



City Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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.

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

**Also Present** City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, Communications Specialist Amanda Roberts, and City Attorney Mark Walton

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

**Audience Comments** None provided.

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

- A. Approve January 5, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Acceptance of TIF Joint Review Board Minutes for January 8, 2026
- C. 2025 Year-End Development Activity Summary
- D. Accept Police Pension Fund Actuarial Report for Contributions Attributable to Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027
- E. Approve Bills & Payroll
- F. Accept Financial Reports for Period Ended December 31, 2025
- G. Approve Washington Police Evidence Storage Pay Request #9
- H. Approve Catherine Phase 2 - Pay Request #5
- I. Approve Drainage Priority Project 5 - Pay Request #5

*Alderperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderperson Sluder seconded.*

7 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Mayor Communication** *Appoint Jeff Fiegenschuh as City Administrator* City Attorney Walton explained that no vote is needed as the appointment was approved with the employment contract.

*Appoint Jeff Fiegenschuh as Budget Officer* Mayor Stevens explained that Finance Director Baxter was appointed to fill the previous vacancy due to lack of a City Administrator.

*Alderperson Johnson motioned to approve; Alderperson Ernst seconded.*

7 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Request by Robinson Outdoor, for a Billboard Variance at 1230 Peoria St.* Attorney Walton explained that this was discussed at previous meetings and tabled. Consensus from Council was to not move it forward. This won't be considered at the proposed location.

*January Let's Talk Washington* The January Let's Talk Washington will be on January 22, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at The Connect Center on Washington Road. It is an open forum, lasts about an hour and the public is invited.

**City Administrator** *Communication Council Report* City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh thanked Council for their support and is looking forward to working with everyone. A staff report was provided in the agenda packet. He thanked staff and the Clerk for helping him on his first day.

**1st Read Ordinances** None provided.

**2nd Read Ordinances** None provided.

**Alderperson Comments** Alderperson Martin reported that the EDC met last week and will now meet monthly on the second Tuesday at the Historical Society. Mr. Oliphant shared updates on the TIF district and enterprise zone. The EDC is creating a city database and would like to form a group to focus on future development at Washington Plaza.

**Adjournment** At 6:40 p.m. *Alderperson Sluder moved to adjourn; Alderperson Smith seconded.*  
Motion carried by voice vote.