

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
6:30 p.m. – July 6, 2026

1. Call to order by Mayor Carolyn Pinnick at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Amy Anderson, Council Member
Carolyn Pinnick, Mayor
Mary Ann Crome, Council Member
Bryan Loberg, Council Member
Allison Kern, Council Member
Jason Crome, Council Member

Absent:

Staff Present: Carl Chalfant, City Administrator
Denise Powell, City Clerk
Caroline Scoville, Full Time AEMT

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
Randy Hubbard, Washington County

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda adding Randy Hubbard, Washington County, for ambulance related topic by M. Crome and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

4. Citizens Comments.

None.

5. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 1, 2026, by Loberg and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2026-07.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2026-07 by M. Crome and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

7. Ambulance.

Randy Hubbard, Washington County, asked to be placed on tonight's agenda to discuss ambulance. Hubbard stated Lisa Voelker, Linn City EMS Director, came to the Washington County Commissioner's meeting today and informed them that Linn City EMS will cease communication to combine ambulance service with Washington and will close their ambulance service Nov. 30, 2026.

Hubbard stated, “according to Lisa Voelker five employee certifications expire Dec. 31, 2026, and they have chosen not to renew.” Washington EMS will most likely take up that coverage, said Hubbard. “The commissioners have expressed interest in buying their ambulance and supplies to provide a second unit. However, it is up to the Linn City Council what they are willing to do.” said Hubbard. “I plan to talk with their council about the 12 handheld radios purchased through ARPA funding valued at \$27,600 and now cost 25% higher. Part of the original agreement was if that entity doesn’t exist the radios go back to the county.”

As far as a fulltime countywide service, Hubbard said he is meeting with Rob Peschel, at the interest of the county, to convert and draw a schematic or mockup of what a fulltime service would look like utilizing the Emergency Services Building in Washington. Washington has a larger foot print than Linn and would be less dollars to convert. A couple months ago they thought they could add 1,000 square feet to operate a fulltime service adding on to Washington’s current facility. “Is the city council okay with Hubbard meeting with Peschel and hired by Washington County?” Something needs to be contractual with the city before work gets started, according to Chalfant.

Pinnick asked if Washington County is looking at hiring a director. Hubbard said at some point. Council Member Anderson asked what that meant. Hubbard said, “they must build a job description and policies and procedures,” and then Hubbard said “the answer was yes, they will.”

Council Member Anderson asked Hubbard if the county is committed to operating a fulltime service. Hubbard’s response, “at some point.” Hubbard said licensing will take six to eight months. Council Member M. Crome said they need to get started. City Administrator Chalfant said if they got started today it would take a year. Council Member Anderson asked at what time is the county going to get started. Council Member Loberg asked if there is an option to run a volunteer out of Linn? Hubbard said, “if they were licensed and they recertify.”

Hubbard said he has personally offered to help keep ambulance service in Washington and would pay out of his own pocket for any one of the council members to become an EMT.

Hubbard said he is here letting the council know what transpired with Linn EMS and the intent to meet with Rob Peschel, CES Group, Inc. and spend \$25,000 for an architectural design paid for by the county. Hubbard said once the rendering is done and the county and city make an agreement the county would move forward.

Hubbard asked if the city has a blue print of the building that he could borrow. Chalfant stated we should have one.

Council members had questions about staffing a full-time service, to which Hubbard replied he thinks staffing would be of the lower concerns he has. Hubbard and full-time EMT Scoville answered questions about Clay County and Republic County EMS services on staffing. Council Member Anderson asked about Hanover having an ambulance. Hubbard said he didn’t know if the county would pay to keep ambulances somewhere else. Commissioners can’t tell anyone currently operating an ambulance service that they can’t have a service. Scoville said Hanover is out of service 60% of the time and Hanover has the option to take their ambulance back at any time. Currently, the city leases Hanover’s ambulance for one dollar and the city takes care of the expenses. According to Hubbard, Clifton has a contract with Clay County that will take effect Jan. 1, 2027.

Council members asked if Washington is going to cover the Linn area. “Morally and ethically you have to,” said full-time EMT Caroline Scoville. Protocols and policies need to be put in place. Hospitals will need to give notice of transfers and there may be times patients may only be allowed to be transported to Washington or Hanover hospitals. Council Member Kern asked, “can the county commissioners move it along?” Council Member Anderson asked if the city would receive the funding from the county that would have gone to Linn. Hubbard said going forward in 2027, he would assume that Washington would receive Linn’s disbursement.

Consensus of the council was to allow the county to move forward in talking with Peschel with the county paying the costs. Council asked to be notified of the meeting so those available may attend.

Scoville stated she will have conversations with personnel and visit with the hospitals and nursing homes. She will also work on policies to send to the service director, attorney and then bring to the council.

8. 2027 Budget.

Motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate by 2 mills to levy 28.124 mills to the General fund, 8 mills to the library, and 10.301 mills to the employee benefit fund for a total of 46.425 mills and to notify the County Clerk by Anderson seconded by M. Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

Council discussed the 2027 budget and will adjourn to meet at 6 p.m. July 27th to discuss in more detail.

9. Washington County Fair Board Request.

Motion to approve the Loudspeaker/Sound Amplifier Permit and Street Use Permit from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 18, 2026, for the Washington County Fair Board Parade by Loberg and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

10. KDOT Connecting Link.

Motion to authorize the mayor to sign the Connecting Link Agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation covering the portions of US36 and K-15 as presented by M. Crome and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

11. Executive Session.

Motion to recess into executive session to discuss employee performance of nonelected personnel to include the Mayor, Council and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:52 p.m. by Loberg and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

Motion to hire Terry Morse as a temporary part-time employee for the power plant at \$25 per hour not to exceed 30 hours in a month through September 5th, 2026, by Kern and seconded by J. Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

12. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Code Violations.** Staff was given a list of code violations by the council to inspect and send notices if in violation of the city's code.
- b) **EMS.** Full-time AEMT Caroline Scoville enclosed a report answering council's questions from last month's minutes referencing ambulance.
- c) **Playground Project.** Staff received the final contract for the playground project July 1st. Staff forwarded the contract to the city attorney which she has approved.
- d) **Asbestos Inspection.** Staff is still awaiting the asbestos inspection at 321 W 5th Street from Associated Insulation, Inc. which was signed on May 21, 2026.
- e) **E. 2nd St. Project.** Construction meeting was held at 9 a.m. June 12, 2026, at Pierce Street and East 2nd Street for final inspection of the East 2nd Street Project. Present were Ben Ward, Clint Friedrichs and Cooper Ebeling, CES Group; Carl Chalfant, City Administrator; Caroline Scoville, Fulltime EMT, City of Washington; and Jeff Blumer, Steve Blumer and Dalton Roever, Inline Construction. Steve Blumer said they are waiting on parts for the fire hydrant, need to put more rock in flume, plant grass and remove signage. Chalfant stated he will contact Todd Falcon, Municipal Supply, about the parts for hydrant. There was a discussion on the cracks in the concrete, blocks in front of the residence at 312 East 2nd Street and a crosswalk. Steve Blumer stated he will put more rock on the west side of A Street by the storm sewer outlet into plum creek and on south side of bridge and fix the brick wall at 214 East 2nd Street. It was noted there is poison ivy or oak at Sharon Tally's empty lot. Chalfant stated the city would spray it. Chalfant requested a full list of addendums. Clint Friederichs and Steve Blumer said the concrete tested well and some cracks still needed sealed due to a car parked in the way. CES will compile a punch list. A copy of that punch list is enclosed.
- f) **Building Permits Required.** Staff has been reviewing our current code. City Clerk Powell has been reaching out to local area towns for information on their codes for consideration.
- g) **Vehicles needing replaced.** Staff has received one estimate for the repair of the electric distribution pickup and at this time waiting to receive a second estimate.
- h) **Line Upgrade.** Pretty much all done except for switching over transformers to new line in the 100 block of East 2nd Street.

13. City Clerk's Report

- a) **Parade.** Mayor and council were reminded the 250th year of America 4th of July Parade is at 9:30 a.m. at city park. The consensus of the council was to also participate in the Washington County Fair Parade July 18th.
- b) **Security Pledges.** The State of Kansas has established the Kansas Collateral Pool under the administration of the Kansas State Treasurer. The program replaces the previous practice of financial institutions separately pledging collateral to secure each public dispositive fund.

FNB Washington and United Bank & Trust currently holds collateral pledges specifically to secure the city's deposits. To facilitate the transfer of the pledged collateral from the city to the Kansas Collateral Pool with the State Treasurer's Office, FNB Washington asked for acknowledgement of the program and consent to release all security pledges the Kansas Collateral Pool. The release was signed June 5, 2026. The transition to the pooled collateral system has taken longer than anticipated by the State. Staff will have the same request from UB&T once their institution begins conversion.

- c) **Fire/Library Minutes.**

Fire minutes for June 11 and library minutes of June 9 and special meeting minutes of June 18 were given to the Council for review.

14. Reports.

J. Crome.

- a) **Potholes.** Crome said he was out on his motorcycle and potholes at Lamar, 3rd Street, and Willow Drive need attention. He also asked if the street sweeper would be going down all the streets in town as there is sand in many curbs. Chalfant said that was the plan.

Anderson.

- a) **Dogs.** Inquired about some dogs in the fourplex on B Street. Staff stated that was addressed and one dog has been registered.

Loberg.

- a) **Gloves.** Loberg inquired if the city provided gloves to employees. Chalfant stated yes. Loberg asked if cheap leather gloves could be purchased rather than the white rubber gloves. He also asked about a boot allowance. Loberg said sometimes the little things can boost morale.

Pinnick.

- a) **Street Light.** Pinnick asked about the street light in the 100 block of West Second Street. Chalfant stated it was disconnected during the upgrade of utility lines and will be reconnected.

Motion to adjourn to 6 p.m. July 27, 2026, by Loberg and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Jason Crome
Mary Ann Crome
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg

Adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk