



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: August 4, 2025

Prepared By: Mayor Lilija Stevens

Agenda Item: Appointments to the Economic Development Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission

Explanation: The Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) considers land use issues and makes recommendations to the City Council on matters pertaining to zoning, variance requests and the City's long range comprehensive land plan use. This seven (7) member Commission consists of members who reside either within the City limits or within a one and one-half mile radius of the City. Members are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. They serve a term of five years or until their successors are duly appointed. PZC meetings are held at Five Points Washington on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

PZC currently has two vacancies. One due to the resignation by Glen Williams by email on June 5, 2025 requesting a replacement be found as soon as possible. The other vacancy by Hans Ritter submitting his resignation on July 29, 2025 at my request. PZC has had challenges ensuring a quorum for many meetings as noted in a June 5, 2025 email from Staff Liaison Jon Oliphant to PZC members.

To continue the work of this commission, I appoint Washington residents Matt Collins and Thomas Brecklin. With these appointments, the PZC will be filled to ensure a quorum at the August 13, 2025 Planning and Zoning meeting, which was rescheduled from the August 6, 2025 meeting.

I had hoped to appoint an Alderperson as a Council liaison between the PZC commission and Council. However, our City Attorney advised that an Alderperson cannot hold the position of Alderperson and PZC Commissioner simultaneously. Thomas Brecklin is familiar with the work of Planning and Zoning, having been on this commission years ago. He would like to get back on PZC as he has more time now, having retired as a volunteer on the Washington Fire Department. Tom Brecklin is the owner of Brecklin's Service Station on the Square in Washington.

Matt Collins has experience with serving on boards and committees. He is currently Project Director at Carle Health in Peoria and recently married a WCHS teacher. Matt looks forward to using his work and volunteer experiences as a member of PZC.

As described in the July 21, 2025 memo, the Economic Development Commission is a seven-member commission with dozens of duties listed in our Municipal Code. Its members must reside within the City or have a business within the City. I appointed Alderperson Bobby Martin III, with the consent of the City Council, to the Commission at the July 21, 2025 City Council meeting. Alderperson Martin will serve as a liaison between the EDC and City Council working with Staff Liaison Jon Oliphant (Planning & Development Director). Alderperson Martin and I collaborated to ensure EDC is staffed to fulfill its purpose. I appoint Washington residents Corey Allen, Kevin Beale, Mike Herzog, Drew

Hillman, and Gregg Soltow. Each is appointed to serve a five-year term. With these appointments, the Economic Development Commission will be filled.

Corey Allen has worked across five sectors of our economy - military, government, non-profit, corporate, and small business. This broad background gives him a unique well-rounded perspective on economic development and the challenges and opportunities facing our community.

Kevin Beale has a Bachelor of Science degree in Digital Media with 20+ years Marketing experiences including healthcare, finance, higher education, non-profit and workforce development. He has been a Washington resident since 2007.

Mike Herzog is President of Washington State Bank and a Board Member and current President of the Washington Chamber of Commerce. He has 20+ years of banking experience and working with businesses to assist with growth and increased employment.

Drew Hillman has lived in Washington nearly all of his 45 years. For fifteen of those years, he has run his family's business in Peoria, IL and Myrtle Beach, SC. These combined experiences give him a perspective that will be valuable to our City.

Gregg Soltow has a Bachelor of Information Technology degree and a Master of Information Technology degree. Gregg understands economic trends, market analysis and financial planning and has a strong ability to collaborate with various stakeholders. Gregg has experience in forming partnerships and working in a team environment along with his professional experience in real estate development are assets he will bring to the EDC.

Fiscal Impact: These Commission positions are volunteer service positions which do not have expenses directly associated with the appointment, other than potential expenses of the Commissions themselves. I very much appreciate the willingness of our residents to serve the City of Washington.

Action Requested: Ratification of the appointments by the City Council.