



# CITY OF WASHINGTON Council Report

July 18, 2025

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## MAYOR – Lilija Stevens

- Reviewed application submissions received through the Boards & Commissions portal. I encourage residents to learn about the various boards and commissions. Please check out the Mayor's page on the City website for the link to the portal.
- Regular communication with Police Chief Stevens who receives a copy of each Board of Police Commissioners application.
- Attended July Planning & Zoning Commission meeting.
- Attended staff meetings setting the July 7th and 21st City Council meetings and the July 14th Committee of the Whole agendas.
- Toured area (just west of the Dallas Rd/Westminster intersection) where earlier this month a sewer leak originated affecting a tributary that leads to Farm Creek.
- Regular communication with Department Heads.
- Met final candidate for our new communications position.
- Reviewed City Administrator recruitment proposals.
- Completed the Washington Library Summer Reading Program (yes, adults as well as kids and teens are encouraged to participate).
- Attended and shared information about the City of Washington at the PAAR (Peoria Area Association of Realtors) government affairs committee meeting.
- Attended/took notes/emailed Rotary membership (as the club Secretary) from the weekly Tuesday Rotary meetings. Standing invitation: If you are interested in learning more about our Washington Rotary Club, contact me to be my guest at any upcoming noon Tuesday Rotary meeting.
- Met with Alderperson Martin discussing his role as the Council/Staff liaison for the Economic Development Commission. I forward EDC applications to Alderperson Martin for review as he is part of the process in recommending appointments.
- Notification to persons to be appointed to commissions at the July 21st City Council meeting.
- Stopped in, literally just stopped in, at the Washington Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Network Happy Hour at Tangled Roots to familiarize myself with the purpose of this event.
- Organized and attended July's Let's Talk Washington, an open forum for residents to be able to meet, ask questions, share concerns. Thank You to Myers Tinting for offering to host this event at their business on Muller Rd. Alderperson Brandon Moss, Police Chief Stevens and I were in attendance along with more than a dozen other persons.

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## CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Dennis Carr

- We offered Amanda Roberts the Communications Specialist position and she accepted. Her start date is August 6<sup>th</sup>, just in time for the Bicentennial Events to kick off.
- We received 9 proposals for Citywide Space Needs Study and staff has begun rating the proposals.
- We are in the process of getting quotes for the remaining window replacements at City Hall

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

- Stark has completed all of the water main installation for Phase II of the Catherine reconstruction. There are two tie-ins that will be done after all necessary water samples have passed. This will require two small boil orders. Homer Tree Service has completed the tree removals. They plan to grind stumps next week and haul away the tree trunks. Sanitary work started with the removal of an existing manhole that is no longer needed. Stark has also completed the removal and installation of a new sanitary manhole.
  - The Grandyle storm water is scheduled to begin Monday July 21. Letters explaining the project have been delivered to all residents who will be impacted by this project. Traffic control and some equipment has already been staged throughout the project limits. New storm sewer main, inlets and manholes will be installed throughout the western portion of the roadway. A new 5' sidewalk will be installed on the backside of the curb on the west side of the road.
  - Watermain relocation work has started on Grant St. in preparation for one of the Safe Routes to Schools projects. The City's Water Distribution Dept. is completing this portion of the project. Once they are done relocating the water main Stark will begin on the storm sewer work, followed by sidewalk installation.
  - Spray patching has been completed on all roads north of the bypass. This has gone smoothly so far with no residential complaints. Next week they will be spray patching on Mallard Way, Labrador, Retriever, and Calvin.
  - The County has contracted United Contractors Midwest to mill and overlay N. Main Street beginning at their southern limits and heading north.
  - The letting date for the Candlewood Bridge Project is July 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff has been answering questions all week pertaining to the final plans.
  - 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.
  - The Hot In-Place Recycling for the 2025 MFT project is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 28<sup>th</sup>. As always, the weather can push this timeframe back.
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## **FINANCE – Joanie Baxter**

- Preparation for FY24-25 Audit of which field work begins August 4, 2025:
    - Analysis, reconciliation and journal entries for Government Receivables, Prepaid Expenses, Deferred Revenue, Inventory, L-T Debt and Grants
    - Analysis of software subscriptions and leases
    - Begin uploading requested documents
  - Preparation of Mid-Year 2025 Recycling Grant Report due 7/30
  - Preparation of Department of Justice – Evidence Building Quarterly Report due 7/30
  - Follow up on status of DCEO Public Safety – Evidence Building grants
  - Follow up on City Administrator recruitment proposals
  - Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for July 18, 2025
  - Utility Billing (July 3 – July 18, 2025)
    - A total of 5,526 bills were processed for July, including 880 emailed bills (15.9%)
    - A total of 556 penalties were assessed for delinquent June bills
    - A total of 55 disconnects were processed for July, including 29 owing a balance, 24 with credit balances, and two with a zero balance
    - New accounts and account closings processed:
      - 16 ins
      - 10 outs
    - Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 37 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified
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## **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant & Joe Boyer**

- The August PZC meeting will have one case: 1) A special use request of Katie and Kevin Beale to allow a residential non-owner-occupied short-term rental at 301 S. Main St. Staff has completed the required inspection and recommends approval, as the property meets all of the applicable STR regulations. Please note that the meeting has been moved back one week to August 13 in order to help ensure a quorum.

- Staff has resubmitted for a grant through Ameren’s Right Tree, Right Place program. It was recently rejected because of a technicality. If approved, a grant would 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. Ameren tentatively plans on making a decision on a possible award by this fall.
- Staff has been in contact with the new owner of the former Foster Jewelry building at 104 N. Main. At the current time, the owner is tentatively planning on a two-phase renovation project with interior work commencing relatively soon. Some interior demolition has begun this week and a dumpster will be beside the structure for a short time while that work is completed. A slightly later second phase would be an exterior rehabilitation. Plans will be drafted in the near future for the exterior work, which will be subject to approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Historic Preservation Commission. It is anticipated that a request for TIF assistance will be made prior to the initiation of the exterior construction. A retailer plans to move into the ground floor space while the second floor will be used as residential.
- Monday’s Council agenda will include the second amended agreement to continue a ground lease on the former Blumenshine Farm property with Cellco Partnership (d/b/a Verizon Wireless) to extend the terms from its current possible expiration in 2042 for another 25 years until 2067 if each of the five-year terms are completed. Staff previously received direction in June to proceed with finalizing the drafting of the agreement with Tower Alliance, LLC, staff, which is the authorized vendor on behalf of ATC Entity.
- At the advice of the City Attorney, Monday’s Council agenda will also include a code amendment to strike Section 14-36 from City Code. The City Attorney has advised that the state demolition statute is self-executing, meaning the City is not required to promulgate an ordinance before it can take action under the demolition statute. Moreover, codifying state law can create confusion as to the source of the City’s authority and lead to situations in which the scope of the City’s code enforcement authority becomes restricted if the demolition statute is amended at the state level and the City fails to amend its ordinance to match state law. The City Attorney discovered this language while discussing an on-going code enforcement case.
- Grant agreements for each of the five Washington Commercial Building and Property Improvement Grant Program projects have been drafted. Two of these are planned to be placed on Monday’s Council agenda as first reading ordinances after receiving satisfactory responses from those applicants following their respective reviews. The other three agreements will tentatively be placed on the August 4 agenda as first readings.
- 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 is tentatively planned to be on the Council’s agenda for August 4. The condo association has 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.
- The staffs from East Peoria, Germantown Hills, Tazewell County, and Washington have met to hear of requests from the Villages of Creve Coeur and Metamora to expand the Northern Tazewell Enterprise Zone boundaries to include some of those properties. State law currently allows for EZ’s to have up to 20 square miles of land if there are four or more member municipalities/counties and our EZ does have sufficient space to potentially accommodate the requested expansion. This will be scheduled for discussion at the August COW meeting to gain direction to offer to both Creve Coeur and Metamora. If the current Northern Tazewell EZ member entities approve of the expansion, Creve Coeur and Metamora would be responsible for the preparation of the application to be submitted to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief Stevens**

- The speed trailer was on the Freedom Parkway east of Menard’s for westbound traffic from July 7 – July 13, 2025. The 85th percentile speed in this 40 MPH zone was 45 MPH, meaning 85% of vehicles detected were at 45 MPH or less. The 50th percentile was 41 MPH. Of 16,602 vehicles detected, 359 were clocked over 50 MPH. The mean speed was 40 MPH.
- WPD participates in the Peoria Metropolitan Enforcement Group, PMEG, which continues to make an impact in Washington and the region. PMEG, assisted by the Morton Police Department and ISP Zone 4 Investigations executed an operation in Morton resulting in the seizure of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and another yet unknown substance, scales, and drug packaging material. As a result, two suspects are pending prosecution. WPD internally and through regional partnerships works to serve the public peace, including blunting the impact these controlled substances have on our quality of life. This operation in nearby Morton is one example.
- WPD Community Resource Officer Dramane Taylor with Officer Troi Westbrook and Detective Nate Thompson the following community outreach events between June 10 and July 4:

Bike Parade near Coventry and Westminster  
WCHS Football Scavenger Hunt  
Sunnydale Estates HOA meeting  
Touch-a-Truck at Five Points (with Officers Corey Herron and Justin Casey)  
Scam awareness presentation at CEFCU  
Popsicles in the Park  
Crime prevention discussion with student athletes  
Traffic stop education event at WCHS

- Join the Washington Police Department for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:30 PM at Oak Ridge Park. NNO is a community event promoting safety, unity, and police partnerships.
- Chief Stevens spoke at Washington Rotary about the direction of the PD and how we keep high-quality personnel by providing opportunities for meaningful, rewarding work.

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### **PUBLIC WORKS – *Brian Rittenhouse***

- Staff continues to relocate water main on Grant Street ahead of the Safe Routes to Schools sidewalk installation.
- Staff repaired the leak in the Water Treatment #2 transmission main. This is the raw water main that supplies water from Wells #11 and #12 to the Water Treatment Plant.
- Staff continues to monitor and work on the Dallas Rd SSO cleanup.
- Hoerr Construction is working on cleaning and televising the Georgetown Trunk Main. This was full of debris from when a manhole casting was knocked off and the stream was running into the manhole.
- Staff installed speed humps on the 400 block of Gillman Ave.
- Staff will prepare for the viaduct painting project road closure. IDOT requires message boards to be set out 7 days in advance. As of right now, daily closures will take place between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. starting Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> and possibly running through the weekend. There may be an overnight closure or two depending on the muralist scheduling. Staff will know more as we get closer to the project start date.

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### **CITY CLERK – *Valeri Brod***

- Completed annual FOIA/OMA required training. (A big thank you to the new Council members who have also completed their required training.)
- Renewed State licensing for the cemetery.
- April, May, June and July are typically the busiest months for the cemetery. Following shows the breakdown of sales for the past five years, for the months of April, May, June and July. We also continue to receive high praises for the upkeep and care by Tom Bessler and his crew at Glendale Cemetery.
  - 2022 – 12
  - 2023 – 22
  - 2024 – 12
  - 2025 – 32