



CITY OF WASHINGTON Council Report

July 3, 2025

MAYOR – Lilija Stevens

- Toured the Pine Lakes golf course the afternoon of the Steve Maxheimer Memorial golf outing. This outing raises scholarship money for WCHS students.
- City Council meeting (June 16th).
- Participated in a staff meeting to review the June 16th Council meeting.
- Attended weekly Tuesday noon Washington Rotary meetings (I am the Secretary of our local club). If anyone is interested in learning more about Rotary, contact me to be my guest at an upcoming Rotary meeting.
- Let's Talk Washington's June meeting was held at 3pm on June 18th at the Washington Library Sunnyland branch. Approximately a dozen persons were in attendance. Police Chief Stevens, Alderperson Michael Ernst, Alderperson Bobby Martin and I discussed a variety of topics of interest with residents.
- I attended the HOI Mayor's Association meeting. This is a meeting of area mayors where I was introduced as the newly elected City of Washington mayor.
- Meeting with EP Mayor John Kahl filling me in on the background of TC3. TC3 is a governmental agency formed in 2017 complying with a State mandate to provide 911 services to Tazewell County (at one location) replacing dispatchers formerly in each city.
- Attended the TC3 Governance Board meeting, representing the City of Washington.
- Accepted an invitation from Pastor Justin and toured Gospel Life Church (a new church launched this past spring) located on Peoria St between Auto Zone and Yatta Washington (the permanent Hibachi & Sushi food truck next to CVS).
- Attended Rove & Ramble at Five Points.
- Attended the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours held at Trapp Electric.
- Attended 7am, 3pm, 11pm Washington Police Department Roll Calls on June 20th.
- Returned congratulatory call from Illinois State District 53 Senator Chris Balkema.
- Threw a ceremonial first pitch for the Washington Park District 10U game between the Bicentennial Bombers and Dub Town on June 21st.
- Attended the unveiling of the mural, initiated by the Washington Historical Society, at Oliver Thomas Park honoring the Sunnyland Lettes semi-professional softball team.
- Enjoyed listening to The Original Skazz Band - part of the Washington Park District Summer concert series - at Rotary Park on June 22nd.
- Participated in Zoom meetings regarding the City Administrator search process. An update and discussion is planned for the July Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Attended and assisted in checking in attendees for the last Wednesday of the month Washington Park District senior luncheon.
- Meetings with Department heads/staff.
- Meeting with City Clerk, City Administrator and GIS Specialist Mike Genard regarding the new process residents - with an interest in volunteering for a board or commission - will be using to fill vacancies. This portal on the City website for information and applying for positions went 'live' July 2nd, along with a City FB post describing the application process.
- Completed/turned in our upcoming Council/Staff Goal Setting session questionnaire.

- Attended the Quarterly Greater Peoria Economic Development Council Board meeting.
- Confirmed the time/location of July's Let's Talk Washington. Wednesday, July 16th at 6pm. Hosted by Myers Tinting at 300 Muller Rd.
- Conversation/discussion regarding developing/implementing a City of Washington Neighborhood Traffic Calming policy for addressing resident speeding concerns. In January 2021, in my role as alderperson, I initiated conversations (with the city administrator at that time) to find solutions for residential speeding concerns by sharing a neighboring city's policy. My attempts for the city to implement a policy were unsuccessful. In 2023, I became aware that Gillman Street residents, since 2020, had been attempting to find a solution for speeding on their street. We worked together and thanks to the current WPD leadership, a possible solution of temporary speed humps will be implemented and results will be analyzed. We're on our way in establishing an objective Traffic Calming policy to fit the needs of our community!

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – *Dennis Carr*

- The first round of interviews for the Communications Specialist position begins next week.
- Almost everyone submitted the Goal Planning Session Questionnaire. The Department Head Goal Session is July 16th. After that, there will be a Community Survey that will be followed by the City Council Session on Saturday September 20th.
- We have been answering questions all week regarding the Citywide Space Needs Study. Proposals are due next Friday, July 11th.

ENGINEERING – *Dennis Carr, Ross Fuller & Mike Genard*

- Tree removals on the south side of Catherine have been completed. Water main taps have been installed on the existing mains in preparation of new water main installation that is scheduled to begin next Monday June 30. Public Works crews will be installing new valves on the water mains that tie in with Catherine on Monday as well. A boil order will be issued for this work to be completed. Fliers have been delivered to all residents that will be on the boil order.
- Spray patching is scheduled to begin the week of July 14. All roads have been marked out. We plan to utilize the City's message board to inform residents of the work being done. It will be placed on North Cummings to begin with for work to be completed on all roads north of Santa Fe and roads west of North Cummings. It will be moved accordingly once work north of the bypass has been completed.
- Attended the preconstruction meeting for the Safe Routes to School projects that are slated to begin in mid-July. New sidewalks will be installed on North St. and Grant St. Storm sewer will be installed on Grant St as a part of this project as well. In order for storm sewer to be installed, the water main on Grant St. will need to be relocated. The City's Water Distribution Dept. will be relocating 300' of water main. All residents living within the project limits will be provided with a brief description of the projects before they begin. A boil order will be issued for the water main relocation work.
- Lonewolf Concrete has been provided with a list of the residential sidewalk and curb replacement requests that I have received for the 70/30 program. They plan to start on some of the requests next week.
- Stark Excavating plans to begin installing the new watermain for Phase II of Catherine reconstruction on Monday July 7.
- The Candlewood Bridge Project Final Plans have been approved by IDOT. We will be putting the advertisement out with IDOT for the next two weeks with a bid opening in time to have it on the August 4th council meeting for approval.
- The storm sewer structures have been ordered for the Grandyle Drainage Priority Project. We anticipate them being ready for project delivery in mid to late July.

- IDOT has sent and we have signed and sent back a letter of understanding for the maintenance of the ADA ramps for their upcoming Business 24 mill and overlay project from the RR viaduct to Lynn Street. This project has already been bid and we should see new asphalt on the remainder of Business 24 this year similar to last years project.
- The speed humps for Gilman have been delivered. Staff is working with the supplier on a good time to install.
- Some redesign for the Cedar Street Drainage Project is continuing. Now that we have potholed the utilities, the resident engineer is working to try to reduce the depths of certain storm sewer runs to achieve some cost savings.

FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

- Preparation for FY24-25 Audit:
 - Analysis, workpapers and journal entries for Police Pension Fund.
 - Review and analysis of new software subscriptions and leases to determine which ones are subject to GASB 87 and GASB 96. Participated in follow up meeting with DebtBook and gathered required information in regard to subscriptions and leases.
- Review of Office 365 licenses in preparation for renewal.
- Received Recycling Grant in the amount of \$27,000 which will be used to offset the costs of the bi-annual brush pickup program.
- Preparation of reimbursement request #2 for fire claim for former Public Works/Evidence Building.
- Participated in discussions regarding City Administrator and Communications Specialist recruitment.
- Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for June 20 and July 3, 2025.
- Utility Billing (June 17 – July 3, 2025)
 - A total of 312 cutoff notices were sent for May billing
 - A total of 34 cutoffs were processed for May billing and 20 door knockers were distributed and 12 payment arrangements made
 - A total of four delinquent notices were sent for June disconnects
 - New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 35 ins
 - 30 outs
 - Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 79 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified
 - There were 28 new residents in June

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant & Joe Boyer

- The July PZC meeting had two cases: 1) A variance request of Our Savior Lutheran Church to allow an electronic message board in a residential zoning district at 1207 Kingsbury Road. This is a similar case as to a request made in 2023 by St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The PZC unanimously approved the request; and 2) A 2' fence height variance request of Steve Graffis at 704 Birkett Court to allow an 8' tall rear yard fence. The PZC unanimously approved the variance.
- A first reading ordinance for a TIF redevelopment agreement for the replacement of the back half of the roof on the Denhart building on the north side of the Square won't be on the Council's agenda until at least the July 21 meeting, as the condo association has not completed its review of the agreement. 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.
- A Washington Tourism Grant application was submitted for the Food Truck Frenzy and Custom Car and Bike Show, which will be held on August 23 at Connect Center at 1750 Washington Road. It will be coordinated with the Bicentennial Celebration occurring during that time period. It is sponsored by

several local businesses and all registration proceeds benefit the WCHS Auto Shop. It is the second year for the event and judged awards are given to winners of the custom car and bike show. Car clubs from the Chicago and Springfield areas are expected to attend. ICC also partners for the event, providing info about its auto-related programs and certifications in the trades. Four mobile vendor food trucks have reserved spots. A grant of \$1,000 has been made to assist with the purchase of awards for the event.

- Five applications were submitted for the Washington Commercial Property and Building Improvement Grant Program. Discussion on each of these will be scheduled for the July 14 Committee of the Whole meeting to gain direction on the drafting and approval of redevelopment agreements for these projects before work can commence.
- Staff has been notified that the City was not chosen for a grant through Ameren's Right Tree, Right Place program because of a technicality. An application had previously been submitted to help fund the planting of six trees at the northwest corner of the Nofsinger Road/US 24 intersection to provide a better visual barrier between it and the nearby homes as well as to help prevent illegal cut-through traffic to and from Willow Drive. Staff has been encouraged to make a minor correction and to resubmit.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief Stevens

- The speed trailer was on the 300 block of East Jefferson for westbound traffic from May 18 – June 1, 2025. The 85th percentile speed in this 25 MPH zone was 29 MPH, meaning 85% of vehicles detected were at 29 MPH or less. The 50th percentile was 24 MPH. Of 14,527 vehicles detected, 100 were clocked at 36+ MPH, with 2 over 45 MPH. The mean speed was 22 MPH.
- The speed trailer was on the 200 block of Hillcrest from June 3 – June 14, 2025. The 85th percentile speed in this 25 MPH zone was 31 MPH. The 50th percentile was 26 MPH. Of 7,837 vehicles detected, 24 were clocked at 41+ MPH, with 164 at 36-40 MPH. The mean speed was 23 MPH.
- The speed trailer was on the Country Fair Drive from June 15 – June 22, 2025. The 85th percentile speed in this 25 MPH zone was 20 MPH. The 50th percentile was 14 MPH. Of 14,527 vehicles detected, 100 were clocked at 36+ MPH, with 2 over 45 MPH. The mean speed was 14 MPH. Country Fair Drive is under 600' of roadway between a T intersection and 90-degree curve. The highest speed recorded was 34 MPH. This placement was a resident request due to young drivers speeding.
- Synopsis of a meeting with Dewberry and PJ Hoerr regarding evidence facility construction; the facility is still on schedule for October completion.
- The last of the initial order of four Flock automated license plate readers (ALPRs) was installed and WPD is testing to ensure efficient operation. There have been substantial delays with the initial order which took over a year to complete, but the devices and network are valuable investigation resources. Use, retention, and even inter-agency sharing of ALPR data are controlled under state law. Federal and out-of-state law enforcement agencies must agree in writing to abide by Illinois use restrictions to get access to any Washington ALPR data.
- WPD made 94 arrests at Walmart from January 1 – June 8, including 78 arrests for retail theft. In May alone, there were 29 retail theft arrests and 6 other arrests (2 for trespass, 1 cruelty to animals, 1 warrant, 1 driving while suspended/revoked, and 1 possession of a controlled substance). Trespass arrests here normally result from a person being banned from the property due a previous retail theft arrest at Walmart.
- Given probable cause to believe that an individual dog is a vicious dog, the police chief or designee convenes a hearing to determine whether the individual dog in question is a vicious dog and to determine whether the dog constitutes a significant threat to public health and safety. If a dog is declared vicious, ordinance requires control mechanisms, such as kenneling and muzzling, and a city-issued permit to keep the dog. A vicious dog hearing was continued from June 9 to June 16 to allow a witness to observe Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice), a major Islamic holiday. A second, separate hearing was also scheduled for June 16. One dog was declared vicious and controls described by ordinance ordered. One dog was not found to be vicious (as defined by the ordinance).

- Officers are completing state-mandated CPR and emergency medical response training through our in-house trainer, Part Time Officer Josh Jeffries. Jeffries is an EMT, SWAT medic, and safety consultant with teaching experience.
- Patrol shift times are changing from start times of 7 AM, 3PM, and 11PM, rolling back one hour to 6AM, 2PM, and 10PM. The change better aligns shift times with peak traffic times and spreads more calls for service to third shift patrol.

PUBLIC WORKS – *Brian Rittenhouse*

- Staff received the Public Works Storage property appraisal report and will review it. Staff will place the discussion of the building on the agenda for the July Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Staff completed the installation of valves ahead of the Catherine Street water main installation. These valves were installed to help minimize how large the boil order area will be when the new main gets installed.
- Staff is still working on scheduling the initial equipment check for the WTP #1 chlorine project. Once equipment is confirmed working, Staff will work on adjusting chlorine levels before switching over to free chlorine and supplying the residents.
- The street department has had to make a couple of road repairs, one on Cruger and one on Cummings. It is believed the concrete pavement failed due to the high temperatures which caused the pavement to buckle.
- Staff will start next week the relocation of the water main ahead of the Safe Routes to Schools sidewalk installation on Grant Street.
- Staff is still working on getting the final quotes for the WTP #1 HVAC system and the new siding and roofing of the Public Works Storage building at the old WWTP #1 site. Staff budgeted for both these projects and they will be brought to the Council for approval.

