



City Council Meeting Minutes – *Outgoing Council*  
Monday, May 5, 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 Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, Deputy City Clerk Lisa Anderson, City Treasurer Carol Crocker, City Attorney Brittany Miller and Press

---

**Pledge of Allegiance** Mayor Manier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Katherine Coyle, District Director for Congressman Darin LaHood, read a congressional record proclamation honoring Mayor Manier. She shared that it was read on the congressional floor on April 7, 2025. It stated that Mayor Manier’s leadership will leave a lasting impact on the City of Washington and central Illinois. She congratulated him on his retirement and wished him and his wife Lada, daughter Brooke, son Chase and their seven grandchildren the very best in the future.

**Audience Comments** Washington Residents Matthew and Tracy Daugherty shared that they are experiencing issues with a neighbor’s sump pump draining water onto the street which goes onto their driveway on Crestview. It is causing damage. They would like the city to address it. When the streets were resurfaced, the city put in new water and sewer and construction crews noted a lot of water at that time. They gave photos to the City Engineer. They would like to repair their driveway but can’t due to standing water.

**Agenda** None provided.  
**Deletions/Additions**

**Consent Agenda** Mayor Manier presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:  
A. Approve April 21, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
B. Approve WTP1 Chlorination Upgrade Pay Request #7  
*Aldersperson Smith motioned to approve the consent agenda; Aldersperson Smith seconded.*  
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Mayoral Communication** Mayor Manier provided a statement thanking his family and wife Lada for their support and acknowledged their sacrifices during his time in office. He is thankful for this community and how wonderful it is, and wished the next city council well. He feels they are in good hands and hopes things keep moving forward and Washington continues to grow.

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

**Second Reading Ord:** City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of 3578 (13-25) Amend Chapter 30 of City Code for the Purpose of Authorizing the City Administrator to Extend the Procurement Authority of Certain City Positions  
**Title:** Amending Chapter 30 of the City Code for the Purpose of Authorizing the City Administrator to Extend the Procurement Authority of Certain City Positions  
*Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.*  
Aldersperson Blundy restated his previous concerns regarding lack of competitive bidding and the increase in spending authority. He feels the increase in spending approval may increase risk and open the door for poor decisions. He feels the descriptions are ambiguous regarding the engineering department and there is no policy for aggregating across departments. He feels audits and monitoring are minimally mentioned and staff discretion for sole sourced purchase rely on department head justification. He also feels there is no structured oversight. He does not support this.  
7 Ayes: Adams, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
1 Nays: Blundy  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Aldersperson Comments** Aldersperson Martin expressed his appreciation how amazing our square and roads look and for all the accomplishments Mayor Manier has provided through his 24 years. He thanked the

mayor and Alderpersons Brownfield, Adams, Butler and Chief McCoy who are leaving council. He feels they have left a financially healthy city with an amazing staff. He also thanked their families for their sacrifices.  
Alderson Blundy provided a prepared comment expressing his disapproval of the transition of power. It is attached and made part of these minutes.

**Presentations** Mayor Manier read a proclamation proclaiming May 11-17, 2025 as “National Police Week”  
*Police Week* and May 15, 2025 to be “National Peace Officers Memorial Day”.  
*Proclamation* Alderson Stevens motioned to approve; Alderson Adams seconded.  
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Public Works* Mayor Manier read a proclamation proclaiming May 18–24, 2025 to be “National Public  
*Proclamation* Works Week”.  
*Alderson Brownfield* motioned to approve; *Alderson Adams* seconded.  
8 Ayes: Adams, Blundy, Brownfield, Butler, Martin, McIntyre, Smith, Stevens  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**PD presentations** Police Chief McCoy thanked the council for their support in making his department one of the best in the Midwest that is now fully-staffed and with a waitlist of seven people. Chief McCoy and Deputy Chief Stevens presented plaques to Mayor Manier, and Aldersons Adams, Brownfield and Butler, in recognition of their commitment to the police department throughout his time as chief. They shared that the outgoing members helped create a safe Washington and their leadership created a positive impact.

**City presentations** Mayor Manier, with the help of city department heads, presented the outgoing officials with a watercolor painting of the city’s historic square painted by local artist Amy Werner. Mayor Manier share thanked each official individually. He highlighted Alderson Brownfield’s thoughtful decision-making and participation in community events, Alderson Butler’s commitment to thoughtful dialogue and order, Alderson Adams’ advocacy for preserving city character and volunteerism and Chief McCoy’s dedication to protecting Washington citizens. Department heads and Clerk Brod presented Mayor Manier with a watercolor as well and commended him for his steady guidance, vision and tireless advocacy that shaped the progress of Washington for the last 24 years. They also thanked him for his steadfastness during the years after the tornado and for leading with both heart and wisdom.

**Adjournment** At 6:59 p.m. Alderson Adams moved to adjourn; Alderson Smith seconded.  
Motion carried by voice vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

The swearing in of newly elected and re-elected officials immediately followed the meeting.

## **Council Comments – Mayoral Transition**

Before we adjourn this final meeting of the current council, I'd like to share a few thoughts — not only as a colleague, but as someone who cares deeply about how we lead and how we transition leadership in this city.

As this council concludes its session, we stand at a meaningful moment. Tonight, Washington will swear in its first female mayor — a historic achievement that deserves our full support and the respect of this chamber.

In my view, the transition to this milestone has fallen short of what our city deserves. I believe the outgoing mayor, Gary Manier, missed an opportunity to model leadership through a constructive, collaborative handoff. Instead, from my perspective, the incoming mayor was met with resistance rather than respect.

I've personally observed behavior that struck me as dismissive and, at times, disrespectful. Others may have seen or felt the same. And while people are entitled to their own opinions, leadership — especially at the local level — requires integrity, both in the spotlight and behind closed doors.

The good news is that we now have a fresh opportunity. Our incoming mayor brings with her a renewed energy, clear vision, and a spirit of collaboration. I look forward to working alongside her and this council to ensure the future of Washington is defined by professionalism, mutual respect, and a shared focus on delivering for our residents.