

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
MINUTES
September 20, 2022**

Mayor Gallo called the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Gallo, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, Sanoica

Absent: Reyez

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Manager Rob Sabo, Finance Director Molly Talkington, Deputy City Clerk Judy Brose, Police Chief John Nowacki, Fire Chief Pete Sutter, Director Public Works Aaron Grosskopf, Assistant Director Public Works JoEllen Charlton, Chief Information Officer Waseem Khan and City Attorney Melissa Wolf

Mayor Gallo announced that the floor will be open to the audience for 20 minutes to address the City Council on matters that are on the agenda after the City Council discusses with Staff. Persons wishing to address the City Council keep their comments to 5 minutes in length. Comments must be addressed to the Council as a whole through the Mayor, and profanity may not be used in any form.

1) FY2023 Proposed Budget

Molly Talkington, Finance Director stated that the FY2023 Proposed Budget establishes a foundation to provide high-quality services and meet the community needs for the City of Rolling Meadows for the upcoming year. The City's budget is an important document for the City and serves multiple purposes: Communication Tool, it explains the City's operations, needs, resources, constraints and opportunities; Policy Document, it sets forth the City's work plan for the year; and Financial Transparency, it establishes guidelines, in conjunction with Fund Balance Policies, that the City uses to measure and control expenditures and to track revenues.

The annual budget process began with the Budget Parameters presentation at the Committee of the Whole on June 21, 2022. At that meeting, the Administration sought early input on the budget process and the property tax levy. In conjunction with the budget, the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) was developed. The CIP was presented to City Council on August 16, 2022. The CIP is a financial planning tool that identifies and prioritizes long term capital projects and asset purchases and replacement.

The FY2023 Proposed Budget outlines the Administration's recommendation on how to meet the needs of our community in a fiscally responsible manner and in keeping with the City Council's priorities and vision. The Proposed Budget was developed by carefully evaluating available resources and applying sound fiscal decisions and practices and incorporating the input received by City Council. While the annual budget is a one-year look at the City's financial position, City staff reviewed and included a five-year look for the capital project funds. The five-year look provides a larger context for these funds that include projects and assets that span more than one-year for financing. The capital project funds were updated to reflect the input received at the CIP Committee of the Whole meeting.

FY2023 Proposed Budget: The FY2023 budget is built on strengthening our foundation while addressing rising inflation and supply chain issues. The recommended budget allows for continued delivery of essential City services and directs one-time resources to funds where expenditure growth is exceeding revenue growth. Using one-time

resources provides City Council and City staff time to develop a long-term plan to address any structural imbalance in the funds based on thoughtful and measured decision making. The key recommendations included the following:

- No rate increases to Utilities (water, sewer, and stormwater) and Refuse.
- Remain fiscally prudent by keeping the Police, Fire, and IMRF pension property tax levies level to 2021.
- Target funding to Local Roads and Public Works operations to support planned operations and projects.
 - Increase the Property Tax Levy in total 1% and apply the increase to the Annual Street Program by \$127,810 and Public Works operations by \$16,183.
 - Transfer \$1.05 million from the General Fund to the Local Roads Fund.
- Provide One-Time Funding to allow time for City Council and staff to develop a financial stability plan during 2023.
 - The City's risk pool agency, Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), has an excess surplus (reserve) attributed to the City. In FY2023, apply \$662,922 of the excess surplus to the premium costs for liability insurance.
 - Reduce the overall chargebacks to the Liability Insurance Fund by \$730,156 from FY2022 so that the contributing funds have lower expenditures.
 - The City is part of the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) for health insurance benefits. IPBC also has a reserve threshold and additional reserves for each member. Transfer \$1.05 million to the General Fund.
- Incorporate the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding of \$3.2 million into the FY2023 Proposed Budget per City Council input received on September 20, 2022 Committee of the Whole.
- Develop a financial stability plan.

The current economic climate is one major factor in projecting City revenues and expenditures. Currently, the nation is experiencing rising inflation. In this climate, the economic growth experienced coming out of the pandemic should continue but at a slower pace. Also, the nation is experiencing supply chain issues (delays in receiving goods and/or shortages in goods) that have significantly increased the cost of goods and services the City relies on. For example, the cost of gasoline has risen sharply in the past year and while the cost is coming down slightly, gas costs are much greater than anticipated when developing the FY2022 budget. The higher cost of gas, as well as other goods and services, have been incorporated into the proposed budget.

Revenues: Revenues for all funds (including transfers and chargebacks) total \$71.8 million for the FY2023 Proposed Budget. This is an increase of \$2.8 million or 4.0% over the FY2022 Budget and an increase of \$3.4 million or 4.9% over the FY2022 Projected Year End. FY2021 Actuals were \$2.5 million or 3.7% above the FY2020 Actuals. The General Fund is the main operating fund for the City and funds core operations such as Police and Fire. General Fund revenues are projected at \$36.4 million for FY2023.

Property Tax Levy: Based on the discussion at the Budget Parameters Committee of the Whole, the draft budget was prepared with a proposed Property Tax Levy increase of 1% over the 2021 levy. Through the budget development, the focus of the 1% property tax levy was shifted to target funding the Annual Street Program and Public Works operations. The initial increases that would have been applied to E911 and IMRF were removed. Those two levies remain level to 2021 in the recommendation as outlined. An increase to the property tax levy may not significantly impact the City's vulnerable community members if there is a tax freeze or a senior homestead exemption in place for the resident. The City is experiencing growth which expands the tax base in which the overall increase would be applied and could reduce impact of the levy increase on individual residents.

- Fire and Police Pension Funds
 1. The City is consistently maintaining a funded status position and moving towards 70%. The State requirement is that these funds must be 90% funded as of 2040 (less than 20 years to reach this goal).
 2. FY 2021 funded status has increased for both funds; from 51.44% to 58.12% for the Fire Pension Fund and from 60.37% to 66.54% for the Police Pension Fund.
 3. The actuarial determined contributions for Fire and Police for the upcoming levy are 8% or \$342,292 and 10% or \$363,457 lower, respectively.
 4. However, to be fiscally prudent and to proactively reach the City's and the State's funding goals, it is recommended that these levies remain the same amount as last year's levy (\$3,626,000 for Police & \$4,257,000 for Fire).
 5. The Fire and Police Pension Funds actuarial recommended contributions were discussed at the June 28 City Council Meeting in detail.
- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) levy remains level to 2021 at \$927,000.
- 911 Fund – Since staff is getting updated estimates for the radios, this levy is recommended to remain level with the 2021 levy at \$700,000.
- To address the Local Road Fund's reserve needs, the recommendation for this levy is an increase of \$127,810 for a total levy of \$1,127,810. The need for the increase was discussed at the Capital Improvement Plan Committee of the Whole on August 16, 2022.
- Operations – The tax levy includes specific funding for Police, Fire, and Public Works operations. The General Fund portion of these departments operations audited year ending 2021 was \$30.6 million while the tax levies totaled \$3.2 million or 10% of General Fund operations. With increasing costs and rising inflation, an increase to the Public Works levy of \$16,183 or 8.5% is recommended.
- The Debt Service Annual Payments for the tax levy are increased per the annual required debt service schedule. A portion of the Debt Service levy is abated and paid for through other revenue sources in the General Fund.
- The Library is a component unit of the City, and the City Council levies on behalf of the Library in the amount determined and approved by the Library Board of Trustees, in accordance with State statute. The Library's levy and budget will be presented by Kevin Medows, Executive Director, at the October 18, 2022 City Council Committee of the Whole. For the tax levy public hearing and publications, the Library's levy will be included at \$4,091,222 which is a 5% increase over the 2021 levy.

Expenditures: Expenditures for all funds (including transfers and chargebacks) are proposed at \$75.7 million for FY2023. FY2023 is a projected increase of \$2.7 million or 3.7% above FY2022 budget of \$73.0 million. The City is experiencing significant expenditure increases in the current year, FY2022, as the world is coming out of the pandemic, subject to rising inflation, and supply chain cost increases. FY2021 actuals were \$62.3 million compared to the FY2022 projected year-end of \$70.2 million. General Fund expenditures for FY2023 are proposed at \$38.1 million.

The City's largest expenditure category is Salaries and Benefits at 41% for all funds excluding Police and Fire Pensions. If the pensions are included, the total overall is 52% of expenditures.

For the FY2023 budget, wages were budgeted per the current union contracts between 2% to 3% increase. The non-bargaining unit was budgeted within the union contract range. Benefits were budgeted based on estimates received by the City's providers and the employer/employee costs per union contracts. The IMRF employer contribution rate was reduced from 12.57% to 9.30% mainly due to favorable returns. FICA remains at 7.65% for Social Security and Medicare employer costs. Medical, dental & vision are budgeted at a 3% increase that will take effect at different times for the different contracts and adjustments to the employee contribution levels. This equates to an annual increase from FY2022 projection to FY2023 proposed of 1.8%.

The FY2023 budget includes position changes that better align with current services and to provide specific focus to a service area. At the August 23, 2023 City Council meeting, Council approved the establishment of the Office of Assistant City Manager. This position will not result in the addition of a new full-time position as it replaces a vacant Superintendent position and retitles it Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director.

The Police Department is shifting two patrol positions to address unfunded mandates, increased reporting requirements, and needed presence in the schools. One patrol position will become an Administrative Sergeant and the other a School Resource Officer (SRO). The City and the school district are determining the reimbursement costs for the SRO. Also, the position of Social Services Manager was created to best meet the social service needs of the community which was filled through an internal promotion.

Public Works has replaced a Meter Reader position with a Management Analyst position. Public Works has also decreased seasonal staffing and made position allocation adjustments between the funds to better align the work being completed with the fund that encompasses that work. For example, sewer work would be charged to the Utilities Fund.

Capital Outlay is the second largest expenditure category for the City. The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) was discussed in detail at the August 16, 2022 Committee of the Whole. This plan outlines the capital projects and purchases in detail. The Annual Street Program is the largest for the City at 17.8% of the total capital expenditures.

Fund Balances: For FY2023, all but one fund ends in a positive fund balance or fund balance equivalent. The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) #4 – Golf Road Fund is projected to end in a deficit. During FY2020 and FY2021, the main parcel was assessed at a much lower value due to a Board of Review error at Cook County. This has since been corrected and FY2022 is estimated to end the year closer to the original projections of \$3 million annually. However, the long-term forecast for most of the City’s funds show a structural imbalance where expenditure growth is outpacing revenue growth. By incorporating one-time funds into the FY2023 recommended budget, City Council and Administration can use the year to develop a plan to address the structural imbalance with thoughtful and measured decisions for the long-term sustainability of the City’s finances.

The fund balance or fund balance equivalent in each fund has a purpose. For the operating funds, the balance helps bolster the City’s resources against shortfall or other unanticipated events. The two Tax Increment Financing funds’ balances are restricted for use on TIF approved projects and costs. For internal service and equipment funds, the balance serves as a means to save for the time when the planned services are provided or the goods are purchased. These funds are generally structured so that their revenues are relatively level each year while their expenditures fluctuate annually. Capital project funds either use debt financing or “pay as you go” financing to fund the planned projects. The “pay as you go” approach is similar to the equipment funds in that the revenues are typically level or have a structured increase and the expenditures fluctuate with the project spend. Debt financing allows the City to borrow money at a specific time to complete specific projects. The City will then pay back the debt over time (typically between 20 to 30 years for repayment) plus payment of the debt issuance fees and interest.

The funds that have existing and pending fund balance policies are listed below:

- General Fund: The fund balance policy is to have the balance within 15% to 30% of the total expenditures. FY2023 proposed ending balance is \$10,931,270 or 28.7% of expenditures and near the top end of the policy. Included in this balance is a hold primarily for ongoing labor negotiations at \$250,000, a reserve for the 27th pay date of \$256,716 which occurs approximately every 11 years, and a potential hold for ARPA parallel projects to be determined by Council input on the ARPA funding agenda item.

- E911 Fund unassigned balance policy is one to one and a half times annual expenditures. For FY2023, that range is \$870,080 to \$1,305,120. The current fund balance is projected at \$1,457,230 which is above the required range.
- The Garage Fund balance policy is to maintain a range of \$1.0 million to \$1.5 million annually. The FY2023 projection is \$1,251,662 and within policy range.
- The Refuse Fund unassigned fund balance policy is 30% to 50% of operating expenditures and is projected to fall below this range at 16% of operating expenditures.
- The Utilities Fund's recommended unassigned fund balance policy is maintaining at least 25% of operating expenditures. The FY2023 operating expenditures are recommended at \$8,965,268 so 25% would be \$2.2 million. The ending balance projection is \$1.5 million or \$736,159 below target.
- The Liability Insurance Fund is recommended to have a reserve equal to one year's payment of insurance plus an additional reserve for any unforeseen liability payments (approximately \$1 million). The FY2023 projection is \$1 million. Additionally, the City's risk pool agency, Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), has \$2.5 million in excess surplus (reserves) attributed to the City.
- The Health Insurance Fund's recommended policy is to have a reserve equal to one half a year's payment of insurance (approximately \$2.25 million). The FY2023 projected ending balance is \$2.7 million, above the reserve threshold. Additionally, the City is part of the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) for these benefits. IPBC also has a reserve threshold for each member. In total, the City's reserve threshold is estimated at \$337,537 for FY2023. Total reserves are estimated at \$3.1 million including the reserve threshold amount.

Debt service funds exist to account for the City's outstanding debt and repayment. The FY2023 Proposed Budget is the final payment for the General Obligation Refunding Bond of 2012. The General Fund will have additional funds available of approximately \$730,000 annually for capital investment, pension, reserves, etc. starting with the FY2024 budget. This will be part of the financial stability planning to be developed during 2023.

A copy of the FY2023 Proposed Budget document including the property tax levy information will be available for public inspection via the website at <https://www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports> and a hard copy will be available at the City's Finance Department and at the Rolling Meadows Library. Public hearings on the budget and annual tax levy are scheduled for October 11, 2022. The public can provide input at the public hearings and at any City Council meeting or Committee of the Whole during the audience participation period of each meeting. Also, the public can provide comments directly to members of the City Council or through the Finance Department via phone at 847-394-8500 or by email are FIN@cityrm.org.

2) American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Discussion

Rob Sabo, City Manager gave an overview of the discuss and Molly Talkington, Finance Director stated that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and specifically the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) were provided to local governments across the country to support response and recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Rolling Meadows was awarded \$3,202,343.98. According to the US Department of Treasury, the use of the funds must fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the pandemic.
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts.

- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet.

In addition, the City must obligate the funding by the end of 2024 and have it spent by the end of 2026. While this seems like sufficient time, there are concerns that supply chain delays and rising costs could make it difficult for the projects to be completed within the time frame and on budget. If project delays and cost overruns were to occur, the City would have to identify other funding sources to finish the project.

The City received the first tranche (installment) of \$1.6 million. This money is invested with PMA Securities, Inc., one of the City's authorized financial institutions in the current Investment Policy. The State needs to distribute the second tranche and will do so in this month or the upcoming month assuming no delays occur.

At the March 15, 2022 Committee of the Whole, staff presented an option to use the ARPA funding on water infrastructure. This is one area that would be eligible under the funding categories. This information was presented to provide City Council with an understanding of the current water system needs.

There are communities that are using the lost public sector revenue category to provide valuable general government services or to provide public safety services. Then, those communities earmarked all or some of their other funding to support one-time project needs. Choosing this path allows for efficiency in reporting, quick turn around on spending the funding, and the ability to remove eligibility hurdles for projects.

Project Identification:

- *Water Master Plan:* As part of the FY2022 Budget, the City Council approved the funding of a Water Master Plan to help the Public Works Department assess the current water needs of the City. This study, conducted by Baxter & Woodman, will focus on different aspects of the water system, such as pressure, water storage, pumping capacity, operational needs, and future development, as well as a main break study and ranking. This information will help the City prepare a 100-year water main replacement plan and create an infrastructure needs list. The assessment is underway and the final report is planned to be presented to City Council in early February 2023. The completed Water Master Plan will assist City Council and City staff in identifying the projects funded by the ARPA parallel projects \$3 million reserve in the Utilities Fund.
- *Potential Economic Development Opportunities:* As part of the financial stability planning process in 2023, City Council and City staff can identify and reserve funding within the General Fund's ARPA parallel project reserve. The General Fund reserve amount is recommended at \$202,343.98.

Recommendation: Obligate and spend the funding on valuable general government services via payroll starting right away. This allows for ease of reporting and removes the strict deadlines on eligibility, funding obligation, and the strict timelines necessary to spend the funding. Then, staff would put in two fund balance reserves 1) General Fund for \$202,343.98; and 2) Utilities Fund for \$3.0 million in the FY2023 Proposed Budget. These reserves would then fund the projects City Council would have supported through the ARPA funding.

The American Rescue Plan Act funding input received will be incorporated into the proposed 2023 budget that will be considered for adoption and placed online and maintained in hard copy at City Hall for public viewing for the budget adoption public hearing which is scheduled for October 11, 2022.

Council would like to put restrictions on how future Councils can use the funds as they're concerned that the funds may be used for something that it's not intended for. Manager Sabo stated that Council can set a policy that can be put into the budget and state that the funds are allocated for a certain purpose so any Council in the future can see what the intent of the funds are to be used for.

Mayor Gallo took a straw vote for all those in favor for utilizing the funding as laid out in the packet, to obligate and spend the funding on valuable general government services via payroll starting right away. 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

3) Video Gaming Establishment License Code Enforcement Discussion Continued

Rob Sabo, City Manager stated that at the August 16, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff presented an overview of Video Gaming Establishment license enforcement. Following discussion of the City's mechanisms for enforcement of the City Code pertaining to video gaming, Council requested information on the fines that can be imposed by the City's Liquor Commissioner in the event a video gaming license holder is found guilty of a Code violation through a formal hearing before the City's Liquor Commissioner along with information the fine amounts allowed by Code in area communities who allow video gaming.

According to the City of Rolling Meadows Code, the Liquor Commissioner may impose a fine of not to exceed \$1,000.00 for the first violation within a 12-month period, \$1,500.00 for a second violation within a 12-month period, and \$2,500.00 for a third or subsequent violation within a 12-month period. Each day on which a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. Not more than \$15,000.00 in fines under this section may be imposed against any licensee within a 12-month period. The fines may be imposed in conjunction with the suspension or revocation of the license.

City Manager Sabo provided a list that are included in the packet of the fines set forth within the Codes of area municipalities for Code violations by liquor and video gaming license holders.

Council discussed different options and then Mayor Gallo took a straw vote for all those in favor to mirror what the Village of Palatine has implemented. 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

4) Illinois Route 53 Environmental Noise Study Proposal & Related Information

Aaron Grosskopf, Director Public Works stated that at the direction of the City Council, City Staff is exploring proposals on performing an environmental noise study for City of Rolling Meadows residential properties along the Route 53 corridor between Algonquin Road and Euclid Avenue. The location of the proposed noise study would encompass both sides of Route 53 with the primary purpose of determining noise levels and benefited receptors in the designated area. City Staff has been researching the proposed area to establish the feasibility, process, cooperating agencies, financial assistance, cost, and long-term maintenance of providing a sound wall along the corridor.

The following is a list of general information that should be considered as the Council moves through the discussion: 1) Illinois Route 53 is a State Road Governed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Region 1; 2) IDOT only considers performing Environmental Noise Analysis and Sound Modeling for sound barriers associated with Type I maintenance or improvement projects IDOT is considering or undertaking in the roadway travel lanes; and 3) IDOT does not have a cost-sharing program for locally initiated sound studies, or locally installed sound barriers.

The City's FY 2022 budget includes \$25,000 to complete an Environmental Noise Study on Route 53, between Euclid Ave and Algonquin Road. The City's consulting engineer (CBBEL) provided a proposal for a noise analysis that could be conducted within this budget. The proposal would examine the noise level of the highway, as measured in five to seven locations along the corridor. The study would follow all IDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policies and procedures. City Staff is also working with two other consultants, Kimley Horn and Trans Systems, to offer additional proposals for performing the noise analysis. If the Council desires to move forward with the noise analysis, City Staff will identify the consultant that can provide the best proposal within the \$25,000 budget for possible presentation/consideration at a future council meeting.

The proposal provided in the agenda packet would provide the City with a full technical report on the highway's environmental impact on noise levels, by measuring and reporting decibel levels throughout the corridor. However, in its current state, the budgeted funds are not sufficient to perform sound modeling, which would evaluate the benefited receptors that are necessary to measure the cost-effectiveness of the wall. Under IDOT guidelines, noise levels could be very high, but if sound levels are not reduced enough by a new wall to meet their cost effectiveness criteria, they will not authorize a wall. And, while the City could submit the results of an independent sound study to IDOT, their policies do not allow consideration of sound walls or cost sharing unless a Type 1 maintenance project is being implemented by the State and unless they conduct the study according to their guidelines.

IDOT also does not allow sound barriers to be placed in their Right-of-Way (ROW) unless they are part of a project associated with one of their Type 1 maintenance projects. Independent placement of sound walls not part of an IDOT project would have to be placed on local rights-of-way or in easements on adjoining private properties. This could be particularly challenging in areas where IDOT right-of-way is higher in elevation than the adjoining residential area, such as the northeast corner of Kirchoff and Rt. 53. While a standard 10'-15' sound wall placed on the bridge deck as part of an IDOT project could potentially benefit the adjoining residential properties, if IDOT is not involved, the wall could not be placed on the bridge deck. Instead, it would have to be placed on adjoining private property, at an elevation at least ten feet lower, where the City would have to acquire easements in order to erect and maintain the wall.

Cost: Currently, the City is estimating roughly 1.8 miles of wall to examine the potential cost impact of placing a sound barrier in City ROW. This is a very preliminary cost estimate and will include and exclude the following items:

Included in Presented Cost: Purchase of Sound Wall Material and Rough Installation Cost.

Excluded in Presented Cost: Utility Relocating; ROW and/or Easement Acquisition; Long-Term Maintenance; Design and Construction Engineering (Typically 15% of Project); and Contingency.

The current trends are showing around \$50.00 per square foot for purchasing and installing a sound wall, which does not include the excluded items listed above. The major unknown factor at this juncture is the needed height for the barrier. In some sections, due to the elevation of the ground, the barrier would have to be 25' high. We are estimating at least one mile of fence needed at that height, while the remainder would fall into the 15' high standard height. With this in mind, the cost to purchase and install the barrier would be estimated at \$9,768,000, which does not include the excluded expenses above. For reference, if we added the 15% design and engineering cost to the estimated project cost, the total would be \$11,233,200. This estimate could be increased or decreased based on the evaluation of the technical noise study and potential sound modeling to determine which areas would warrant a sound barrier.

Future Developments: The impact of future development along the Route 53 corridor between Euclid Ave and Algonquin Road should also be considered. If the Arlington Park area is developed, IDOT Type I improvements

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are likely, specifically at the Euclid and Route 53 Interchange. These improvements would automatically trigger an Environmental Noise Study and Sound Modeling to determine the potential noise and benefited receptors in the area. IDOT would conduct that noise study at their cost in that instance, and they would be responsible for placing a sound barrier in their ROW and performing long-term maintenance if sound barrier walls met their criteria. While the entire corridor would not be examined for this specific project, there are some residences that would be impacted and included the analysis. Future projects along the corridor could also trigger IDOT's criteria to conduct sound studies at their expense.

Long-Term Maintenance: There are two scenarios for long-term maintenance: 1) IDOT performs all maintenance, but only in instances where they install a sound wall subsequent to sound studies they perform at their expense, when warranted by a Type I roadway improvement/maintenance project along the corridor; and 2) The City independently funds or secures grants for installing sound barriers in our ROW or in easements obtained from adjoining property owners pursuant to sound study analysis. The City would have to maintain all aspects of the barrier for its life cycle and replace the structure if needed. This maintenance would include landscaping or beautification around the barrier, potential graffiti/vandalism corrections, replacing/repairing damaged sections, and other miscellaneous tasks. If Council decides to move forward with the local purchase and installation of a sound barrier, additional research would be needed on this topic.

Alderman Sanoica stated that a lot of this area in this corridor falls within Ward 7 on both the east and west side. She's had a number of individual residents reach out with complaints about the noise levels. Homeowner Associations have also reached out as this has been a topic at their annual meetings and they're really looking forward to this as they have been asking for this for years and Alderman Sanoica is excited to have a technical report to bring back to the residents of the HOA. However, even if we don't pursue a sound wall or collectively pursue an innovative solution with IDOT in some of the targeted areas, we can say that it's an issue that we will have to address at some point and include in our capital planning documents going forward.

Mayor Gallo took a straw vote to see if Staff should proceed with the Traffic Noise Study within the \$25,000 budget set for FY 2022. 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

Mayor Gallo asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Sanoica made the motion and was seconded by Alderman O'Brien. A voice vote approved adjournment.

There being no further business, by unanimous consent the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk

September 20, 2022 Committee of the Whole Minutes Approved by Council on October 11, 2022.

Judy Brose

Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk