



CITY OF WASHINGTON Council Report

August 1, 2025

MAYOR – Liliya Stevens

- Attended Rove & Ramble's nonprofit night representing Washington Rotary held at Five Points. I am our local Rotary Club's Secretary. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, contact me (309-258-6582) and we'll plan for you to be my guest at our weekly noon lunch meeting held at Countryside Banquet & Catering on School Street/Rt. 8.
- Presided over the third Monday of the month City Council meeting.
- Attended the Staff meeting to review the July 21st City Council meeting.
- Participated in a discussion with City Department heads, the City Clerk and the Administrative Assistant regarding the upcoming Bicentennial, discussing City participation.
- Met to review applicants for the Economic Development Commission with Alderperson Martin.
- Attended standing weekly meetings with Interim City Administrator Carr.
- Attended standing weekly meetings with WPD Chief Stevens.
- Update meeting with Planning & Zoning Director Oliphant.
- Attended various public community activities to support local businesses. An example being Rove & Ramble at Countryside.
- Accepted and attended a local HOA invitation to their subdivision ice cream get together.
- Various discussions with City Clerk Brod and staff for the purpose of getting familiar with processes/procedures at City Hall.
- Requested and received approval from the Washington Historical Society to host August's Let's Talk Washington at their building on Washington Square.
- ➡ What is Let's Talk Washington???
Community members are invited to meet the Mayor (other City or elected persons may also be in attendance). The purpose is to informally get together to discuss concerns/answer questions/share ideas. ➡
- Working on filling Board & Commission positions. For information, click: [Boards & Commissions](#)
- Staff and attorney conversation regarding the compatibility of Alderpersons holding both an appointed and elected office.
- Met with NTFD Chief Houseworth for an initial planning meeting for the purpose of holding a City sponsored Remembrance Ceremony this 9/11.
- Checked in participants and attended the Washington Park District's Senior Luncheon held at Five Points on the last Wednesday of every month.
- Communicated with the community by posting on my Mayor FB page. My role as Mayor is different from my role as Alderperson. My goal as Mayor is to improve communication via the City FB page (and City website). I hope people have noticed the timely sharing of information on the City FB page by reading the City Council and/or Committee of the Whole recap that is posted the day after a city meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Dennis Carr

Vacation

ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr, Ross Fuller & Mike Genard

- The Grandyle drainage project is underway. New storm sewer has been installed from Elgin to Gillman. There have been some unknowns discovered due to poor mapping and records with Illinois American water through no fault of their own. We had to install an additional storm manhole on Grandyle due to an unknown watermain that conflicted with the new storm sewer that is being installed. We have been in contact with many residents throughout the start of this project and everyone seems to be very understanding. The contractor will be adjusting working hours for school traffic once school resumes. The road will remain closed to through traffic until this time.
 - The Water Distribution Dept. has completed the relocation for the watermain on Grant St. Stark began on storm sewer installation this week. We spoke with the postmaster regarding the mailboxes that will have to be removed for the project to be completed. We will be installing a temporary mailbox bank at Vohland and Grant for the duration of the project. Residents will be notified of this inconvenience before the temp bank is set up.
 - Lonewolf is currently working on the replacement of 300' of curb on Colt drive that qualified for a capital improvement project. There were several sections of curb in front of approaches that had deteriorated to a point that required replacement.
 - Spray patching has been completed for this year's MFT project. We have had very few residential complaints this year, which is always a plus! We have coordinated with the Street Dept. to begin sweeping all excess rock beginning next week.
 - The second portion of the MFT project is scheduled to begin next week, weather permitting. Hot-In-Place recycling will be done on Oak Ridge, Autumn Ridge, Chestnut, Drake, Pintail, Jesse, Lawson, William, Dixon, and Calvin. All residents will be notified before this begins.
 - Due to an error that was submitted by the design team on the construction permit, work on the Catherine project will be delayed for a couple of weeks. Residents have been notified of the work stoppage. The project will still be completed by mid-November.
 - The bid opening for the Candlewood bridge restoration was held last week. Ottobaum was the only contractor to bid on the project. They submitted a bid for \$597,965.00 which was \$241,777 over the engineers estimate. We will be meeting with Ottobaum on-site to discuss some value engineering that can be done to reduce costs throughout the project if it is awarded.
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FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

- Preparation for FY24-25 Audit of which field work begins August 4, 2025:
 - Completed L-T Debt and Grants
 - Training on GASB 101 for changes in calculating compensated absences
 - Continued Fixed Assets, Leases and Subscriptions
 - Journal Entries as required
 - Analysis of all transactions as related to the Public Works/Evidence building fire for relevant journal entries
 - Continued uploading requested documents
- Preparation of Department of Justice – Evidence Building Quarterly Report due 7/29
- Preparation of DCEO – Evidence Building (Personnel) Quarterly Report due 7/30
- Participated in webinar regarding further automation of accounts payable process. Will follow up with Tyler demos for staff after audit is complete.
- Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for August 1, 2025
- Utility Billing (July 19 – August 1, 2025)

- A total of 289 cutoff notices were sent for June billing
- A total of eight delinquent notices were sent for July disconnects
- New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 13 ins
 - 26 outs
- Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 48 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified
- There were 23 new residents in July

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – *Jon Oliphant & Joe Boyer*

- Two of the three remaining Washington Commercial Building and Property Improvement Grant Program agreements will be placed on Monday’s Council agenda as first reading ordinances after receiving satisfactory responses from those applicants following their respective reviews. At the request of the business owner, the Russell’s Cycling & Fitness agreement will be pulled from consideration during this year’s grant cycle. The other two agreements will on the August 4 agenda as second 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 will 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 \$9,600 upon receipt of a lower quote. 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.
- As previously mentioned, 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. The Germantown Hills Board gave its approval of the request this week.
- Staff has received a proposal from Catalyst Network Services on behalf of T-Mobile to negotiate a potential lease extension for the equipment on the City’s Water Tower #2. The current agreement is set to expire in July 2032 provided the final five-year term was exercised. However, Catalyst has proposed an extended agreement that would begin upon the end of the current term in July 2027. This will be scheduled for discussion at the August 11 Committee of the Whole meeting.
- This month’s Technical Working Group meeting included presentations from Intersect Illinois staff on their “vetted sites” program for industrial recruitment and how the City of Peoria has used land banks as a tool to arrest blight and spur investment. Peoria has the only municipally operated land bank in Illinois and they own more than 1,000 lots.
- Beeney Buildings is tentatively planned to open in mid-August at 1860 W. Cruger Road. The lot was rezoned in June from C-2 to C-3 to accommodate the interest from the business, which will sell storage sheds, chicken coops, and deer blinds.
- J&J Toppers is getting closer to finishing its building at 1875 Constitution. A soft opening is tentatively planned for around Labor Day weekend.
- A new restaurant, Sunny Side Street, will tentatively have a soft opening during the second week of September in the former Mariachi space at 1960 Freedom.
- An artist who is working on the TP&W viaduct mural will finish some “refreshing” maintenance of the mural on the side of the former Brunk’s building on Saturday. As a result, a few of the parking spaces

closest to the mural will be temporarily marked as no-parking from 7 am to 5 pm while the work is completed that day.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief Stevens

- The storm sewer installation on Grandyle has a major impact on Gillman traffic. While we will continue to measure speeds and vehicle counts in the 400 block where the speed humps are located, we may not be able to draw generalizable conclusions related to their effectiveness. We will evaluate the data as we receive it, and we will pass the data along in accordance with previous plans.
- That Gillman data for June 23- July 8, 2025, before the placement of speed humps, shows:

Westbound AADT (average annualized daily traffic) 361.1, 5,658 total
Westbound: 85th percentile speed 31 MPH, 50th percentile 27 MPH, 10 MPH Pace 22-32, mean 27.2
Westbound speeders over 35-<40 MPH: 224 Speeders 40-<45MPH: 13 Speeders 45+: 7
Westbound speeders over 35: 4.31%

Eastbound AADT 302.4, 4,737 total
Eastbound: 85th percentile speed 32 MPH, 50th percentile 28 MPH, 10 MPH Pace 23-33, mean 28
Eastbound speeders over 35-<40 MPH: 237 Speeders 40-<45MPH: 21 Speeders 45+: 7 (2 of those 50-55)
Eastbound speeders over 35: 5.9%

Gillman data after the placement of speed humps:

July 10 – 24, 2025 (speed humps installed July 9):
Westbound AADT 280.3, 4,017 total
Westbound: 85th percentile speed 25 MPH, 50th percentile 22 MPH, 10 MPH Pace 16-26, mean 21.5
Westbound speeders over 35-<40 MPH: 46 Speeders 40-<45MPH: 4 Speeders 45+: 1
Westbound speeders over 35: 1.3%

Eastbound AADT 239.7, 3,396 total
Eastbound: 85th percentile speed 26 MPH, 50th percentile 22 MPH, 10 MPH Pace 17-27, mean 22.6
Eastbound speeders over 35-<40 MPH: 37 Speeders 40-<45MPH: 2 Speeders 45+: 0
Eastbound speeders over 35: 1.1%

Terms: “x” percentile refers to percent of vehicle at or below this speed; Pace: the 10-mph range in which the highest percentage of vehicles are traveling.

- Over a year into the ALPR (automated license plate reader) project, we have the initial four ALPRs in place and working. The fourth ALPR initially gave us a low capture rate, meaning too many license plates passed unrecorded. The vendor made adjustments that corrected the issue. We tested every ALPR that was installed to verify they worked as intended and withheld payment for over a year, awaiting this verification.
- Third shift officers arrested a Sangamon County juvenile for attempted burglary to a motor vehicle and investigators are working to determine if this event is tied to other regional events.
- After examination of reports of unintended discharges of the Sig Sauer P320 pistol and its variants, both with and without the 2018 voluntary upgrade and regardless of age, the Department will no longer authorize this pistol in any variant for duty use or off-duty carry. Officers currently carrying the pistol will

transition to a different pistol (which may take some time to allow for the arrival of appropriate holsters or other gear). Sig Sauer maintains the pistol is safe. WPD has not, to date, experienced any unintended discharges related to this pistol.

- WPD and Morton PD held joint Rapid Response training at Washington Community High School, unifying response tactics with protocols from the Illinois Tactical Officers Association. Both departments contributed state-certified instructors for this training.
- The Board of Police Commissioners was sworn in and elected officers. Administrative Officer Beth Duley proctored an orientation session so the Board could immediately begin its duties, which is important as we have police officer candidates currently in the evaluation process and a potential early fall academy date.

PUBLIC WORKS – *Brian Rittenhouse*

- Staff completed the relocation of the water main on Grant Street ahead of the Safe Routes to Schools sidewalk installation.
- Staff worked with the Township to clean up the vegetation and grade the ditch at 1020 Dallas Rd where the SSO occurred. This work will continue until it is completed.
- Staff is assisting with traffic control for the viaduct painting project. This consists of opening and closing the road, at specific times, so work can be completed. I believe if all goes well it should be completed on Monday, August 4th.
- Staff assisted the Township with the preparation work needed before the muralist can start the viaduct painting. Preparation work included cleaning and applying primer coats to the viaduct. I believe the muralist will be working to complete the mural this Saturday and Sunday overnight.
- Staff completed the base layer for what will eventually be new roads at the cemetery. The current plan is to budget to pave these roads in-house, next fiscal year.
- Staff attended the startup of the chlorine equipment at Water Treatment Plant #1. The purpose of the startup is to make sure all equipment is working properly. Staff will discuss and determine when to make the switch and start feeding free chlorine for disinfection. Residents will be notified in advance of the switch.