



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Five Points Banquet Room - 360 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

Call to Order Mayor Gary W. Manier called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

Roll Call *Present:* Alderpersons Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

Also Present Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, City Engineer Carr, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Mike McCoy, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Treasurer Carol Crocker, City Attorney Derek Schryer and Press

Pledge of Allegiance All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Manier.

Mayor Manier noted that there are four state champions in the room. The Panthers have had great success. He thanked the parents and administration.

Presentations Mayor Manier read a proclamation proclaiming March 18, 2025 as “Central Intermediate School Championship Cheer Team Day”.
Central Intermediate School Cheer Proclamation *Alderson Brownfield motioned to accept the proclamation; Alderson McIntyre seconded.*
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Coach Demmel shared that they have practiced more than 125 hours since May and they are grateful for the wonderful season. She congratulated the team.

Washington Community High School Dance Proclamation Mayor Manier welcomed Clerk Brod to read a proclamation proclaiming March 19, 2025 as “Washington Community High School Pantherette Championship Dance Team Recognition Day”.
Alderson Adams motioned to accept the proclamation; Alderson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayor Manier shared that his granddaughter is on the team. Alderson Adams shared the team has some of the best athletes in the community. Coach Metz thanked Council for recognizing them. She shared that they have worked hard to perfect everything and they give 100%. She is proud of their accomplishments. She recognized the six senior students who lead the team.

Audience Comments Washington resident Sharon Amdall clarified that the Bicentennial Committee works to involve as many organizations as possible. They have focused on awareness and fundraising. They are now using the funds to promote businesses. They are not requesting funds from the City. Her comments are attached.
Sue Wiest from Westlake Subdivision shared that in 1974 they annexed into the City to receive city water and sewer, allowing residents to call the water department. In 2024 she was notified about a front yard leak by a neighbor. They were told they had a leak coming from the street to their stopbox and it was the HOA’s responsibility to repair the leak. She spoke with Public Works Director Rittenhouse who explained in 1974 they created an agreement that Westlake will manage their own water infrastructure. She was provided an agreement from 2018. In 2018 they had a large rainfall that washed out the road. They signed an agreement to allow the repair of the watermain damage. The agreement also stated that the City is abandoning any responsibility for that infrastructure and Westlake will maintain the water system. She has spoken to the Mayor and others who shared that there is an agreement from 1974. She asked for a copy and asked if Westlake could pay the City for the repair but was told the City is not a hired service. The City would need an easement to go on the homeowners’ property, but they went on the property to locate the leak initially. She has not received a copy of the 1974 agreement. In reading the Westlake minutes they had many meetings about the annexation. They have 33 homes that pay water bills that includes a fixed fee to maintain the infrastructure. She feels the City owes them money. She would like a resolution before it will go to court.

Agenda None provided.
Deletions/Additions

Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:
A. Approve March 3, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
B. Approve Bills & Payroll

- C. Accept Financial Reports for Period Ended January 31, 2025
 - D. Approve Catherine Phase 1 Pay Request #6
 - E. Approve Payment Authorization for CIPP Lining Pay Request #2 & #3
 - F. Approve Purchase Authorization for Commodity Bid and Contractor Assistance
 - G. Approve WTP1 Chlorination Upgrade Change Order 3
 - H. Approve Purchase Authorization for Corrosion Control Treatment Phosphate
- Aldersperson Martin motioned to approve the consent agenda; Aldersperson Smith seconded.*
Motion carried by voice vote.

Mayoral Communication *Aldersperson Brownfield motioned to approve; Aldersperson Martin seconded.*
Appointment of Bob Linsley to Cemetery Board of Managers 8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Regarding issues at Westlake, City Engineer Carr shared that past agreements were done with handshake. Staff has been discussing putting something in writing to show easements. They have nothing for the watermain. Davis and Campbell also found that the watermain is not placed in an easement. Staff does not enter onto private property to do private work. This could be a liability for City insurance. If the council would want to do maintenance we would need an easement. Engineer Carr has provided all documents that we can find for their FOIA.

City Administrator Communication Planning and Development Director Oliphant opened. No questions or comments were provided.
Council Report

Washington Chamber of Commerce Work Agreement Discussion/Bicentennial Financial Request Planning and Development Director Oliphant introduced Mike Kursog from the Chamber who provided a presentation. He thanked everyone for their support and shared there is nothing changing from the 2023 agreement. They request \$35,000 per year. They promote Washington in marketing events like Rock the Field, the Community Prayer Breakfast, Meet and Mingle, Meet the Candidates, and Good Neighbor Days. This covers administrative expenses. They have a two-year agreement which used to be a one-year agreement. He clarified that the Chamber is not part of the Bicentennial Committee. There are events that the Chamber is putting together including The Taste of Washington, a parade, and a block party during the bicentennial. He noted that the additional engagements may require funds, maybe up to \$10,000 as a secondary request. He further clarified that they don't have a specific relationship with the PACVB but will work with them. They partner with regional items and look for something more Washington friendly. He shared that the PACVB is working on a 2030 project but he does not have the details. As for the extra \$10,000, Aldersperson Stevens is curious if the Bicentennial Committee will be helping. She noted a conversation that said the Bicentennial Committee will ask the City for financial help but it was clarified that it will not happen. She noted that Pekin gave help to their Bicentennial Committee. Mayor Manier noted the Chamber became an arm and Chevie is helping with the parade and concerts at Five Points. Aldersperson Blundy noted that promotional expenses are \$12,000 and wondered what they would do with more money. Mr. Kursog shared that the \$12,000 from the City goes to marketing. He shared that they are putting a calendar together. They would take more money if offered and they are an organization that exists to help existing businesses, they are not targeting new business development. Mayor Manier noted that the Chamber did a good job at business retention and a few more dollars might help.

Discover Peoria Presentation and Agreement Discussion P&D Director Oliphant introduced J.D. Dalfonso who provided a slide show. He shared that they are a destination organization to attract visitors and grow the economy. They are certified, work with seven counties and 12 municipalities. Washington's level of participation allows for one voting member on the board. He shared that they have a specific landing page for Washington. They don't charge small businesses for partnerships. They encourage the businesses to invest in their Chambers. They have custom content for Washington including the "Love Where You Live" blog. Tazewell County is also featured. They do social media promotion and have 27,247 followers and 2.3 million impressions. They have a dedicated newsletter that is sent to 15,000 subscribers. They work with the Illinois Office of Tourism. Washington is featured on EnjoyIllinois.com and hotel leads generated 12,000 leads and 11,000 requested room nights. They do TV segments, radio, and they are in the Discover Guide. They are offering to continue work and add an option to add \$5,000 to include additional services including a video. They offer professional photography and photos for municipal use. Aldersperson Stevens noted Amy McCoy is the Chamber Director in Pekin. Mr. Dalfonso noted that appointments are at the discretion of Mayor Manier and each level is dependent on the municipality and their needs. Aldersperson Stevens feels the Chamber Director should be on the board. The presenter shared that the City of Elmwood received multiple videos that work well on socials and their website and they partner with the municipality to decide what they need. He shared that they have a great relationship with Washington City staff but they can increase communication with the board if needed. Aldersperson Brownfield noted previous concerns with locating items on the calendar but it is now improved. Credit was given to Ashley Hildebrand. Aldersperson McIntyre agreed and would like to see something like the Elmwood video done for Washington. He supports moving forward with the partnerships. Aldersperson Blundy asked about Google impressions and Mr. Dalfonso explained that the information comes up in Googles analytics. The higher you are on the list, the better. Mr. Dalfonso explained that we have good numbers, but he can provide more information to Council with a follow-up by email to show growth, steadiness or decline. They also measure interaction and views. Impression is when you see it but not necessarily interactions. Aldersperson Blundy feels the click numbers are low at 475. He wonders if it is local or outside

people. Mr. Dalfonso shared they can review website traffic on a quarterly basis. They have noted clicks from Michigan showing them that they should push marketing dollars to that area in Michigan and they have multiple ways to gather information to as to who is visiting Washington and where are they coming from. They can even tell when family is in town around the holidays. Alderperson Blundy feels they are in competition with the Chamber and feels we should put money where the dollars are working. Mr. Dalfonso said they can target areas that Washingtonians will never see if the City feels they don't need to advertise locally. Alderperson Blundy asked about goals and Planning and Development Director Oliphant feels there is a little overlap with the Chamber but there is enough difference. He noted that the chamber interacts more with the businesses and the PACVB brings visitors into the town. Mayor Manier shared that Peoria Mayor Ardis got together with local municipalities to raise the bed tax for the PACVB to help promote large events like the annual music convention, ILMEA which fills almost every hotel room in the area. Mr. Dalfonso shared that they want to drive heads in beds. When people stay in hotels they shop and spend money. Mr. Brown from the PACVB understands promotion and tourism. He makes sure Washington is recognized in everything from the PACVB and he brings information to Planning and Development Director Oliphant. He said he is happy to take questions at any point.

FY2026 Budget Review Finance Director Baxter explained that these are Internal Service Funds which are funded by
- Group 5 & General transfers from other funds.
Fund

MERF Fund

- Operations saw an increase in estimated actuals.
- It is \$10,000 more than last year.
- Property insurance went up.
- Lease/rent expense increased \$69,000.
- Overall, it is up 10.5%

Planning and Development Director Oliphant noted the MERF will see a budget amendment because the timing of the plow truck crossed over two budgets. Regarding the lease/rent increase Public Works Director Rittenhouse clarified that it is due to more older vehicles moving out of the program. Regarding the Enterprise Lease Program, Engineer Carr clarified that we have not started selling the vehicles, so it is too early to reevaluate. We need one complete turn over for true numbers' which might be in the next budget. They budgeted for a Jetter truck and it will be brought for Council's consideration soon. Police Chief McCoy shared that they used to received \$2,500 for used squad cars but the Enterprise program has given them \$25,000 on a recent vehicle.

Capital Equipment Replacement Fund

Ther is nothing scheduled to be replaced
They have ongoing cost for body cameras, and the payment is reflected.

Building Maintenance Fund

- They re-budgeted some of the painting and window replacements for City Hall.
- Cold Storage at WTP1 will need new siding and a roof.
- They want to make sure a lagoon wasn't there before they scheduled it.
- They will ask \$340,000 if they repair the old building.
- The building will need to be made taller to accommodate taller equipment.
- The new cemetery building will begin and it includes septic and building design.
- The evidence building, shown in the Building Fund, show preliminary numbers.
- We still need to determine what the transfers will be.
- There is a possible change to how the evidence building is shown. It shows it coming out of the Building Fund and the grants are in the Building Fund which effects the bottom line. The fund balance is still 78% of expenses.
- There may be a few more changes brought to Council.

Finance Director Baxter is working on a list of questions that she was provided by Alderperson Blundy. She noted his question regarding discretionary versus non-discretionary funds would be hard to answer. He feels something like wastewater is non-discretionary. He would like to drive the discussion in another direction as he is now sitting here not sure what he got out of the discussion. He feels Council doesn't know where to start and noted risk and the Police Pension Fund. He feels it would be more beneficial to City staff and is not asking questions to waste her time. Engineer Carr asked for Council to provide direction. He shared that if Alderperson Blundy is looking to make cuts, it would be the larger capital projects, instead of trying to thin out staff. Alderperson Blundy noted the Capital Improvement Plan and would like more descriptions of why items are placed in it. He wants to engage in the conversation and provide oversight. Engineer Carr noted the descriptions are on ClearGov which is provided to Council and it includes the breakdowns of which departments are involved. Alderperson Adams appreciates going through it and feels the process used to be more overwhelming. He noted that everyone has the opportunity to give an opinion. He hasn't seen where any of the presented items are not needed and feels staff is very diligent with taxpayer dollars. Mayor Manier noted conversation regarding the cutting of staff and it stirred employees. He advised caution. Finance Director Baxter shared that when looking at the proposed bottom line, they are taking projects out of reserves but there will be a time when Council will need to consider the projects. She noted over \$5 million is added to the surplus and now we are taking another \$1.1 million out. This is due to the increases in fire and rescue and TC3. We believe we still have surplus for the 10 years, but we are getting close to reaching the goal and Council will need to provide direction to staff. The general fund is still very healthy but it is good to continue to monitor it.

First Reading Ord: P&D Director Oliphant presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:**
Amendment Allowing Increase in Video Gaming Establishments and Terminals Adoption of this ordinance would adjust the number of video gaming terminal permit stickers to seventy-two (72) and the number of allowable licensed establishments to twelve (12) within the City of Washington. **Title:** Amendment Allowing Increase in Video Gaming Establishments and Terminals

Second Reading Ord: P&D Director Oliphant presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:**
3568(3-25) Vacating a Right-of-Way Located in the Eldridge Addition Subdivision Adoption of this ordinance would allow for vacating a right-of-way located in the Eldridge Addition Subdivision in the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois. **Title:** Vacating a Right-of-Way Located in the Eldridge Addition Subdivision
Alderson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ord: P&D Director Oliphant presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:**
3569(4-25) Adoption of 2025 Official Map of Zoning Districts Adoption of this ordinance approves the City of Washington Official Zoning Map for 2025 as required by state statute. **Title:** Adoption of 2025 Official Map of Zoning Districts
Alderson Stevens motioned to approve; Alderson McIntyre seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ord: P&D Director Oliphant presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:**
3570(4-25) Pricing for Columbarium Expansion – Phase II, “East and West Wings” Adoption of this ordinance will provide pricing for the two new units (Phase Two – East Wing and West Wing) of the columbarium at Glendale Cemetery effective upon Council approval. **Title:** Pricing for Columbarium Expansion - Phase II, “East and West Wings”
Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ord: P&D Director Oliphant presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:**
3571(5-25) Cemetery Grave Price and Burial Rate Increase Adoption of this ordinance will provide for a yearly increase of \$10 in the fees charged for the purchase of grave sites in the Traditional/Upright sections and Memorial Garden of Glendale Cemetery. Adoption of this ordinance will provide for a yearly increase of \$10 in the fees charged for interments/inurnments in the Traditional/Upright sections and Memorial Garden of Glendale Cemetery which include an increase in the interments/inurnments taking place after 2:00 P.M., weekends, and holidays, as well as weekdays. The increases will become effective May 1, 2025, and occur every May 1st until otherwise amended by Council. The increases will not affect infant interments/inurnments, or the primary columbarium price structure other than interments/inurnments taking place after 2:00 P.M., weekends, and holidays. **Title:** Cemetery Grave Price and Burial Rate Increase
Alderson Stevens motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Comments Chief McCoy shared that there will be a ground breaking near the Fire House for the Evidence Building Project at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Executive Session At 8:11 p.m. Alderson McIntyre motioned and Alderson Martin seconded to move into executive session per - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) – Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.”

Adjournment At 9:10 p.m. Council returned to open session and *Alderson McIntyre moved to adjourn; Alderson Adams seconded.*
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

Washington City Council Comments

Washington Bicentennial – March 17, 2025

We are John and Sharon Amdall and we live in Washington.

Because the City Council is in the midst of budgeting for the next fiscal year, we are here representing the Bicentennial Committee to reiterate our past messages to this Council about funding.

Once again, statements have been made to this community that are not factual, so we need to set the record straight.

Our strategy is to involve as many organizations as possible – especially our local Washington businesses – for them to create their own events, activities, and products to celebrate the Bicentennial in their own way. We are encouraging all to participate and are very pleased with the events, activities, products, and celebrations already underway or planned.

Our focus is to promote and publicize those celebrations planned by others, especially our local Washington businesses. From 2018 through 2024, our focus has been on awareness and fundraising. We have now finished our fundraising and are moving on to using the funds to promote and publicize the celebrations planned by others.

To repeat our multiple past messages to this Council, the Bicentennial Committee is NOT requesting funding from the City. We anticipate that the City will, of course, provide the normal city services they have provided for past celebrations such as a parade. But we are NOT requesting funding for the Bicentennial Committee.

Thank you,

John & Sharon Amdall



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