leave for the people who will be sitting in your seats in the future.

The highly-qualified credentialed professionals who serve on city staff know what will be needed in the future. Please start listening to them to understand the city's future needs before knee-capping the city's ability to fund the costs of meeting those needs.

Thank you

John & Sharon Amdall