

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Meeting – City Hall
5 p.m., December 10, 2025

1. Call to order by Mayor Garett Edgar.

2. Roll Call.

Present:	Garett Edgar, Mayor Amy Anderson Mary Ann Crome, Council Member Terry Morse, Council Member Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member
Absent:	Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member
Staff Present:	Carl Chalfant, City Administrator Denise Powell, City Clerk Caroline Scoville, Full-time EMT
Others:	Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News Randy Hubbard, Washington County Emergency Preparedness

3. Approval of Agenda.

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

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

4. Ambulance Service.

Mayor Edgar asked for the call of a special meeting to continue discussion of a countywide ambulance service. Edgar asked if this was something the council wants to continue to pursue. Mayor Edgar asked each individual council member if they want to continue discussion, with Crome and Pinnick stating no.

The biggest concern is the financial responsibility falling on the taxpayers of Washington city. Hubbard said the city is already providing service to communities that don't provide funding such as Morrowville, Mahaska and Haddam. Council Member Amy Anderson said she doesn't want to saddle the citizens of the city with that burden. Council Member Crome said, "if it is a countywide service, it should be run by the county. The city has a lot on our plate."

Council members had many questions that included what is the benefit is to the city to run a county wide service, what happens to Linn and Hanover ambulance, who buys the trucks and equipment and who insures them, what happens if there is a financial short fall and who comes up with the dollars and will the city be able to hire enough personnel. Hubbard stated he didn't know the benefit and asked what the city does now if there is a shortfall. Scoville said the city leases the Hanover ambulance and city insures it. In this scenario, the county would contract with the city to provide countywide coverage with funding through the county. Hubbard said if the city agreed to take on the responsibility the billing, for example would grow exponentially.

Hubbard said he recently visited with Brittany Oehmke in his office and they have a big interest in keeping an ambulance over there.

What questions is the commissioners looking for the council to answer, asked Hubbard. Is the city willing to go from covering Washington and Hanover to a 24/7 countywide service. If the council said yes tonight it would be taken back to commissioners and next step would be to come up with design facility. There was discussion on who would pay for architect and upgrades to the building. Hubbard said he visited with commissioners and they would stand the

expense. Hubbard talked to Rob Peschel, CES Engineering, to get an idea of the cost to renovate the building and the rough estimate would be around \$200,000 to add 1,000 to 1,200 square feet.

Mayor Edgar said we aren't inventing the wheel we are just taking it over. Edgar said he is in favor of it.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded by Crome

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

Adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk