



CITY OF WASHINGTON Council Report

May 16, 2025

MAYOR – Liliya Stevens

- Sworn in as mayor at the May 5, 2025 City Council meeting.
- Led organizational Memorial Day parade/cemetery ceremony Committee meeting.
- Participated in staff meetings. Alderpersons are now able to view the draft agenda during the week prior to Monday's Council meetings.
- Discussions with Interim City Administrator Dennis Carr regarding setting up a Goal Setting and Strategic Planning Work session.
- Invited by the Washington Ministerial Association and attended their May meeting.
- Attended the May Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.
- Participated in a ZOOM call discussing options to update the City's website.
- WMBD interview.
- WEEK interview.
- Reserved Saturday, May 24th at 11am for the First Meet the Mayor/Community Conversations to be held in the Washington Library meeting room.
- Attended the May 10, 2025 Elected and Appointed Officials seminar held at ICC hosted by the Miller, Hall & Triggs law firm.
- Attended weekly (Tuesdays) Washington Rotary Club meeting (I am the Club's Secretary).
- Attended the Washington Fire Department Board meeting.
- Met with the Washington Chamber to discuss advertising for the Memorial Day parade/ceremony at Glendale Cemetery.
- Attended Discover Peoria's Annual Meeting Program - the City pays 25K a year to Discover Peoria for tourism development, promotion and recruitment services.
- Attended the Washington Chamber Business After Hours hosted by Troxell Insurance.
- Attended and Supported "Cop on the Rooftop" at Dunkin Donuts.
- Attended Feeling Sporty Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening.

ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr, Ross Fuller & Mike Genard

- Stark Excavating's grading crew has completed all dirt work and shaping for the berm project that was started last year. They had to pull off due to weather and soil conditions. City crews assisted with this project by loading and hauling the remaining clay that was needed to complete the berm along with topsoil for the haul road and rip rap for the creek bank. Scott Weaver with the Township offered to seed the berm for us, which is greatly appreciated! On Monday, the Township and City will be working together to get the berm seeded and matted. This was another successful stormwater project that will greatly assist with drainage throughout the area and reduce flooding during high volume rain events. We have been in contact with the Park District, and they are very satisfied with the project.
- This week we completed all utility potholing that was necessary for the Cedar St. Stormwater Project that will begin in the coming weeks. Public Works worked with Stark and Millennia for much of the week

locating nearly 100 utilities that we needed to get elevations on with the GPS to be sure there will be no issues when it comes to installing new storm mains and inlets. These elevations will also be used for engineering changes that we have decided to make to the plans. Before the project officially begins, all residents will be notified and given a description of the project in its entirety. The project limits include roads from High St. to Cedar St and Catherine St to Eldridge St. We will provide a map on the City's website showing the roads where work will be done before the project begins.

- Been in contact with Dillion Plumbing several times for work being done for the new Police Evidence Building. They completed the installation of the new 4" water service. It has been filled and pressure tested. The service is tied into the main on Wilmor. The sanitary lateral is going to be relocated per original plan due to utilities that are in the way. All new utilities will be recorded and uploaded to our maps.
- The Catherine bid opening for Phase II of reconstruction was held on Tuesday May 13. Once again, Stark Excavating was the low bid at \$1,779,436.30. This was lower than the Engineer's estimate of \$1,904,024.00. Ottobbaum was second at \$1,928,200.00, followed by ICCI with a bid of \$2,043,886.13.
- We were notified that our aerial imagery will be tentatively going live on Esri's basemap on June 26, which is well-ahead of schedule given that our initial estimated delivery date from Eagleview was sometime between mid-July to August. This is great news, because we will have our basemap imagery updated way ahead of when we anticipated. When the aerial goes live on Esri's basemap, our internal and public-facing maps will be showing this aerial for all who access our maps.
- Improvements and modifications continue to be made to our GIS Hub Site. This remains our best way to share maps, applications, and data with the community. I would like to share the Hub Site again with council and community members so that all who are interested can access the site to view our GIS resources and stay informed with projects around town through our Story Maps. Here's the link to the Hub Site: <https://city-of-washington-il-gis-washingtonil.hub.arcgis.com/> I would also like to remind everyone that the GIS Hub Site can be accessed from the City Website homepage by clicking on the "Maps & Apps" link.
- Began communications with Midwest Municipal Consulting to lead us in our next Goal Setting Session. This is the same company that assisted with this a few years back.

FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

- Exported budget data from ClearGov and imported to Tyler. Will need to input budget details as those do not import into Tyler.
- Follow up on ASAP portal access in order to request reimbursement through Department of Justice grant.
- Accepted notice of award of Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant in the amount of \$125,000 for reimbursement of public safety personnel costs. Still waiting on award notice for the \$170,000 for Evidence Building construction costs.
- Analysis and response to Request for Accelerated Payment from Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) for a former employee.
- Analysis of fire expenses and update of request for reimbursement listing.
- Addressed various IT issues with IT360.
- Follow up with auditors to schedule the FY24-25 audit.
- Review and confirm all salary increases per union contracts and pay plan and determine accuracy of input in Tyler system and provided on Payroll Action Forms.
- Payroll processing for May 8, 2025.
- Utility Billing (May 3 – 16, 2025)
 - A total of 5,526 bills were processed for May, including 861 emailed bills (15.6%)
 - A total of 494 penalties were assessed for delinquent April bills
 - A total of 45 disconnects were processed for May, including 16 owing a balance, 24 with credit balances, and five with a zero balance

- A total of five cutoffs were processed for failed payment arrangements
- New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 20 ins
 - 19 outs
- Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 44 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified

HUMAN RESOURCES – Maureen Chambers

No Report

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant & Joe Boyer

- The May Planning and Zoning Commission meeting had four public hearings for special use requests for non-owner-occupied residential short-term rentals at 711 S. High, 132-134 N. Main, 1406 Westgate, and 406 N. Main. These are the first four such STR's that are subject to the requirement to obtain special use approval. Each were recommended for approval. Additionally, a public hearing was held on a request to rezone Lot 5 of Mallard Crossing Commercial Park on W. Cruger from C-2 to C-3. The PZC unanimously recommended approval. Finally, a public hearing was held regarding a prospective zoning code text amendment to allow for residential poultry on properties as was discussed at the March COW meeting. The PZC unanimously recommended approval. The first reading ordinances for each of these will be scheduled for the May 19 Council meeting. The consensus from the Council at Monday's COW meeting was to not have a minimum lot size for the possible allowance of residential chickens. As a result, that will not be included in the first reading ordinance.
 - Staff anticipates the completion of the exteriors of the buildings at 120 and 126 Walnut to be completed within the next couple of weeks.
 - The May 19 Council agenda will include an annexation ordinance for Grace Bible Church and a disconnection ordinance for Wehnes Enterprises. This is to allow for a small land swap involving the two owners. Ordinarily, staff could approve this administratively because it is a small transfer of properties. But because it involves portions of properties both within and outside the city limits, ordinances must first be approved by the Council before staff can sign the plat of survey.
 - The City Attorney is reviewing and making changes to a draft TIF redevelopment agreement for the replacement of the back half of the roof on the Denhart building on the north side of the Square. The City would pay 20% of the actual cost up to a not-to-exceed amount of \$15,185.42. The first payment of 75% of the actual cost up to the not-to-exceed amount would be due within 60 days after project completion and the remaining 25% would be due a year after that. Staff tentatively anticipates having a first reading ordinance for this item at the June 2 Council meeting.
 - The restoration of the 501-505 Walnut building is nearly complete and staff anticipates issuing a certificate of occupancy in the coming days. The newish owner is to be commended for the amazing rehabilitation of a building that was in considerable disrepair and was nearing demolition.
 - The new owner of the former Baurer Furniture building at 1503 Washington Road plans to open a Ben Franklin store by spring 2026 and ideally sooner than that. There are no Ben Franklin stores in Illinois and it appears that there hasn't been a new store opened since at least the 1980's. The new owner has initiated interior renovations and is planning on completing exterior improvements that may be a great fit for the City's commercial grant program.
 - The construction of eight residential units are tentatively anticipated to begin within the next couple of months on an undeveloped 1.75-acre lot on Mallard Way in Mallard Crossing.
 - Staff attended part of the combined ITIA/IEZA spring conference.
-

PUBLIC SAFETY – *Chief Stevens*

- Met with Nate Custer from Dewberry, our architectural and project management firm for evidence building construction, and PJ Hoerr's Project Superintendent and Project Manager for an update. The project is on schedule. Sherry Guimond, our grant manager, will work with Finance Director Joanie Baxter to draw down grant funds as soon as possible.
 - Notified Fire Chief Tyler Gee and EMS Chief Jeramy Doerr about construction activities 2-3 weeks out (from that meeting date) that will affect FD operations. PJ Hoerr's Project Manager will coordinate with Chief Gee.
 - Second shift officers used our remotely-piloted vehicle recently to help capture two subjects who ran from officers. Pilot Joe Dubois guided the aircraft and directed officers on the ground to the men, who were then arrested without further incident.
 - Part-time Sergeant Brad Marshall has been with WPD since 1993 but spent over 2 years on restricted duty due to an injury. He is back to full duty and will coordinate police protection for events, including the Good Neighbor Days Carnival.
 - We have one opening from an additional authorized position in the new fiscal year and one opening from Chief McCoy's retirement. The Police Commission will receive at least three background investigation reports before offering appointment of full-time police officers for these vacancies. We prioritize appointment of currently-certified officers, but often appoint officers who need to complete Illinois' 16-week, 640-hour basic law enforcement course (police academy). Background investigation is subject to detective workload, and may take a few weeks with Detective Sergeant Smith at the FBI National Academy.
 - A car stolen from Uftring April 21 was recovered (stripped) in Cook County. Detective Hinken traveled to process the remainder of the vehicle for evidence.
-

PUBLIC WORKS – *Brian Rittenhouse*

- Water tower painting continues and should be completed in the first week of June.
 - The Street Department continues the preparation of roads for paving in June.
 - Staff will start our yearly painting of road marks. This includes stop bars, turn arrows, sharrows, parking spots, etc. This will continue through the summer until it is completed.
 - Staff investigated a sink hole in the middle of the west bound lane on Washington Rd, in front of Connect Church. IDOT was called and it was determined it was their responsibility to repair.
 - Staff will work on getting the public works storage property appraised and share that information with Council once received.
 - Staff is revisiting quotes for a dehumidifier system at Water Treatment Plant #1. The old system has not worked for several years. Staff originally tried to repair it, but that system had been discontinued and there was no way of repairing it. Staff received quotes for budgeting and now we are in the process refreshing and getting quotes to replace it. This was a budgeted item and staff will bring forward to Council for approval.
 - Staff is working with our weed spraying contractor to schedule the spraying of the medians along BR 24 and City owned rec trails. Hopefully this will take place in the next week or two.
-