



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 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, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Treasurer Carol Crocker, City Attorney Derek Schryer and Press

Pledge of Allegiance Ayden and Eva Heider, Mayors for the Day, helped lead the pledge. Mayor Manier shared that Ayden and Ava were “Mayors for the Day” and spent the day visiting City Hall, the police department and the fire department.

Presentations Mayor Manier read a proclamation proclaiming April 21, 2025 as Building Safety Month.
Building Safety Month Alderperson Brownfield to accept the proclamation; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

WCHS Wrestling Mayor Manier read a proclamation proclaiming April 21, 2025 as Washington Community High School Wrestling Team Day.
Alderperson Brownfield motioned to accept the proclamation; Alderperson Adams seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

WCHS Girls Basketball Mayor Manier read a proclamation proclaiming April 22, 2025 as Washington Community High School Girls Basketball Team Day.
Alderperson Stevens motioned to accept the proclamation; Alderperson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Police Police Chief McCoy and Deputy Police Chief Stevens presented the following recognitions:
Officer Derek Thomas – Letter of Commendation: Recognized for conduct exhibited during an incident which reflects the core values of the department, including integrity, professionalism, and dedication to duty. His ability to remain calm allowed for a safe resolution to a very toxic and threatening situation. His actions not only upheld the high standards of the Washington Police Department but also contributed to the safety and well-being of one of our citizens.
Detective Nate Thompson – Letter of Commendation: Recognized for protecting the public through diligent observation, devotion to duty above normal hours, and decisive action, which led to an arrest and contributed to the safety of the citizens of Washington and its businesses.
Officer Henry Perrilles, Officer Amanda Krohe and Sergeant Dan Foster – Letter of Commendation: Recognized for actions during a burglary. They observed and stopped a fleeing suspect, in turn recovering valuables, allowing them to be returned to the owner.

Sergeant Ryan Hunsinger, Officer Ron Moore, Officer Joe DuBois – Life Saving Award: Recognized for saving a life during a welfare check when an individual was threatening self-harm. They displayed empathy and helped to deescalate the situation through calming communication. They worked quickly and efficiently to apply lifesaving aid. Their actions reflect the high standards of the Washington Police Department.

Officer Ashley Peto and Sergeant Ryan Hunsinger – Life Saving Award: Recognized for saving a life of an unresponsive individual. They quickly identified the situation and applied Narcan. The prompt lifesaving response contributed to the survival of the individual who was then transported to an area hospital for further treatment.

Sergeant Ryan Hunsinger – Life Saving Award: Recognized for saving a life of an unresponsive infant. He took over live saving chest compressions until Washington paramedics arrived. Washington Fire and Rescue transported the child to a local hospital where he received additional care, ultimately saving his life.

Officer Ashley Peto and Sergeant Ryan Hunsinger – Life Saving Award: Recognized for saving a life of an individual in a burning house. They quickly assessed the situation and confirmed an individual was in the structure. They entered the structure and found an unresponsive woman who they then assisted out of the house. Their heroism exemplifies the highest standards of the Washington Police Department.

Officer Justin Casey – Part-time Officer of the Year: His willingness to provide support on short notice in numerous events has been invaluable to the department. His active presence at community events strengthens the relationship between the community and the department. He displays unwavering service to the department.

Officer Mike Brown – Recognized as Washington Police Officer of the Year 2024. He has been instrumental in fostering positive relationships between the community and the Washington Police Department by leading impactful community events, which raise significant awareness and financial support for Special Olympics. His dedication to the community is unmatched and his work ethic and positive attitude make him a role model for the younger officers.

Audience Comments None provided.

Agenda None provided.
Deletions/Additions

Consent Agenda Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:

- A. Approve April 7, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Bills & Payroll
- C. Accept Financial Reports for Period Ended February 28, 2025
- D. Approve TIF Pay Request #8 - Tangled Roots, 140 Washington Square
- E. Approve Purchase Authorization - Wastewater Treatment Sludge Disposal
- F. Approve Write-off of Uncollectible Accounts
- G. Approve Drainage Priority Project 5 Pay Request #1

Aldersperson Smith motioned to approve the consent agenda; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communication None provided.

City Administrator Communication No comments or questions were provided.
Council Report

Approve of FY26 Non-Union Pay Plan and Management Increases Finance Director Baxter noted that this was discussed during the budget review. They are proposing a 3% increase which is in line with the non-union increases and the CPI increases. She noted that Council gave a 4% increase for management.

Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Stevens seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution: City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution would approve an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Washington and the City of Peoria for the loan of the George Washington bust to commemorate the City of Washington's bicentennial. **Title:** Approve Intergovernmental Agreement – Peoria, IL Loan of the George Washington Bust

R-1433 (9-25) Approve Int. Agreement – Peoria Loan of George Washington Bust

Alderson Adams motioned to approve; Alderson Martin seconded.

The bust will likely be placed near the library. Regarding liability, Attorney Schryer explained that the bust is insured by City of Peoria and the City of Peoria asked the City of Washington be involved in the process. Alderson Stevens noted the timeline for previous communications and expressed concern for the City's liability. She noted a \$195 insurance fee. The cost of transportation is covered by Steve Brown and the City of Peoria. She wonders how much it will cost to return. Alderson Adams favors this and feels the fees are acceptable. Mayor Manier noted the moving company is bonded.

7 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith

1 Nay: Stevens

Motion carried by roll call vote.

First Reading Ord: City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution would authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Tazewell County which provides to the City of Washington a grant in the amount of \$27,000 to use in support of and in connection with the County approved recycling collection program. **Title:** Approve Intergovernmental Agreement – Tazewell County Recycling Grant

3576 (11-25) Approve Int. Agreement, Tazewell County Recycling Grant

Alderson Brownfield motioned to waive second reading; Alderson Stevens seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Brownfield motioned to approve; Alderson Stevens seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

First Reading Ord: City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this resolution would update portions of the Water and Sewer Rates Fee Schedule and will amend Section 54-134(a) of the City Code. **Title:** Amending the Water and Sewer Rates and Section 54-134(a) of the City Code

Amend Water/Sewer Rates and Section 54-134(a) of the City Code

Alderson Brownfield motioned to waive second reading; Alderson Adams seconded.

5 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, Stevens

3 Nays: Blundy, McIntyre, Smith

Motion failed by roll call vote.

Alderson Adams was surprised that items were brought forward before the seating of the new council. He has been contacted by residents who were concerned about rushing items through the process. He shared that Aldersons Smith, Stevens and Blundy requested the three items be up for vote. Alderson Stevens feels this council is familiar with these items. She noted the timeline of the previous rate implementation. Alderson Adams noted the next council will receive phone calls regarding this item and he feels it is a disservice. He noted that Council only had two discussions regarding it which is different than their normal 4-5 discussions.

First Reading Ord: City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would grant the City Administrator the authority to increase the procurement authority of certain City positions. **Title:** Amend Chapter 30 of the City Code for the Purpose of Authorizing the City Administrator to Extend the Procurement Authority of Certain City Positions

Amend Chapter 30 of City Code Authorizing City Administrator to Extend the Procurement Authority of Certain City Positions

Alderson Blundy likes that the responsible bidder portion was added and wonders if it should be a separate ordinance that is not tied to procurement policy. Finance Director Baxter shared that it was included to go along with competitive bidding and suspension and debarment requirements. Alderson Blundy does not agree with engineering capital projects being the

only time competitive bids are sought. He feels anything over \$25,000 should require a sealed bid. Alderperson McIntyre agreed. Finance Director Baxter clarified that there is no statute limiting home-rule municipalities and the \$25,000 limit is for non-home rule municipalities. Alderperson Stevens also agrees with \$25,000 triggering a sealed bid. City Engineer Carr shared that they specified engineering capital projects because items like roofing or siding would become inefficient for the sealed bid process and written quotations would come forward whether they are written or sealed.

First Reading Ord: City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of 3577 (12-25) *Implement Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and Service Occupation Tax* this ordinance would approve the implementation of a 1% tax on the sale of groceries at retail within the Washington city limits effective January 1, 2026. This will replace the 1% statewide tax on grocery sales that will be repealed on January 1, 2026. **Title:** Implement a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and Service Occupation Tax

Alderperson Brownfield motioned to waive second reading; Alderperson Adams seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderperson Adams seconded.

6 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith

2 Nays: Blundy, Stevens

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderperson Adams noted that this has only been discussed once, and it is not needed until October. He would prefer to allow the new council five months to discuss. Alderperson Brownfield expressed frustration because it will not affect their budget, but it will affect the new council. Alderperson Blundy noted the future council could bring it back. He won't support it, noting a property tax increase. Finance Director Baxter explained that this does not increase taxes it maintains them. The tax is being removed by the State, but this moves it locally. She estimates this could bring in about \$500,000. Alderperson Brownfield favors this. He noted this is applied to all people who come to shop in Washington, not just residents. Alderperson Butler noted that it is a replacement, and he doesn't remember anyone trying to cut \$500,000 from the budget. Alderperson Adams also supports it. He would not support a new tax. He wonders why Alderpersons pushed to have something on the agenda just to vote against it. Alderperson Martin supports lowering taxes, but the State forced this upon municipalities and gave it to us to get income. Then the State said they would get rid of it because it is not their money. He feels this is not the best way to get a tax reduction because visitors help pay it. Alderperson McIntyre agreed. He feels it was forced and noted surrounding municipalities are doing this as well and Council did not try to trim money from our budget. He would prefer cutting taxes for residents. Alderperson Smith is in favor because a new tax is not being added, and this transfers the money management to the municipality. Many others visit our community and contribute to this. Mayor Manier explained that IML fought to allow municipalities to keep the tax and East Peoria, and others have passed it. Alderperson Blundy feels we have increased taxes and wonders when taxes will be reduced. Alderperson Martin clarified that the property tax rate was not increased and feels Alderperson Blundy is insinuating that we raised it. He noted the levy increased because the value of the home increased. He feels we need to find a way to raise tax revenue and would like to work together strategically. He would like to bring in companies with high sale tax revenue and low impact to the community. He noted a city in Illinois that has a truck stop along a highway that brings in enough revenue, so they don't have to collect property tax.

Second Reading Ord: City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of 3573 (8-25) *Approve 2025 First Time Homebuyer Program* this ordinance would approve the transfer and reallocation of volume cap in connection with private activity bond issues, and related matters. **Title:** Approve 2025 First Time Homebuyer Program

Alderperson Smith motioned to approve; Alderperson Adams seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ord: City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would adopt a budget for corporate purposes for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026 and approving certain amendments to the FY2025 budget.
3574 (9-25) Approve Annual Budget for FY25-26 **Title:** Approve Annual Budget for FY2026

Alderson Adams motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.

Alderson Blundy shared that he struggles with the process and feels there should be more discussion. He listed some projects and noted that they didn't challenge each other. He would like to add more value to discussion. Alderson Brownfield feels offended that Alderson Blundy claims that Council just walked through it. He feels there could be some tweaks but doesn't feel Council just walked through it. He feels members should communicate with staff. He noted that the City is not a Fortune 50 or 25 company. He is frustrated that Alderson Blundy talks for 10 minutes, stops, then starts back up making meetings unbearable. He thanked staff for their work. Alderson Brownfield and Adams also thanked staff for the amount of time they have worked on this during the last six meetings. He shared that he follows along with each item as it is presented and asks questions if he has them. He noted that Alderson Blundy didn't say anything during the process. He feels it is a good budget. Alderson Martin shared that he had questions and asked staff directly. If he felt they were needed in public, he would have asked them at a meeting.

7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays: Blundy

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Second Reading Ord: City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would vacate a portion of Harding Street right-of-way, located in Hartman's Re-Subdivision and Highland Park Addition in the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois.
3575 (10-25) Approve Harding St., Right-of-Way Vacation **Title:** Approve Harding Street Right-of-Way Vacation

Alderson Adams motioned to approve; Alderson McIntyre seconded.

8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Comments Alderson Stevens asked about the civility pledge and noted votes are made for certain reasons. She feels the talk tonight has been disrespectful. Alderson Adams said he hasn't criticized someone's vote. He feels the talk tonight was a political circus. He questioned why some members of Council rushed to put items on the agenda.

Adjournment At 8:59 p.m. Alderson Martin moved to adjourn; Alderson Butler seconded.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk