

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
6:30 p.m. – December 1, 2025

1. Call to order by Mayor Garrett Edgar at 6:30 p.m.

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
 Caroline Scoville, Full-time EMT

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
 Justin Cordry, Washington County Sheriff
 Randy Hubbard, Washington County Emergency Preparedness
 Chris Smith, Cooper Machinery Services/TSI
 Nick Brumbaugh, Cooper Machinery Services/TSI
 Bryan Loberg, Washington

3. Approval of Agenda.

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

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 November 3, 2025, by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

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

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2025-12.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2025-12 by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

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

7. Sheriff Justin Cordry.

Sheriff Justin Cordry was present to address the Council's comments and concerns. Cordry said he takes full responsibility for pet licenses. He said they dropped the ball and it shouldn't have taken that long.

Council Member Morse asked about patrolling the city. Cordry said "Washington is the most heavily patrolled city in the county, not because of favoritism, it is because they are here anyway." Morse said his biggest complaints are people who run the four-way stop on main street and speeders down D Street. Cordry said they can't fix a problem if they don't know about them, please say something.

Council Member Fuhrken asked if they patrol Highway 36. He referenced City signs about exhaust brakes and also inquired about speeders. He would like to see some patrolling and maybe a few warnings handed out.

Mayor Edgar, said "I want to thank you and your officers for the job you do."

8. Randy Hubbard, Washington County Emergency Preparedness.

Randy Hubbard, Washington County Emergency Preparedness, requested to meet about the potential countywide Emergency Medical Services.

Hubbard updated the Council where they were at with the countywide EMS service and said they were definitely moving forward. The Washington County Commissioners have expressed interest in operating a countywide service under an existing licensed service such as Washington or Linn. This would allow the transition to take place in about half the time and from a financial perspective it would be the cheapest option. He asked the Council, "does the city have interest transitioning from volunteer service to running a 24/7 365-day countywide service run by the City of Washington?" Hubbard said he is meeting with Washington tonight and will meet with Linn next Monday night.

Hubbard, Chalfant and Scoville previously met to look at the city's Emergency Services building to see what would need done if a countywide service were operated out of it, such as expanding the meeting room and adding sleeping quarters, offices, new bay doors, etc. Council asked who would pay for the addition. Hubbard said he didn't know if the city would be in a position to do so or if the county would. The commissioners weren't interested in constructing a new building, according to Hubbard.

Pinnick clarified that the commissioners don't want run the service. Hubbard said it was certainly an option if the cities of Washington or Linn didn't want to. Hubbard said creating a new service is time consuming and utilizing an existing service would cut the time in half.

Both Republic and Clay counties are running on a 1.2-million-dollar budget with 70 to 75% being salaries. Doniphan county in 2022 budgeted 1.2-million-dollars dedicated from sales tax. The commissioners said there is some NextEra money that has been designated for county-wide ambulance service along with a taxing district. The county has a dedicated mill levy for ambulance and that hopefully the balance would come from income from runs.

If an existing license were utilized there isn't necessarily a need to hire a director, said Hubbard. The cities are already doing that and have those mechanisms in place. The things they do now solely for EMS will widen broadly. The county would contract with a city to provide a countywide ambulance service. County's role would be funding the service and asset acquisition.

Scoville stated that "the county would be funding the service" isn't necessarily true. The city would run a fulltime service and contract to cover the county, and the funding would most likely be part of that contract. Nobody can tell

an existing service they can't operate, which would have to be negotiated with the county. How the funding would be handled would be up the county.

Hubbard stated he is meeting with Linn next week and would like to be able to take information back to the commissioners on Dec. 15th.

9. Engine 6 Turbo.

Motion to approve the quote from Turbocharger Solutions International, Salina, in the amount of \$61,975.45 to repair the turbo on engine six to be paid out of the electric fund budget by Morse and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Chris Smith and Nick Brumbaugh, Cooper Machinery Services/TSI, were present to discuss the inspection and repair on the turbo for engine six, a Nordberg dual fuel engine. Brumbaugh handed out a project report and quote listing estimated cost of labor and materials. He said, it was a "catastrophic failure" and the exhaust housing has cracking and has been repaired in the past and can't be repaired again. The good news is they do have a used part. Cost estimate for repair of the turbo is \$61,975.45. This engine was manufactured new in August 1966. "We did our best to use remanufactured parts, which come with the same warranty, to keep cost down", said Brumbaugh. Council Member Morse said the city dropped the turbo off and could pick it up. Mayor Garrett Edgar stated he appreciated them coming and bringing information.

According to Council Member Morse, the engine was installed new in Washington in 1968 and the turbo was rebuilt in 1996. Morse said "it is a boat anchor if not repaired and is one of the most important engines at the plant."

Council Member Crome asked if they spent money on the turbo will it operate? City Administrator Chalfant said no, the council previously approved repairs in the amount of \$31,000 for the head and have not received it back yet. Crome asked where does it end. Edgar said it doesn't. Everything mechanical breaks.

Mayor Edgar asked how many hours the engines ran in 2025 at the power plant. City Administrator Chalfant said he did not know. Edgar responded less than 15 hours. It is only used for emergencies. Edgar said "it is expensive to have a power plant" and asked if it is what the people want. If they want it, it will cost to maintain. Repairs don't end and parts get harder to come by. "I want more input from community," said Edgar.

Council Member Morse said "the power plant could be run more." City Administrator Chalfant said the power plant could chose to generate their own power on days when the cost to purchase is higher than the city's cost to generate. Council Member Anderson asked, "why don't you make them? We have a power plant we need to use it."

Chalfant said the engine replacement project over ran and ate into the city's reserves. The city has \$42,000 budgeted in 2026 for engine repair. The cost of this repair is \$20,000 over that which means something else in the electric budget must be cut.

10. Second Street Pay Request #3.

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the Contractor's Application for Payment No. 3 of the East 2nd Street Rehab/Reconstruct project from Inline Construction in the amount of \$93,178.66 with the city's portion being \$24,226.45 upon KDOT approval by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

11. Employee Resignation.

Motion to accept the written resignation of Joshua Rhodes effective December 3, 2025, by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

12. Employee Health Insurance.

Motion to pay the total premium for fulltime employee/spouse/children/family 2026 health insurance premiums of BCBS Platinum SG Option A health insurance plan and employee only dental as presented, and allow employees the option to add spouse/children/family dental with the employee paying the difference by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

Motion to reimburse employees for 2026 Medicare premiums for Medicare eligible employees and their spouses who are not enrolled in the City's BCBS plan structure by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

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

Council Member Amy Anderson stated she likes the Blue Cross Blue Shield High-Deductible plan. She explained how the high-deductible health plan works with an HSA. The City could put \$3,800 towards the HSA which is the difference in premium between the out-of-pocket on Platinum SG 500/25 and Silver SG HDHP 5300/0 plan. Maximum HSA contribution limit is \$4,400 for single and \$8,750 for family coverage in 2026. Employees over 55 can contribute an additional \$1,000 per year. Optum charges \$2.75 per employee per month to administer the HSA with less than \$3,000 in the HSA account. Once the HSA is over \$3,000 the charge goes away. "The city would save over \$11,000 in premiums with the high-deductible plan with the city contributing \$3,800 to the employee HSA," said Anderson. The first year is the toughest year because if something happens the employee could pay more than what is in the HSA but an HSA makes the employee invested and held more responsible for their healthcare.

Mayor Edgar agreed the high-deductible BCBS plan is better than Freedom Claims. Employees are aware of the good benefit and says he personally would like to stay on the current plan. Edgar said if the city would go to a high-

deductible plan, he would want to fund the HSA higher. Morse said we are trying to hire and we don't want to scare people away.

13. Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses.

Motion to approve 2026 cereal malt beverage licenses for Casey's Retail Company, Leiszler Oil dba Short Stop #25, and Washington Bowl by Morse and seconded by Crome.

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

14. Refuse Hauler Licenses.

Motion to approve 2026 refuse hauler licenses for Parrack Trash/Get Er Dumped, Jones Trash Service, Durflinger Disposal Service and Temps Disposal Service, Inc., by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

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

15. Christmas.

Motion to give \$50 Chamber scrip to full-time employees and \$30 Chamber scrip for part-time employees of fire and EMS by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

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

16. Motor Grader Sell.

Motion to sell the city's 1980 John Deere Motor Grader to City of Palmer in the amount of \$17,500 or put it on Purplewave by Crome and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

17. Former Friendly Corners Building.

The consensus of the council was to seek proposals for Friendly Corners, like they did for old city hall, with proposals due back for the February 2026 council meeting.

At the November Council meeting, it was recommended that council members tour the former Friendly Corners building and decide how they would like to proceed with the building. Between electric, natural gas, and insurance, the expenses associated with Friendly Corners is approximately \$10,000 per year.

Council members had different opinions on what to do with the building. Some would like it to be sold and not given away; and others wanted to accept proposals. However, the consensus was not to be in the rental business.

18. Executive Session.

Motion to recess into executive session to review applicant for street, water and wastewater operator of nonelected personnel to include the Mayor, Council and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:34 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

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

Motion to recess into executive session to review applicant for street, water and wastewater operator of nonelected personnel to include the Mayor, Council and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:39 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

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

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee evaluation and job performance for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 9:15 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee evaluation and job performance for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 9:30 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

City Administrator Carl Chalfant left the executive session at 9:23 p.m.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee evaluation and job performance for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, to resume in the Council chambers at 9:50 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

Motion to hire Austin Francis as a street, water and wastewater operator at \$18.50 per hour contingent upon a pre-employment drug test and background check by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Motion to give wage increases effective with the first pay date in January 2026 as follows: emergency medical technicians, first responders and ambulance assistant's weekday, weekend and standby; city administrator; city clerk; city treasurer; street, water and wastewater operator #1; electric distribution superintendent; electric lineman #1; full-time EMT; and power plant operator #1 5%; ; electric lineman #2 10%; and power plant operator #2 2% increase by Anderson seconded by Pinnick.

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

19. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Power Plant Recommendations.** EMC Insurance recently performed an inspection at the power plant and provided some recommendations. Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency, provided a response to EMC with the concerns about the roof; electrical inspection; welding; having two employees in the power plant while operating; and repointing outside walls of the plant. A copy of the response was given to the council.
- b) **Lions' Club.** Marcia Funke, Washington Lions Club, presented a check to Washington EMS for \$1,000 to reimburse the cost of testing and application fees for the last class of EMT students. Two of those students recently completed all of their requirements and are now certified, and two are still working on their final requirements. A thank you note was signed to send to the Lions Club.
- c) **Asbestos Inspection.** City Administrator has been in contact with KDHE and pursuing the possibility of obtaining assistance from them through the Brownfields Program. The biggest obstacle right now is trying to obtain written permission from property owner. City Administrator is holding discussions with KDHE and City Attorney.
- d) **Playground Project.** City Administrator Chalfant and City Clerk Denise Powell attending a TEAMS meeting for the playground project. Dean Randolph, CES Engineering, presented a new design for the playground. Some of the changes were to take out the concrete pathway around the playground, fencing, striping to increase the equipment adding STEM play; smaller obstacle course will be bid as alternate; and made a smaller foot print from 100x130 to 100x100. Ground cover will be bid as a second phase. Staff shared the new design with the committee. Randolph and Riley Silsby, NCRPC, are still working on bid details with CDBG. A copy of the design was available for review.
- e) **Bobbi's Beauty Salon.** Mike White contacted the city to inquire if there is any federal assistance for tearing down the former Bobbi's Beauty Salon. He stated they are not getting any assistance from their insurance

and there is no way he can afford to pay for it. As of November 25, 2025, staff has not received any further information on this issue.

- f) **Storm Sewer Inlets.** City Administrator is trying to obtain an estimate of cost for replacement of three failing storm sewer inlet boxes from Inline while they are in town. First inlet box needing attention is on East 6th St. just west of B Street. on the south side of the street. Second and third boxes needing attention are both in the middle of the block of 100 West 1st Street.
- g) **Vehicles needing replaced.** City Administrator is watching Federal Surplus Properties for possible replacement of the electric department's 2009 Chevy ¾ ton pickup, along with the City Administrator's 2010 Ford Escape.
- h) **E. 2nd St. Project.** Week of November 17, 2025, contractor for the project found that the new water main on East 2nd Street was directly at the same depth as the new planned storm sewer. Water main was exposed and noted that it had to be lowered in three different locations to allow for the storm sewer. There was no option but to approve that lowering of the mains. The city obtained the material, and the contractor performed the work. This will be added to the project costs. At the construction meeting Nov. 5th, Steve Blumer stated they have received most of the concrete boxes and will begin replacement of the sanitary sewer manholes and striping the hospital parking lot.

20. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Pennies.** The U.S. government is expected to stop producing new pennies for circulation by early 2026. According to an article published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond "as pennies phase out, businesses are likely to round cash transactions to the nearest 5 cents, resulting in a "rounding tax."

This will only affect customers who pay in cash. If a customer pays their utility bill in cash, any overpayment in penny increments will be applied as a credit to their next bill. Staff will visit with the city attorney to determine if a policy, ordinance or resolution is needed.

- b) **Election Results.** Staff received official notice from Washington County Clerk Diana Svanda that the county certified votes and the three Council Members elected were Allison Kern 135 votes; Bryan Loberg 110 votes and Carolyn Pinnick 109 votes. Newly elected council members will be asked to stop by City Hall on Monday, January 12th, 2026, to take their oath of office. Current elected officials (Mayor & Council Members) will complete an Oath/Affirmation of Office and a Statement of Financial Interest form at the January Council meeting.
- c) **Reports.** November Fire minutes and Library Board minutes were given to the Council for review.

Motion to adjourn to 5:30 p.m. Monday, December 29, 2025, by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk