

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
May 5, 2025

1. Call to order by Mayor Garrett Edgar.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Garrett Edgar, Mayor
 Amy Anderson, Council Member
 Mary Ann Crome, Council Member
 Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member
 Terry Morse, Council Member
 Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member

Absent:

Staff Present: Carl Chalfant, City Administrator
 Denise Powell, City Clerk

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
 Ryan Kern, Washington County Economic Development & Tourism
 Rob Peschel, President of CES Group
 Kelsie Beikmann, Washington
 Cliff and Karen Stewart, Washington
 Jamie and Annie Yungeberg, Washington
 David and Jane Funke, Washington

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick

4. Citizens Comments.

None.

5. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 7, 2025, and adjourned meeting minutes of April 16, 2025, by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2025-05.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2025-05 by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

7. Ryan Kern, Bike Across Kansas request.

Motion to approve Street Use Permit as presented by Ryan Kern, Washington Chamber of Commerce, for Bike Across Kansas June 11, 2025, by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to waive the vendor fee for food vendors for Bike Across Kansas June 11, 2025, by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Ryan Kern, Washinton Chamber of Commerce, was present to discuss Bike Across Kansas. He stated at last count there were 420 total people and of those 377 are bikers.

The Council is closing C Street from 4th Street to College Street and asked that business be notified.

8. East 2nd Street Rehabilitation Project award.

Motion to approve the Notice of Award for the East 2nd Street Rehabilitation Project from Inline Construction in the amount of \$1,566,494 with the City's portion being \$407,288.44 upon concurrence in the award by the Secretary of Transportation of the State of Kansas and authorize the Mayor to sign contract documents upon review of City Attorney by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

9. Chickens.

Motion to authorize city attorney to draft an ordinance to allow chickens within the city limits of Washington by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Nays: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome

Mayor Edgar stated the council needs to determine what rules and regulations they would like to see in the ordinance which will be discussed at the June meeting. City Attorney Elizabeth Hiltgen will then draft an ordinance that will be presented for adoption by the Council and published in the Washington County News before becoming effective.

Kelsie Beikmann, Cliff & Karen Stewart, Jamie & Annie Yungeberg and Dave & Jane Funke were present to support allowing chickens in the city limits of Washington.

10. 2025 Mayoral Appointments.

Motion to approve 2025 Mayoral Appointments as presented by Mayor Garrett Edgar by Crome and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

11. Resolution 2025-04.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-04, A RESOLUTION DEEMING AND DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO HOLD A HEARING TO DETERMINE IF CERTAIN STRUCTURES LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS, HEREIN DESCRIBED ARE UNSAFE, DANGEROUS, SHOULD BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED TO BE REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED, by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

12. Executive session.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee performance for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator, to resume in Council chambers at 8:00 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

13. City Administrator Report.

- a) **BIL Electric Conversion Grant.** Staff received notice on April 10, 2025, that the city was not awarded the Kansas Infrastructure Grant for the electric conversion project. Staff will reapply for the next round.
- b) **City Wide Cleanup.** Cleanup was held as scheduled to coincide with county landfill free dump days.
- c) **Playground.** The playground committee met with the engineers on April 28, 2025, to discuss design elements to be included going forward.
- d) **Pool.** Staff plans to start filling the pool starting Monday, May 5, 2025. Pool is short one lifeguard which may affect hours of operation.
- e) **Downtown Beautification.** Staff is working on a downtown beautification project with other organizations around town. City Administrator Chalfant is to visit with Ryan Kern about the project.
- f) **Sewer Lining 2025 Project.** Mayer Specialties is in town cleaning, measuring, and camera logging sewer mains proposed for cured-in-place pipe. They hang notices on houses and buildings along the route a few

days prior to give notice for patrons to cover their stools and floor drains to prevent water being pushed out on the floors during the cleaning process as they utilize very high-water pressure.

- g) **Rental Rates for 40” Asphalt Planer.** City Administrator inquired about availability and rental rates for asphalt planners that would work with city equipment. Murphy Tractor Topeka proposed a PL40 unit to fit our skid loader for \$1,200.00/week, or \$3,200.00/month. Foley Equipment Manhattan proposed SSL Planer-XPS HDY40 at \$1,000.00/day, \$2,174.00/week, or \$4,500.00/month.
- h) **Streets.** Weather permitting, staff plans to concentrate all next week on patching and hopefully overlaying. Staff also hopes to begin sweeping streets.
- i) **Irrigation/Seeding.** Staff made contact with Ben Bird, Blue Valley Irrigation, and they are supposed to be here mid-May.

14. City Clerk’s Report.

- a) **Judge.** The Honorable Judge Paul Monty wants to thank the Council for the certificate of recognition for his 18 years of service as judge.
- b) **Budget.** It is time to think about 2026 budget. The council needs to determine realistic goals, separate the needs from the wants, and look ahead and be able to put the plan into action.

The county clerk must provide estimated assessed valuation and revenue neutral rate to the city by June 15. The information will be sent to the accountant to prepare the 2026 estimated budget and staff will begin preparing a draft of the budget. The city must notify the county clerk of intent to exceed the revenue neutral by July 20th.

If the city chooses not to exceed the RNR the city must publish notice of budget hearing in newspaper on or before Aug. 5th; hold budget hearing at least 10 days after published notice of budget hearing; formally adopt the budget between Aug 15th and Aug. 25th and certify it electronically to county clerk no later than Aug. 25th.

If the city chooses to exceed the RNR, the city must notify the county clerk no later than July 20th of intent to levy above the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR); hold a RNR hearing prior to or in conjunction with the budget hearing between Aug. 20th and Sept. 20th; place publication of the hearing in the newspaper and on the city’s website 10 days prior to the RNR hearing and budget hearing; pass a resolution to exceed the RNR between Aug. 20th & Oct. 1st; and governing body certifies the budget to the county clerk no later than Oct. 1st.

- c) **Kansas Gas Service.** Staff has again visited with Barry Finlayson, KGS, who provided phone numbers to a customer service rep and a customer service rep manager. Calls were made to both individuals and staff is still waiting on a call back. Logging into the KGS portal shows the account active with a -\$583.75 balance. Staff is quite sure the balance is incorrect but an active account is a move in the right direction!
- d) **Election.** The city has three council positions up for election in 2025. Those seats are currently held by Jerry Fuhrken, Terry Morse and Carolyn Pinnick and expire the Sunday before the second Monday in January. Candidates seeking office must file by noon on June 3, 2025, at the County Clerk’s office at the Washington County Courthouse. The candidate must file a nomination petition signed by 10 qualified electors of the City of Washington or pay a \$20 filing fee.
- e) **Fourth of July Parade.** Consensus of the council was to participate in the 4th of July parade. Staff will purchase candy and decorations.
- f) **Reports.** Fire minutes and Library Board minutes for April; and Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site accounting for March were given to the council for review.

15. Council Reports.

Terry Morse.

- a) **Cemetery.** Morse stated the roads at the cemetery need rock and graded and the tree line along the south road needs trimmed.
- b) **Library.** The Library Board would like to put up a flag pole in front of the library. Morse stated the library will maintain it.
- c) **Power Plant.** Morse stated power plant operator is behind on maintenance at the power plant.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk