



City Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
Five Points Banquet Room - 360 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

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**Call to Order** Mayor Lilija Stevens called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum present. She explained that everyone was wearing blue shirts recognizing the City's bicentennial.

**Roll Call** *Present:* Alderpersons Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
*Absent:* Alderpersons Blundy, McIntyre

**Also Present** Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Dennis Carr, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Treasurer Carol Crocker, and City Attorney Mark Walton, Press

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**Pledge of Allegiance** Mayor Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Catherine Coyle, from Congressman LaHood's office, read aloud a Recognition Proclamation honoring the Bicentennial Committee. She thanked the mayor, city council, and members of the committee for their work. The proclamation was submitted on the House Floor on August 26, 2025. Mayor Stevens presented the proclamation to committee member Leri Slonneger, noting that she and Jewel Ward co-chaired the committee. Mayor Stevens also recognized Kim Brownfield as the events chair. Committee members present were John Ackerman, Kit Zinser, Pam Miller, Cheryl McGuire, Kim Brownfield, Leri Slonneger, Jewel Ward, and Kellie FelmeY.

**Audience Comments** Bicentennial co-chair Jewel Ward shared that events were coordinated by the committee over five years in partnership with the Chamber and Park District. She thanked Co-Chair Leri Slonneger, John Ackerman, John and Sharon Amdall, Kim Brownfield, Jennifer Essig, John Stromberger and Kit Zinser. She also thanked the Fundraising Committee of Kim Brownfield, Brianna Harrison, Kellie FelmeY, Justine Hohulin, Stefani Lindsey, Cheryl McGuire and Pam Miller.

**Deletions/Additions** None provided

**Consent Agenda** Mayor Stevens presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:

- A. Approve August 18, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Purchase Authorization - Water Treatment Plant #1 HVAC System
- C. Approve Purchase Authorization - Washington Plaza Stormwater Trough Repair
- D. Approve 2025 MFT Ace in the Hole Pay Request
- E. Approve 2025 MFT American Asphalt Surface Recycling Pay Request
- F. Approve WTP1 Chlorination Upgrade Pay Request #8

*Alderperson Martin motioned to approve the consent agenda; Alderperson Smith seconded.*

**6 Ayes:** Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Sluder, Smith

**0 Nays:**

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Mayoral Communication** Mayor Stevens read a memo regarding the Tree Board that included responsibilities. She shared that she chose Brittany Miller and Cindy Roese and explained that this board is now full and can begin business.

*Mayoral Appointments*

*Alderson Ernst motioned to approve; Alderson Moss seconded.*

6 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*911 Remembrance Ceremony* Mayor Stevens shared that this was last done on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Tom Berlett chaired the previous events and is no longer with us. Northern Tazewell Fire Chief David Hosworth offered to chair the event. It will be held Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. next to the helicopter in Washington Park.

*September Let's Talk Washington Event* Mayor Stevens shared that the event will be on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Police Department. They have about 12 people attend each event. She invited anyone to attend.

**City Administrator Communication Council Report** Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr reported that road milling for the Cedar Street Drainage Project will begin on Friday. Communication regarding the project will be shared on social media tomorrow. He reminded the community to complete the goal-setting survey available on the city's website and Facebook page. He also noted that Cullinan/UCM is tentatively scheduled to begin chip seal work on September 15. He encouraged everyone to drive slowly.

*Approve Purchase Authorization - Square Parking Mill and Overlay* Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr reported that IDOT will begin work on BUS24 from Lynn Street to the railroad viaduct. Signage and cones are in place. He noted that IDOT will make only one pass around the square. Cullinan proposed milling and overlaying the remaining portions of the square at a cost of just over \$103,000, plus \$12,000 for striping. Staff is requesting \$125,000 to account for possible overages. Mr. Carr noted that businesses with stamped brick sidewalks have asked that removal and repair of those areas be included. If Council chooses to add the sidewalks, the total cost would be approximately \$140,000. The city budgeted \$250,000 for road maintenance, which would cover the expenses. Mr. Carr explained that the stamped work is located on the northeast and southwest corners and clarified that the parking spots on the north and south sides of the square are the city's responsibility. Alderson Ernst noted that with the inclusion of sidewalks, the cost still remains well below budget. It was further noted that the areas under consideration also contain handicap ramps. The majority of Council members favored including the sidewalks. *Alderson Smith motioned to approve \$140,000 to include the sidewalks; Alderson Sluder seconded.*

6 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

The timing of the project was discussed, noting upcoming community events. Mr. Carr shared that there may be curb ramps closed but the equipment and barricades should be cleaned up for the homecoming parade and Autumn Fest.

**Resolutions** Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would approve the use of Motor Fuel Tax Allotment funds to be used to perform Candlewood Bridge repairs, as required by IDOT. **Title:** Resolution for Improvement of Candlewood

*Candlewood* Mr. Carr explained that this is similar to what was already passed but was amended to include a redesign, increasing the total to \$550,000. He hopes the full amount will not be needed.

*Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson Ernst seconded.*

Alderson Moss asked about possible future actions from council. Mr. Carr shared that the bid award will come to council for approval.

6 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Rescind Resolution R-1441 (17-25) adopted August 18, 2025, titled "Nuisance Abatement Costs Payment"* Staff requested to rescind this previously passed resolution to bring it back as an ordinance consideration. *Alderson Smith motioned to approve rescinding the resolution; Alderson Johnson seconded.*

*Timeline Reduction Code Amendment*” 6 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**First Reading Ord** City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Nuisance Abatement Costs Payment* **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would reduce the amount of time to pay for nuisance abatement charges from 45 days to seven days. **Title:** Nuisance Abatement Costs Payment  
*Timeline Reduction Code Amendment*

**Second Reading Ord** City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration:  
*Special Use Request by Katie and Kevin Beale for Residential Non-Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rental at 301 S. Main Street* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would allow for a non-owner-occupied short-term rental to operate at 301 S. Main Street. **Title:** Special Use Request by Katie and Kevin Beale to Allow a Residential Non-Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rental at 301 S. Main Street  
*Aldersperson Ernst motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.*  
6 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Aldersperson Comments** Aldersperson Sluder shared that their first Let’s Talk Ward 1 event was well attended and thanked citizens for coming. They will be planning another event.  
Aldersperson Moss shared that the Marching Panther Invitational will be on Saturday bringing in thousands of visitors. He encouraged everyone to come out.  
Aldersperson Martin shared the EDC will meet on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. They will provide more information soon.

At 7:01 p.m. *Aldersperson Ernst motioned to move into executive session; Aldersperson Smith seconded for the purpose of 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) – Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent.*

At 7:14 p.m. City Council reconvened into regular session.

**Adjournment** At 7:16 p.m. *Aldersperson Sluder moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Martin seconded.*  
Motion carried by voice vote.

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Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk