

Agenda  
Public Forum  
January 27, 2015

Present: Mayor Kenneth F. Neilson, Councilmen Garth Nisson, Thad Seegmiller, Kress Staheli, Ronald Truman, Jeff Turek, City Recorder Danice Bulloch, Audience: Richard Kohler, Dan Drown, Kirt Ivie, Carol Stiedaman, John Stiedaman, Dan Prentice, Steven Woolley, Ryan Woolley, Tad Ottenschot, Dick Steph, Jim Turner, Carol Turner, Gary Boothroyd, Braden Hancock, Nicole Warner, Tom Christilaw, Katherine Staheli

Meeting commenced at 6:00 P.M.

**1. Comments from the Public.**

Katherine Staheli asked if there is any way to get the bills out closer to the billing date.

Councilman Seegmiller stated Staff has been working on the billing to try and get is closer to the date. However, the billing and mailing is outsourced, which makes it more difficult to get completed.

Ms. Staheli stated the billing takes so long to get out, many of the items in the newsletter are already past.

Councilman Staheli stated they could speak with the Utility Billing Supervisor to see if there would be any way to move up the mailing for the bills.

Ms. Staheli asked if the City is doing something to their property, do they not have to adhere to their own code.

Councilman Seegmiller stated the City has to make application, just as any private resident would.

Ms. Staheli asked if there was a zone hearing for the boilers.

Councilman Seegmiller stated they did not have a public hearing for the boilers. There was no zone change.

Ms. Staheli commented if she did work on her property the City would have shut her down.

Councilman Seegmiller stated they do work on the farm all of the time, and the City does not shut them down. There was not a zone change, it has been zoned as a park space for some time, and there has been no change.

Ms. Staheli asked if there would be a chance the Historical Society could purchase the Covington Home from the City.

Councilman Truman stated the City would definitely be willing to entertain it.

Dan Prentice asked if there could be anything done about the speeding on Quail Ridge Drive.

Mayor Neilson stated he would ask the Police Department to spend some additional time in this area during school hours.

Councilman Seegmiller suggested continuing calling the Police Department as well. That way they can have a history of an issue, and increase the patrolling.

Councilman Staheli stated he would be willing to speak with both Public Works who set the speed as well as the Police Department, to get their input.

Dan Drown stated he would like to place signs on Telegraph Street welcoming people to Washington City. The Historical Society, Lions Club, and the Chamber have been looking at placing the signs near the Cottontown Village along Telegraph as well as near 300 East coming into the downtown.

Councilman Staheli asked what type of signs they would like to see place.

Mr. Drown stated they would like to place each of their logos on the signs.

Councilman Truman commented he would be happy to entertain the signs, but would like them to come up with some type of design.

Councilman Turek stated he would prefer seeing the signs place at the Washington City limits. This way people know when they are actually in Washington.

President of the Lions Club. He would like to see something done with the pavilion and bathrooms at the veterans park. The Home Depot manager stated they are willing to work with them to do a project.

Councilman Seegmiller stated Home Depot has been wonderful working with the residents of Washington City. However, we do need to be careful as a government entity, taking any type of donations. He does love the idea, and the Council has been looking at doing something with the park in the very near future.

Councilman Staheli stated he recently met with the Leisure Services Director, and they are working at making the Veterans Park remodel a priority.

Mr. Drown stated he would get a proposal for signage together, and present the design to Council. He then asked about the mobile vending trucks coming into Washington City. He has had many requests as the Chamber president, and would like to know how he can help the businesses in Washington City.

Councilman Turek stated we have had requests, and currently our Ordinance do not allow for mobile vending. He has spoken with the Community Development Director about these types of businesses, and the requests. Washington is certainly not opposed, and Staff is looking at Ordinances to allowing them.

Mr. Drown stated these types of businesses are beneficial to the City. If there are more choices, more people would be willing to come here. Washington City needs to be welcoming to all types of businesses. If we resist it, they will just go somewhere else, and take their customers with them.

Councilman Turek stated Council is not opposed to the mobile trucks, they are waiting for Staff to bring them some options in and Ordinance to review.

Mayor Neilson stated the Washington City Chamber would like to request having food vendors in the park during Washington City Movie nights.

Mr. Drown comment it would be nice to have local businesses and vendors be able to have food be sold, and the City can support the businesses by allowing them.

Councilman Truman stated he was involved with the Community Center Taste of Home was very successful, and he feels the more businesses we can bring to our community, the better.

Mr. Drown stated he would begin the process of application to allow for these events.

It was the consensus of Council they would be in favor of allowing food sales at the Movie In the Park Events.

Mr. Drown is there a vision for Economic Development in Washington City.

Mayor Neilson stated he has been meeting with different groups to bring businesses into Washington City. He has had many interests at the Exit 13, and he has been working with SITLA on this area as well.

Councilman Seegmiller explained Council has set goals for the City Manager and Staff to push Economic Development in to Washington City. Council is very supportive of getting businesses into this area.

Mayor Neilson reviewed the areas of importance for Economic Development.

Mr. Drown commented as the President of the Chamber of Commerce, he wants to be able to help whenever and wherever he is able.

Mayor Neilson stated the next item for Council is about the warm springs. He gave a brief history of the boilers area, and the reason for taking down the fence. This property have been master planned as a park. Council decided to take the fence down, and clean the property up, until such time the park can be developed. The springs are for irrigation, and always have been, nothing else has been done. When the fence was taken down, it was completely blown out of proportion, and should not have been.

Councilman Truman commented one of the news reports have said opening the boilers has somehow excluded the ecomuseum from their project. This is completely untrue. The intent is and always has been to improve Washington City.

Councilman Seegmiller explained there was junk cleaned up, and the fence taken down. There was nothing installed or changed. Basically, this has been opened up for the residents to enjoy. Nothing has been excluded or promised to anyone.

Jason Gunn stated he has been very involved in Washington City since becoming a resident. He would like to know where this cleanup is coming from. There have been different messages, and there is no clarity on what is happening at the boilers. When there are discussions with a non-profit company who want to great things to happening, inviting them into let them know what the Council is planning to do, will alleviate some of the negative press.

Councilman Turek stated the fence was taken down so the residents who are interested in visiting the boilers can now do so.

Councilman Seegmiller commented his confusion would be the ecomuseum were those advocating to clean up the area and take the fence down, now they are upset it happened.

Mr. Gunn stated the decision reeks of a lack of transparency.

Councilman Seegmiller stated there has been no piece of property owned by Washington City, which has had as many meetings as this one piece. The non-profit organization are not the only ones interested in this parcel. If it lacks transparency, then he doesn't know what more the City can do.

Councilman Staheli stated he had decided to move forward with dignity, and not fight on social media in order to defend something he does not feel needs to be defended.

Mr. Gunn expressed his excitement in what the ecomuseum has proposed. He does not know how to move forward at this point. He would just like Council to know there are many in favor of this project.

Richard Kohler stated he is the president of the Washington County Historical Society. He feels the City has a PR problem. Most of the calls he has received in the past month have been negative. He feels the fragile ecosystem around the boilers has been destroyed because of the cleanup by Washington City. The donors need to be shown how this can now be restored to protected land.

Councilman Turek stated he feels people are getting ahead of themselves. There have been discussions with the ecomuseum, but there has never been an agreement of any kind. It is almost as though they have squatters rights and are fundraising for something, which may never come to fruition. He feels the meeting in February will be necessary in order to determine if this project is going to move forward or not.

Councilman Truman stated if this is deemed to be a protected area, then the City has to follow those requirements just as every other landowner.

Gary Boothroyd stated the City and the Historical Society have done so much for the area. However, he feels the City could have done less of a hatchet job on the boilers. The work could have been done with less destruction. He would like to ask the City put some trash cans at the very least, so people who visit the boilers can pick up their garbage.

Councilman Turek stated Council discussion included placing some trash cans, and a few picnic tables.

Mr. Boothroyd stated he has confidence in the Council, and trusts the decisions they will make.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.*

Passed and approved this 11th day of March 2015.

Attest by:

*Danice B. Bulloch*  
Danice B. Bulloch, CMC  
City Recorder



Washington City

*Kenneth F. Neilson*  
Kenneth F. Neilson, Mayor

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