



# CITY OF WASHINGTON Council Report

September 12, 2025

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## **MAYOR – Liliya Stevens**

- Conversation with potential developers, staff, and community stakeholders.
- Along with staff, participated in setting the agenda for the 9-2-25 City Council meeting.
- Met with various staff members as requested and/or initiated.
- Standing weekly meetings continue with the Interim City Administrator and Police Chief.
- Invited to and participated in the NTFD (Northern Tazewell Fire Department's) 75th Anniversary celebration. Our WFD and NTFD have a mutual aid agreement.
- As the Washington Rotary Club secretary, attended weekly Tuesday meeting, wrote and distributed meeting summaries. Please contact me if you have an interest in attending a weekly noon Rotary meeting as my guest.
- TCRPC (Tri-County Regional Planning Commission) - As mayor, I am one of the Commission and Executive Board members and attended the September monthly meeting.
- Invited by a Square business owner for discussion. I plan to regularly meet with Square business owners.
- Attended planning committee meetings for this year's revived 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony.
- Attended two Square business special events - Lori's Kitchen Shop 17th Anniversary and Lucky Charlie's new location grand opening.
- Attended the Five Points Community Gallery Wall Exhibit reception for artist Amy Werner. The exhibit will be displayed through October 5th.
- Organized a committee in planning the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony that was held Sunday, September 7th in Washington Park. My intention is to Never Forget and going forward we will be holding yearly remembrances.
- Regular communication/discussion has begun with our WFD Chief and our EMS Chief.
- Set the date/time/place for the mayor's September Let's Talk Washington. This is an opportunity for community members to meet with me and other City staff to ask questions/offer suggestions/discuss your concerns.
- You are invited to attend:

➡ 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 in the Training Room @ the WPD

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## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Dennis Carr**

- We had our initial scoping meeting with Dewberry for the Citywide Space Needs Study.
- The Strategic Goal Setting Session Community Survey closed on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We had 773 submissions. The Goal Setting Session is on September 20<sup>th</sup> from 8-1:30 at Countryside.
- There is a Special City Council Meeting on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> to kick-off the City Administrator search.
- Plows have been delivered to Washington Community High School, Central Intermediate School, Washington Middle School and Beverly Manor School. The City and Township are coordinating a Paint the Plow event to display the local students' artistic work in the Homecoming Parade.

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

- Phase II of the Catherine Reconstruction project has resumed. All new water services have been connected to the new watermain. There was a boil order issued this week in order to tie in the existing watermain on Pine and Cedar St with the new main on Catherine. Stark's underground will now be working to complete all of the new storm sewer installations for the next couple of weeks.
- The first phase of the storm sewer priority project #5 on roads southeast of the square began. Work started near the Elm St. bridge. Two new manholes and storm sewer pipe has been installed on Elm St. Work will be completed on Holland St. S High St, and S. Pine St. for this phase of the project. All roads will receive a HMA mill and overlay upon completion of storm sewer installations.
- Apart from landscaping and seeding, the Grandyle storm and sidewalk project has been completed. We spoke with a number of happy residents who praised us with how good everything looks.
- The Grant St. SRTS Project is moving right along. Roughly 750' of new sidewalk has been poured. Starks concrete crew is currently working to get all of the approaches formed up and poured. Half of the approaches got poured out this week. They will be working to get the remaining approaches finished next week.
- Starks grading crew has mobilized to North St. to begin work for the North St. SRTS project. New sidewalk will be installed on the north side of the road from West St. to Main St. All residents have been notified, and no parking signs have been placed on the south side of the road to allow for local traffic to get through while work is being done.
- Chip sealing will begin on Wednesday September 17 for this year's MFT project. Door hangers will be delivered to residents informing them of the work that will be done. No parking signs will be placed throughout the ROW on all roads that will be chip sealed.
- Met with IDOT and UCM to discuss a plan for the paving that will take place on the square. There are still several items to hash out before any work begins. Tentatively, they plan to begin the mill and overlay work on the square in mid-October.
- After the rejection of the Candlewood Bridge Bid, plans were adjusted and we had a new bid opening on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We had 3 companies bid on the project this time around instead of just 1. The low bid came in well under what the rejected bid was initially. The award is on the council agenda for approval.
- IDOT has been removing ADA ramps and curb radii along Business 24. They have poured some curb lines back and will continue pouring the curbs with the ADA ramps to follow. IDOT has shared that they will make sure there is no work in the area and that traffic control is pulled to the side of the road for the Homecoming Parade.

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## **FINANCE – *Joanie Baxter***

- Preparation of Police Pension Fund Annual Report and training of Jeanette on the process
- Review and update of job description for Finance Director to start recruiting process
- Continuation of documentation of processes as related to audit functions – Fixed Assets, Leases & Subscriptions
- Electric aggregation update was posted on the website and Facebook to provide information prior to residents receiving the opt-out letter anticipated to be mailed out next week.
- Review and update of Inland Marine equipment
- Follow up on DCEO construction grant
- Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for September 12, 2025
- Utility Billing (August 30 – September 12, 2025)
  - A total of 5,532 bills were processed for September, including 915 emailed bills (16.5%)
  - A total of 545 penalties were assessed for delinquent August bills

- A total of 48 disconnects were processed for September, including 16 owing a balance, 31 with credit balances, and one with a zero balance
- New accounts and account closings processed:
  - 23 ins
  - 24 outs
- Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 43 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified
- There were 23 new residents in August

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## **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – *Jon Oliphant & Joe Boyer***

- The September PZC meeting had one case: A variance request of Robert Gaul at 2230 Northridge Lane. There were three components of the variance: 1) A 5' setback variance to allow an existing gravel driveway to be improved as concrete to the property line; 2) A 2' side yard setback variance to allow for the construction of a replacement accessory building to be 3' from the side property line; and 3) A 6' front yard setback variance to allow for the construction of a covered porch to be 19' from the front property line. Each of the variance components were unanimously approved with the caveat that a 1-hour rated firewall be installed on the accessory building wall parallel to the property line.
  - The building permit has been issued for the O'Reilly Auto Parts project at the intersection of Centennial Drive and McClugage Road and construction has begun in coordination with site grading and utility extensions. The company has indicated that it would like for its construction to be completed and the store opened by the end of the year. Staff continues to coordinate with other participants in the Northern Tazewell County Enterprise Zone to begin preparing an application to expand the EZ to add the Villages of Creve Coeur and Metamora as well as to add territory in East Peoria and Washington. This would include the remaining land near Centennial and McClugage that is not currently in the EZ.
  - Initial work has begun on a building expansion for Free Grace Church on Glenn.
  - Plans are being drafted for the planned renovation of the 104 N. Main building, which will be done to accommodate Mud Creek Mercantile on the ground floor and two residential units on the second floor. Following the submittal, the HPC will need to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the exterior work. Additionally, Rambler is planning on soon opening a second location in the ground floor of the Washington Historical Society's building at 128 Washington Square.
  - Initial infrastructure construction has started for the Protea Place development at the intersection of Business 24 and Cummings Lane. A foundation-only permit has been issued for initial work to begin and staff is awaiting the submittal of the full building plans in order to issue a full building permit. The developer would like to start on the first two buildings before the end of the year.
  - Staff has seen interest from a couple of businesses in the possible use of the City's Revolving Loan Fund. This was established after the tornado in 2015 through a US Department of Agriculture grant and funding from four city banks. Two projects were successfully completed using it and both loans have been repaid. It would be great to be able to utilize the RLF for other non-construction projects to allow local businesses to grow.
  - Monday's Council agenda will include a first reading ordinance for the first amendment to the Water Tower #1 T-Mobile telecommunications lease that was discussed at the August COW meeting.
  - Staff received a Washington Tourism application from the Washington Specialty Shops to assist with the purchase of upgraded lanterns for Candlelight Stroll, which is scheduled for December 4 from 4-8 pm. After review, an award of \$1,000 will be made to help offset part of the purchase.
  - A lot on the northeast side of Mallard Way has had initial sitework completed for the upcoming start of eight duplex units. Building permits issuance and start of construction is anticipated later this fall. Permits have been issued for two duplex units on the northwest side of Mallard Way and another two units on Jessie Street.
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## **PUBLIC SAFETY – *Chief Stevens***

*\*Vacation\**

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

- Staff assisted with water main connection for the Catherine Street road reconstruction.
  - Fall brush pickup will take place the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Staff repaired an area of road around a valve on East Jefferson Street.
  - Staff repaired an area of road on Zinzer Place.
  - Staff formed and poured a concrete ramp for salt truck deliveries at Water Treatment Plant #1.
  - Staff removed and installed new concrete stairs for City Hall.
  - Staff staged and removed traffic control for the Marching Band Invitational.
  - Staff is working on installing new parking signs around the Square.
  - The jetter truck is estimated to be built in October with an estimated delivery at the end of October.
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