



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Five Points Banquet Room - 360 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:* Council Members Adams, Blundy, Butler, Martin, Stevens
Absent: Council Members Brownfield, McIntyre, Smith

Also Present Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Mike McCoy, 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 None provided.

Agenda Deletions/Additions Council Member Blundy requested to remove Item I from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

- A. Approve December 9, 2024 Public Hearing and January 6, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Trails Edge, Section 9 & 10 – Final Acceptance of Public Infrastructure Improvements
- C. Approve Bills and Payroll
- D. Accept Financial Reports for Period Ended November 30, 2024
- E. Accept Police Pension Fund Actuarial Report for Contributions Attributable to Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2026
- F. 2024 Year-End Development Activity Summary
- G. Approve Catherine Phase 1 Pay Request #5
- H. Approve Felkers Drainage Improvements Pay Request #3
- I. ~~Purchase Authorization for City Hall Window Replacement~~

Council Member Stevens motioned to approve the consent agenda with the removal of Item I; Council Member Martin seconded.

5 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Butler, Martin, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Per request, Mayor Manier brought forth further discussion and consideration of Item I (*Purchase Authorization for City Hall Window Replacement*) on the Consent Agenda. City Engineer Carr explained that the majority of Council favored placing this on the agenda for consideration. A quote was received from Crawford & Brinkman in the amount of \$17,537.04.

Council Member Butler motioned to approve; Council Member Adams seconded.

City Engineer Carr explained that staff had asked for three quotes for the first eight windows on the south side of the building then another quote for the other windows. Only one quote was received even after follow up phone calls. He then reached out to the previous renovation contractor who did work on the City Hall building. The contractor stated they can't be as competitive as a window company. They provided a quote for aluminum clad windows, not vinyl. Engineer Carr clarified that requests went out via email and phone calls. Council Member Blundy noted that the procurement policy says \$15,000 is the maximum for sealed bids. City Engineer Carr shared that the only other quote included all windows in the building so he would not have known if it would be less than \$15,000. This is the reason why he is bringing it to Council for consideration and a 6/2 majority of Council favored moving forward with the bid approval at the last meeting. Council Member Blundy noted that it is in the budget but he doesn't favor skipping the procurement policy. He feels the bids should be provided so the public can view them. Council Member Stevens noted that a Council Member may not vote the same as they thought in the previous meeting. She noted that the Administrator Forsythe brought this forward in 2019 with different staff and officials in place and he felt the process was confusing at that time. He created the policy this for a reason. She does not favor this. Council Member Adams questioned the need of the Committee of the Whole meetings if the same things are rehashed. He also said previous outdated policies included fines for spitting on the sidewalk. He feels Council questions this \$2,500 difference but not the \$2,500 cost for an appraisal and he worries members are picking and choosing to make it fit their narrative. Council Member Martin noted the original 2019 policy states \$15,000 but normal inflation takes you above it. He noted that eight windows are sought and City Engineer Carr shared that City Hall would replace seven windows and do the rest later if not approved for the full amount. Council Member Martin feels that staff has done this correctly and nothing has been

hidden. Council Member Stevens feels the City Engineer should have brought the policy forward. City Engineer Carr said staff does not want to raise policy and it was member of council that suggested increasing it. He feels staff can bring waivers forward and feels this has been very straight forward and simple. He further shared that it would take him longer to put together the bid documents and adjust each packet to fit the shifts in naming than it would to bring this forward for Council consideration. Council Member Adams feels the process has been consistently applied and this is the first time this was brought forward and it is well below the budget cost. He is not sure this is the right time to increase amounts if they want to be fiscally responsible. He feels staff has done the correct process by getting bids and bringing it to Council because they came in a little higher. Council Member Butler also feels this process was done properly because the City Engineer recognized the figure in the policy so he brought it to Council and explained it well. He worries that the company who provided the bid could come back and provide an increased sealed bid. He feels confident in the staff.

3 Ayes: Adams, Butler, Martin

2 Nays: Blundy, Stevens

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**City Administrator
Communication
Council Report**

Planning and Development Director Oliphant opened to questions. Council Member Stevens asked if officers carry special equipment for ice rescues. Police Chief McCoy said they are all trained by Mike Johnson, former Pekin Park District Chief and all cars have equipment. She asked if body cameras are waterproof and Police Chief McCoy hopes cameras are not worn in the water. He cannot comment on Fire Department water rescue.

*Washington Police
Department Crime
Comparison 2023-2024*

Police Chief McCoy shared a comparison between 2023/2024 crime comparisons:

- In 10 of the 12 categories crime was down in 2024.
- Minor crimes, had 803 more in 2024 than in 2023, mostly due to calls from Walmart.
- In drug offenses, Washington had 57 arrests in 2024, compared to 55 in 2023.
- In all other categories crime is down.
- Warnings are also down.
- The attention to distracted driving is working.
- The Investigation Unit had 108 investigations with the most being sex offences.
- Financial crimes accounted for 31 investigations.
- Felony theft and retail theft accounted for 21 investigations
- Burglaries accounted for 11 investigations and death accounted for 5 investigations.
- There were several cases that involved Homeland Security.
- The Police Department has been busy and highly productive.

**Resolutions:
R-1426 (2-25) IDOT
Resolution for
Maintenance**

Planning and Development Director Oliphant presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would approve use of Motor Fuel Tax funds and fulfill Illinois Department of Transportation's requirement for general maintenance. **Title:** A Resolution Approving IDOT Resolution for Maintenance
Council Member Adams motioned to approve; Council Member Butler seconded.

5 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Butler, Martin, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord:
Amending Code to
Provide Term Limits for
Alderspersons and
Mayor**

Planning and Development Director Oliphant presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would impose term limits for the elected offices of Alderspersons and the Mayor. **Title:** First Reading Ordinance Amending Code to Provide Term Limits for Alderspersons and Mayor

**Council Member
Comments**

Council Member Blundy asked for clarification regarding the open house for the amphitheater and if questions will be recorded. Mayor Manier feels the different groups may put a list of questions together. He shared that a Q&A document has been provided online. Planning and Development Director Oliphant shared that there will be comment cards provided but he is not familiar with any recordings. Council Member Blundy is concerned questions will not be captured.

Council Member Adams congratulated teacher Jessica Wentz from Lincoln Grade School in District 52. She was awarded the National Milken Educator Award and was the first teacher in the district's history to receive the achievement. Mayor Manier shared that he and Chief McCoy were in attendance when it was presented, it was exciting and a surprise to Jessica.

Executive Session

At 6:58 p.m. *Council Member Butler motioned to move into executive session: to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); Council Member Adams seconded.*

5 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Butler, Martin, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Adjournment

At 7:26 p.m. Council returned to open session and *Council member Adams moved to adjourn; Council member Martin seconded.*

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk