



City Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 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.

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

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

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

**Audience Comments** Mayor Stevens explained Audience Comments are not a back-and-forth conversation and invited anyone who would like staff to respond to their comment, to provide their contact information on the sign-in sheet.

Washington Resident Joe Grieser from Knollaire shared that he has lived in Washington for many years and feels there is a serious problem with illegal fireworks. He requests a lasting solution. He shared that it affects families and pets and injuries are common. He feels the previous administration blew him off and the code needs to be enforced. He invited council members to visit him at his house. His comments are attached and made part of these minutes.

**Agenda** None provided.  
**Deletions/Additions**

**Consent Agenda** Mayor Stevens presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:  
A. Approve May 19, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
B. Approve Purchase Authorization for SCADA Support Service Agreement  
*Aldersperson Martin motioned to approve the consent agenda; Aldersperson Smith seconded.*  
Aldersperson Blundy asked about specific metrics that support that we are happy with their supports. City Administrator/Engineer Carr said we used to have 2 different consultants, we have since found that Concentric has performed above and beyond but the other had fallen short. They feel this is best for the city and Concentric knows the city's system. They are good at troubleshooting and very responsive. Aldersperson Blundy asked if anything was documented with them to show form of measurement. He would like that moving forward.  
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Mayoral Communication** Mayor Stevens shared that it was a beautiful day. She shared their first committee meeting was May 8<sup>th</sup> and well attended. They identified event chairs and tasks. After the event, they reviewed the process and set the first meeting date for next year for March 11, 2026, and will provide more information as it gets closer. Many people stepped up to make it a special ceremony. She thanked Aldersperson Martin who led the cemetery ceremony.  
*Memorial Day 2025 Update*

**Let's Talk Washington Update** This is a meeting where residents have an opportunity to talk with Mayor Stevens and staff members. They had 14-17 people. It was at the library meeting room. The next will be June 18 at 3pm at Sunnyland branch library. Information will appear on website and social media. Moss shared that it would be great to have a rotation of alderpersons at the event as well.

**City Administrator Communication** City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the Council Report. He clarified that the job description for the Communication Specialist will be shared with the council and that Aldersperson Moss is providing guidance. Aldersperson Blundy asked that Council be shown the RFQ for the municipal facilities plan. City Administrator/Engineer Carr noted that it usually goes to the mayor. Aldersperson Blundy would like to make sure something isn't missing. He also discussed the funding of three bridge projects listed for IDOT with City Administrator/Engineer Carr who shared that they are in the Capital Plan over the next 3-4 years. Funding is being sought, and it is a wide-open category. The Jefferson Street bridge was submitted for a "special bridge program" and we might consider dipping into the county bridge fund but that is not normal and might not be well received. Regarding the sidewalk on Grandyle, Aldersperson Blundy asked if it could extend to Bobolink instead of waiting for future projects. City Administrator/Engineer Carr explained that the projects are out for bid so that they can try to get it constructed in the summer, similar to how they completed Eagle. Planning and Development Director Oliphant shared that they propose two payments for the Denhart building but the council can change it if they wish. It is city policy to not have only one payment as well as having them within the year. Aldersperson Blundy appreciated the data on

the speed trailer, noting that he has heard about speeding in neighborhoods. He wonders if the Communications Specialist can share the information. As for Discover Peoria, he wonders if it is good or bad and he noted the hotels all received a 14. He feels this is a lot of rooms for this area. He also wonders if the impressions can be tied into the economic impact and would like a year over year comparison. Mayor Stevens shared that there will be an appointment to the board that can help answer the questions in the future. Regarding the space study and goal setting planning items, he feels the information gained from the space study would be relevant to the conversation. City Administrator/Engineer Carr said he is reaching out to a few architects and not sure how long that will take. He feels there may be some overlaps. Alderperson Moss would like the space study information so they could consider future goals. Alderperson Blundy agreed. Alderperson McIntyre agreed that it would be valuable, but we also have a need to discuss policy in a goal setting meeting. He feels it is important but doesn't want to wait on the space study.

*Electric Aggregation  
Letter*

Finance Director Baxter shared that a letter has been sent out, information has been shared on Facebook and the city's website. She noted that the community has questions. This is an annual contract currently and has happened every year in June for the past three years. She explained that the community passed a referendum in 2012 to allow us to participate. It is a state program, and it gives residents a choice. She further explained that the terms and conditions are set by the state and the city has no control over the opt out option. Finance Director Baxter shared that the referendum created a consortium of communities who go together to bid on a provider. The current contract is the first to include an annual determination of a capacity charge which is the cause for the letters when the rate changes. Ameren is not required to give notification, but this program is. This contract expires in December 2025. She shared that there is no requirement to participate but you must opt out if you don't want to participate. She spoke to reps who gave the following number for people to call with questions for Good Energy 844-686-4244. Those wanting updates can call 833-200-9834. If you opt out, there is a 12-month period before you can opt back in. Homefield is the electric aggregate supplier. She shared how and why a person might opt out. Finance Director Baxter has been assured that they will not do the annual capacity charge again. She shared that a person with solar or net metering should call 844-686-4244 with questions. The other number is just to check status or to opt out. Alderperson Blundy asked if the city could pick other brokers. Finance Director Baxter said the contract is approved by the council for this broker. Regarding the information on the Ameren website, she clarified that Good Energy is the broker for our consortium which includes Washington, Morton, Eureka, East Peoria and others. Alderperson Blundy asked if a person can go to Ameren's website and pick another one. Finance Director Baxter clarified that this is the state program that the city and residents approved to use. She noted that there are other vendors with some not always telling the customers the truth but locking them in. She noted that some vendors have gone door-to-door and questioned their accuracy.

*IEPA Project Plan and  
Water Rate Study  
Discussion and  
Approve Supplement*

City Administrator/Engineer Carr shared that CMT presented their capital improvement plan for our water system. This is a supplement to the agreement for \$15,000 because we have asked them to do more than the original plan. This includes having them look at two alternatives but more can be reviewed for additional cost. The short-term alternative removes the BUS24 watermain project and creates a sustainable rate to get us into the state's revolving loan program which takes care of water tower #3 and well #13. The short-term plan would continue with yearly projects and move forward with water tower #3 funding. It would then push the rate increase for BUS24 down the road. A long-term option would fund that project now and would be a significantly less impact allowing it to compound.

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

Regarding if rate payers would pay 100% of the fees, City Administrator/Engineer Carr explained that council could direct them to look at something else, but the best practice is to put water rates on the water rate payers. Alderperson Blundy is concerned about a significant increase and wondered about the life cycle of the water towers and watermain. He feels this will make us pay for the next generation. Alderperson Martin noted that the BUS24 watermain must be done or it will cost even more money and destroy the new road. He feels some portion could possibly be paid from somewhere else. Alderperson McIntyre agreed with Alderperson Martin and feels if it is put off, it will come back to bite us. He feels it would be good to find other funding options but is unsure where. He also feels we have the opportunity to help our lower income residents but we need to move forward and see how it would affect the long term. City Treasurer Crocker shared that the water is paid from an Enterprise Fund to make it self-sustaining. She shared that others living in the city, who are already paying someone else for their water, shouldn't be more burden. Regarding what new information that CMT and Raftelis might bring, Administrator/Engineer Carr noted that we just had the cost of living raise in May and the additional increase will be smaller. Finance Director Baxter shared that the new bills with the 5.2% will be going out this week. Alderperson Moss wondered if the meter size fee and the size of the user might be aligned to help distribute the burden away from smaller users. Finance Director Baxter explained that there were annual increases that were passed in 2019 for a five-year period. We now only have the CPI for water/sewer/trash. City Administrator/Engineer Carr further shared that it also increased the fixed fee. Alderperson Martin feels it makes sense to not charge the city for what should go to the end user, but wondered if this is needed to be done now because we are addressing BUS24.

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

**0 Nays:**

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Goal Setting and  
Strategic Planning  
Session Update

City Administrator/Engineer Carr shared that the proposal went to Midwest Municipal Consulting. There will be two questionnaires and two workshops and the community will be brought in. The final goal setting meeting is planned for August but the dates can be pushed back to allow for a citywide space study if Council wishes. Mayor Stevens recommended further discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Alderperson Blundy would like the Community Leader Survey to go to all residents. Mayor Stevens noted that there are two parts and a survey in 2022 went to all community members and a separate community leaders survey went out. She shared that the community leaders are described in the link. City Administrator/Engineer Carr shared that it will go to community leaders, service groups, boards and commissions, etc. He suggested also putting this on Facebook and the website.

**Second Reading Ord**  
3579 (14-25) Amending  
Code to Revise  
Residency  
Requirements for the  
Police Chief

City Attorney Walton presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of the following ordinance would amend the City of Washington Code to Revise Residency Requirements for the Police Chief. **Title:** Amending Code to Revise Residency Requirements for the Police Chief  
*Alderson Moss motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
1 Nays: Martin  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord**  
3580 (15-25)  
Request by Wehnes  
Trucking, Inc., to Annex  
Parcel on S. Main St.

City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would annex part of a parcel on S. Main Street totaling 0.039 acres into the City of Washington corporate limits and zone it R-1. **Title:** Request by Wehnes Trucking, Inc., to Annex Part of a Parcel on S. Main Street  
*Alderson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderson Johnson seconded.*  
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord**  
3581 (16-25)  
Request by Grace Bible  
Church to Disconnect  
Parcel on S. Main St.

City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would de-annex approximately 0.008 acres from a 0.35-acre parcel owned by Grace Bible Church at 1105 S. Main Street from the City of Washington corporate limits. **Title:** Request by Grace Bible Church to Disconnect Part of a Parcel on S. Main Street  
*Alderson Ernst motioned to approve; Alderson Sluder seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord**  
3582 (17-25)  
Special Use Request of  
Anabelle and Gale  
Johnson to Operate a  
Non-Owner-Occupied  
STR at 1406 Westgate  
Rd

City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would allow for a non-owner-occupied short-term rental to operate at 1406 Westgate Road. **Title:** Special Use Request of Anabelle and Gale Johnson to Operate a Non-Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rental Located at 1406 Westgate Road  
*Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson McIntyre seconded.*  
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord**  
3583 (18-25)  
Special Use Request of  
Schlueter Properties,  
LLC, to Operate a Non-  
Owner-Occupied STR  
at 132-134 N. Main St.  
A-B

City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would allow for a non-owner-occupied short-term rental to operate at 132-134 N. Main St. A-B. **Title:** Special Use Request of Schlueter Properties, LLC, to Operate a Non-Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rental Located at 132-134 N. Main St. A-B  
*Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson Ernst seconded.*  
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord**  
3584 (19-25)  
Special Use Request of  
Candy Presley to  
Operate a Non-Owner-  
Occupied STR at 711 S.  
High St

City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would allow for a non-owner-occupied short-term rental to operate at 711 S. High Street. **Title:** Special Use Request of Candy Presley to Operate a Non-Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rental Located at 711 S. High Street  
*Alderson Sluder motioned to approve; Alderson McIntyre seconded.*  
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord**  
3585 (20-25)  
Special Use Request of  
Bethany Zerbonia to  
Operate a Non-Owner-  
Occupied STR at 406 N.  
Main St

City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would allow for a non-owner-occupied short-term rental to operate at 406 N. Main Street. **Title:** Special Use Request of Bethany Zerbonia to Operate a Non-Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rental Located at 406 N. Main Street  
*Alderson Johnson motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.*  
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord**

City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would rezone Mallard Crossing Commercial Park Lot 5

3586 (21-25) from the C-2 District, General Retail, to the C-3 District, Service Retail. **Title:** Request by  
Request by Brent Brent Ricketts to Rezone Mallard Crossing Commercial Park Lot 5 (the "Subject Property")  
Ricketts to Rezone from C-2 to C-3  
Mallard Crossing Alderperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Alderperson Smith seconded.  
Commercial Park Lot 5 **8 Ayes:** Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
from C-2 to C-3 **0 Nays:**  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Second Reading Ord** City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration:  
3587 (22-25) **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would allow no more than five chickens on any  
Residential Chickens residential lot subject to the acquisition of a building permit. A building permit would be  
Code Amendment required to construct the coop and the chicken enclosure could be located no closer than 15 feet  
from a side or rear lot line and at least 25 feet from an adjacent residential structure. **Title:**  
Residential Chickens Zoning Code Text Amendment  
Alderperson Ernst motioned to approve; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.  
Alderperson Martin feels this is a good compromise. He feels this is an issue with personal  
property rights and we have the right to use it as long as its responsible. This will allow people  
to get a permit to have chickens, so he favors it.  
**8 Ayes:** Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
**0 Nays:**  
Motion carried by roll call vote.


**Executive Session** At 7:37 p.m., Alderperson McIntyre motioned and Alderperson Sluder 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; and in compliance with 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – to consider the appointment,  
employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees.  
**8 Ayes:** Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
**0 Nays:**  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

The meeting reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

**Resolution** City Administrator/Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration:  
R-1440 (16-25) **Synopsis:** The following resolution approves and authorizes the execution of an employment  
Approve Chief of Police agreement between the City of Washington, Illinois and Jeff Stevens, Chief of Police. **Title:**  
Employment Agreement Approve Chief of Police Employment Agreement with Jeff Stevens  
with Jeff Stevens Alderperson Martin motioned to approve; Alderperson Smith seconded.  
**8 Ayes:** Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder and Smith  
**0 Nays:**  
Motion carried by roll call vote

**Alderperson** Alderperson McIntyre congratulated Police Chief Stevens. He also asked if STRs would need  
**Comments** to be reviewed annually. Planning and Development Director Oliphant shared that once  
approved, there will be an annual license that doesn't require further council approval.

**Adjournment** At 8:19 p.m. Alderperson Sluder moved to adjourn; Alderperson Moss seconded.  
Motion carried by voice vote.

  
Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk

Joseph A. Grieser, Jr.  
2272 Knollaire Dr.  
Washington, IL 61571-3360

*"Take Pride in America"*

6/1/25

Mayor Lilija Stevens

Washington City Council

Washington, Illinois

I wish to bring to you an ongoing and massive serious problem and I am here to ask for your help in implementing a lasting solution, which I believe to be well within your realm of responsibilities.

I believe there is a good working system for solving problems:

- 1.) To first admit there is a problem,
- 2.) Adequate identification of the problem,
- 3.) Formulation of a plan of action, and finally,
- 4.) Implementation of the solution.

1.) The problem that is ever-present each and every year in this and many other communities is simply that of illegal fireworks within the city and within the neighborhoods. The City of Washington ordinance violations are relentless throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons.

2.) The violations are all times of the day and night, sometimes with no letup for hours and hours, causing mental anguish for families with children and pets, which quite often do not understand. Seniors, disabled and some veterans with PTSD are severely affected. Injuries to youngsters are quite common. Almost every citizen is either annoyed, upset and/or angered at the disruption of their daily life, the evenings and/or the loss of restful sleep, for no apparent good reason. There seems to be no real existing control over the time, duration or volume of the violations

3.) I am told that this complaint was previously made to this city's previous administration and the direct response from the mayor was, "(refusal because) we do not want to appear as vindictive." If that was the case, it was a (blow-off) political answer to a community law enforcement issue. (Note: I have spent time on both sides of that fence and I am very aware of the fact and I understand that at times either side can get uncomfortable.)

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4.) It is clear that the most obvious method at this point in time is the enforcement of the existing City of Washington codes. No further city council legislative action is required, simply the enforcement of the existing ordinances, "DIVISION 3. - FIREWORKS, Sec. 24-128 through Sec.24-133." (enclosed).


These ordinances were passed into law for a reason and a purpose. It is within our State and Federal Constitutional rights to have "peace at home," afforded by the elected and sworn public officials and police officers who have taken the Constitutional Oath of Office.

Illegal fireworks which disrupt our lives are not allowed under our rule of law. We need to further understand that civilization is defined by people living together in harmony.

Illegal fireworks have very little or nothing to do with patriotism, only the deprivation of basic human rights.

For those who might judge this as being unpatriotic, I would invite to my home and see my daily lighted flag display, including Old Glory flying over the U.S. Revolution, "Don't Tread on Me," Gadsen flag. I could also show them my DD-214.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Grieser