



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
Five Points Banquet Room - 360 N. Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois

Call to Order Mayor Lilija Stevens called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

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

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, and Attorney Katherine Swise

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations Mayor Stevens read a recognition commending the Washington Community High School
WCHS Varsity Soccer Varsity Soccer Team, its coaches, and student-athletes for their historic, record-breaking season
Recognition and congratulations on their outstanding accomplishments.
Alderson Sluder motioned to approve; Alderson Ernst seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.
The WCHS soccer coach expressed his appreciation for the community support. He recognized Alderson Sluder who is a WCHS soccer alumni and record holder.

Audience Comments None provided.

Deletions/Additions None provided.

Consent Agenda Mayor Stevens presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:
A. Approve November 17, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
B. Approve Annual Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2026
C. Accept Financial Reports for Period Ended September 30, 2025
D. Approve 2026 Workers Comp Renewal - Illinois Public Risk Fund
E. WTP1 Chlorination Upgrade Final Pay Request
F. Approve Payment Authorization - Water Tower #2 Painting Payment Request
Alderson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communication *Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson McIntyre seconded.*
Appoint Jean 8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
Montgomery to Cemetery 0 Nays:
Board Motion carried by roll call vote.

Appoint Nicholas Cohen *Alderson Moss motioned to approve; Alderson Ernst seconded.*
to Planning & Zoning 8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
Commission 0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

<i>Recap of November Let's Talk Washington</i>	Mayor Stevens shared that the gathering took place at Brickhouse, they had largest crowd yet and the December gathering is still being decided.
City Administrator Communication Council Report	Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr shared that the new community Christmas tree lighting will take place Monday, December 8 th at 5:30p.m. They are cancelling the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for that night.
<i>1st Annual Christmas Light Contest Kickoff Announcement</i>	Communications Specialist Amanda Roberts shared that there is a link to enter the contest on the city's website and invited everyone to submit their homes.
<i>Social Media Policy Discussion</i>	Attorney Swise shared that it is under review and their office is waiting for council's direction. The policy will be inclusive of all social media pages and will allow commenting per council's direction provided at the goal setting session. Other communities were used for research, legal will continue to review it, and written guidelines can be helpful regarding commenting. Ms. Roberts shared the process and requirements to allow Facebook. No objections were provided and legal will move forward with their review and recommendations.
<i>Budget Schedule FY26-27</i>	Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr shared that the process is broken down by departments as to not overwhelm Council with too much information at one time. Capital project information will kick off in mid-January and we will once again use ClearGov. This process allows everyone access during the budget building process. Alderperson Blundy suggested moving the City's fiscal year in line with the calendar year.
Resolutions <i>R-1453 (29-25) Memorial Gardens Farm Lease Extension Agreement</i>	Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration: Synopsis: This resolution approves and authorizes a Cash Rent Farm Lease Extension with John Guth. Title: Memorial Gardens Farm Lease Extension Agreement <i>Alderperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderperson Ernst seconded.</i> <u>8 Ayes:</u> Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith <u>0 Nays:</u> <u>Motion carried by roll call vote.</u>
First Reading Ord <i>Abate 2025 Tax Levy in Connection with \$4,735,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023</i>	Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration: Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would abate the levy for the year 2025, made in connection with the \$4,735,000 general obligation bonds, series 2023, of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois. Title: Abating the 2025 Tax Levy in Connection with the \$4,735,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023
<i>Levying the Annual 2025 Municipal Property Tax</i>	Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration: Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would levy the annual 2025 municipal property tax for the City of Washington, County of Tazewell, State of Illinois (Taxes paid in 2026). Title: Levying the Annual 2025 Municipal Property Tax Council members discussed the various percentages that were presented in the November 10, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting. They discussed a lower percentage than previously directed. Finance Director Baxter explained that levying 4.13% would fully fund the special levies as well as capture the .99% growth, which in turn, would not affect the General Fund and this would still decrease the tax rate. Choosing to levy 0.99% would only capture the growth and would require General Funds to cover special levies used to aid the Fire Department and ambulance contracts. The need to fund police pensions, fire and ambulance was expressed. Finance Director Baxter clarified that the city's portion of the total tax bill is only about 6% and doesn't have a large impact on overall taxes.
<i>104-106 N. Main Street TIF Redevelopment Agreement</i>	Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration: Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would approve a TIF redevelopment agreement with Strategic Pivot LLC for the redevelopment of 104-106 N. Main Street. Title: 104-106 N. Main Street TIF Redevelopment Agreement

Alderson Comments Alderson Johnson thanked Public Works for a phenomenal job clearing snow and shared that the band buses were able to get into town with no issues. Alderson Sluder also thanked Public Works and shared that the Tournament of Champions had a great turnout and many volunteers. Alderson Martin and Mr. Oliphant discussed the sale that fell through on the Knights of Columbus and surrounding properties, specifically noting that the Tangled Roots building is on the market. The sale is not related to the business and the upper floor rentals would be included in the sale. He also doesn't think there are stipulations regarding the completion of the buildings. Language allows for the agreements to be fully transferred and make a new owner comply with the agreement. He further noted that if anything changes, the agreement would likely be null and void. Alderson McIntyre spoke highly of the Tournament of Champions. He recognized Countryside for hosting the Thanksgiving Dinner. He also thanked Public Works for fixing a recent water leak and for the police and fire departments for responding to calls during the recent snow storm. Chief Stevens shared that there is a snow ban for the next 48 hours which began at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment At 7:22 p.m. *Alderson Sluder moved to adjourn; Alderson McIntyre seconded.*
Motion carried by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk