



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 2, 2026, 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 City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh, Finance Director Joanie Baxter, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Sergeant Brian Simpson, City Treasurer Carol Crocker, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Mark Walton, and Press

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations None provided.

Audience Comments None provided.

Deletions/Additions None provided.

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

- A. Approve January 20, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve TIF Pay Request #14 - Tangled Roots, 140 Washington Square

Alderperson Smith motioned to approve; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.

Planning and Development Director Oliphant explained that this is anticipated to be the final request for interest reimbursement. It is for \$8,850.28 and will bring the total interest reimbursements to \$173,239.38 and the total TIF Fund payment to \$848,239.38.

8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communication Mayor Stevens shared that it was the new City Administrator's first event, attendance was high, feral cats were discussed for the first time, and information regarding the February meeting will be posted on the City's website and social media.

Recap of January Let's Talk Washington

City Administrator Communication City Administrator Fiegenschuh reported that staff included a report in the agenda packet. He has been meeting with staff and has begun work on the new budget. He also noted that the finance director's contract is in progress and that he has been getting to know the community.

City Administrator Report to Mayor and Council

Purchase Authorization for Water Treatment Plant #1 Post Chlorine System *Alderperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderperson Sluder seconded.* Public Works Director Rittenhouse clarified that this is for ongoing maintenance as Council approved the adjustment to WTP#1 disinfection processes. This will allow for an automatic feed of chlorine during non-staffed situations.

8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolutions City Administrator Fiegenschuh presented the following for consideration: **Synopsis:** A resolution authorizing the execution of an employment agreement between the City of Washington and City Finance Director Paulette Hurd. He was involved in a portion of the hiring process and supports the approval of this contract. *Alderperson Smith motioned to approve; Alderperson Ernst seconded.* Alderperson Moss noted that this is an employment agreement and not a contract with specified terms. The City Attorney shared that this is a contract with no defined term. It doesn't guarantee employment and uses their standard form. 8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith 0 Nays: Motion carried by roll call vote.

R-1457 (1-26) Approve Employment Contract with Paulette Hurd City Administrator Fiegenschuh presented the following for consideration: **Synopsis:** A resolution authorizing the execution of an employment agreement between the City of Washington and City Finance Director Paulette Hurd. He was involved in a portion of the hiring process and supports the approval of this contract. *Alderperson Smith motioned to approve; Alderperson Ernst seconded.* Alderperson Moss noted that this is an employment agreement and not a contract with specified terms. The City Attorney shared that this is a contract with no defined term. It doesn't guarantee employment and uses their standard form. 8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith 0 Nays: Motion carried by roll call vote.

R-1458 (2-26) Approve Amendment to City Administrator Employment Contract for Car Allowance City Administrator Fiegenschuh presented the following for consideration: **Synopsis:** A resolution approving an amendment to the employment agreement between the City of Washington and Jeff Fiegenschuh for a car allowance. He shared that information was sent to Council, he wasn't provided info from the recruiter, he is not interested in a City vehicle and this will save the City money. *Alderperson Martin motioned to approve; Alderperson Moss seconded.*

8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

R-1459 (3-26) Approve IDOT Resolution for MFT Maintenance City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration: **Synopsis:** A resolution approving use of Motor Fuel Tax funds and fulfilling IDOT's requirement for general maintenance. He explained that this is an annual resolution required by IDOT and it will set aside \$1 million dollars. He noted that the Candlewood Bridge project may become a variable. *Alderperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderperson Ernst seconded.*
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

1st Read Ordinances Allowance of Remote Attendance for City Boards and Commissions City Administrator Fiegenschuh presented the following for consideration: **Synopsis:** An ordinance amending the City of Washington Code to authorize members of City Boards and Commissions to electronically attend their respective meetings. **Title:** Approve the Allowance of Remote Attendance for City Boards and Commissions. Planning and Development Director Oliphant explained that the proposal would allow all boards and commissions the same permissible reasons for remote attendance as provided to the Council under the City Code.

Establishment of a Second Deputy Chief of Police Position City Administrator Fiegenschuh presented the following for consideration: **Synopsis:** An ordinance amending the City of Washington Code regarding the police command structure to authorize a second deputy police chief. **Title:** Approve Establishment of a Second Deputy Chief of Police Position. He shared that they had something similar in Rantoul, and he feels this should work well for us.

Alderperson Comments Alderperson Johnson shared that Let's Talk Ward 1 will take place on Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30 p.m. in a study room at the Five Points Library.

Executive Session At 6:45 p.m., *Alderperson Smith motioned and Alderperson Martin seconded to move into executive session* for 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, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. Motioned passed by voice vote.
City Attorney Mark Walton excused himself from the executive session due to a possible conflict of interest.

Adjournment At 7:32 p.m. *Alderperson Sluder moved to adjourn; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.*
Motion carried by voice vote.

Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk