



City Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 15, 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, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
*Absent:* Alderpersons Martin

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

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

**Presentations** Eric Schermerhorn, Brett Adams, Roger Holzhauer, Brad Stewart, Jake Weston, and Ben  
*KBTOC Presentation* Armstrong, were present and representing the Kevin Brown Tournament of Champions committee. Mr. Schermerhorn shared that this event has been held for 20 years, the name was updated in 2019 to honor Coach Kevin Brown. The City has supported it throughout. The event attracts teams from across the country and consistently sells out the gymnasium. Nearly 100 local businesses have shown ongoing support since the beginning. Kep's reported it as their busiest week, Brickhouse noted returning customers, and Culver's sold 1,984 concrete mixers and has contributed back to the event. On October 7, guest speakers will be at a social event at Countryside, and all city leaders are invited. A special Thanksgiving dinner at Countryside brings together over 250 athletes. Many of these athletes have gone on to the NBA, Olympics, or become top draft picks. The event draws over 20,000 fans. Satellite clinics are held in surrounding communities. On Thanksgiving, players visited OSF Children's Hospital, then on Friday, cancer patients sign programs for the players in a reverse autograph session. Mr. Schermerhorn emphasized the importance of the ballboy/girl program. The tournament aims to raise awareness about Glioblastoma. The event has more than 300 volunteers. Alderpersons Moss, Ernst and McIntyre expressed support for the event. Alderperson Smith shared that her mother-in-law had glioblastoma and she appreciates what the organization did for her family.

**RNS Recognition** Mayor Stevens read a proclamation recognizing RNS Electric for their years of outstanding service and invaluable contributions to the Washington Fire Department and to the community of Washington.  
*Alderperson Smith motioned to approve; Alderperson McIntyre seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Audience Comments** Washington resident Joanne Fraiser shared that she participates in several parades in other communities, noting that other communities prohibit throwing candy from vehicles and require that anyone throwing candy must walk. She cited Tremont as an example and feels this rule can be used in the upcoming homecoming parade to alleviate risk of accidents.

**Deletions/Additions** None provided

**Consent Agenda** Mayor Stevens presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:  
A. Approve September 2, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
B. Approve Catherine Phase 2 Pay Request #3  
C. Approve Drainage Priority Project 3 - Grandyle Sewer Pay Request #1  
D. Approve Drainage Priority Project 5 Pay Request #3  
E. Approve Washington Police Evidence Storage Pay Request #6  
F. Approve Bills & Payroll  
G. Accept Financial Reports for Periods Ended June 30, 2025 and July 31, 2025  
*Alderperson Johnson motioned to approve the consent agenda; Alderperson Ernst seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Mayoral Communication** This event will be on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Police Department. Mayor Stevens invited anyone to attend and added it will last about an hour. Cookies will be provided.  
*September Let's Talk Washington Event*

**Goal Setting Session Information** This special meeting will take place on Saturday, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Countryside.

*City Administrator Kick-off Meeting Information* This event will be held on Saturday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Five Points. Mayor Stevens explained that James Arndt is leading this meeting and will also lead a session at the IML conference regarding hiring a City Administrator.

**City Administrator Communication Council Report** Interim City Admin/City Engineer Carr shared that chip seal work will begin on Wednesday, and he urged everyone to slow down. Inlet repair in front of CVS begins tomorrow and it will affect the BUS 24 and Wilmor intersection. He asked for patience. IDOT tore out the sidewalk near City Hall and we hope to have it re-poured tomorrow. The mill and overlay project will no longer include the crosswalks near the square and no explanation was provided by IDOT.

*Approve Bid Award - Candlewood Bridge Repair Project Rebid* Interim City Admin/City Engineer Carr reported that this was a rebid after only receiving one bid the first time at \$597,965. They changed the surface from asphalt to concrete and had the project rebid. Illinois Civil Contractors was the low bid at \$516,310.87. The engineer's estimate was \$477,206.25. The MFT Fund has enough to cover the overage.  
*Aldersperson Smith motioned to approve; Aldersperson Sluder seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Frederick G. Joos Trust Tolling Agreement* The City Attorney called for a motion to be provided.  
*Aldersperson Ernst motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Overview of Financial Reporting Concepts and Review of Financial Reports* Finance Director Joanie Baxter explained that funds are categorized into three types.  
**1) Governmental Funds** record the transactions of the government itself but are not required to be recorded unless it makes sense to do so in a different type of fund. Special Revenue Funds are a type of Governmental Fund recorded as different transactions but are for single purpose action and many of these funds are tax supported. Debt Service Funds are Governmental Funds for bonds that we are still paying on such as the WACC Bond. Capital Project Funds are Governmental type projects which may include items like major road projects and likely go for more than a year.  
**2) Proprietary Funds** stand alone and are meant to pay for themselves and should not be mixed. Enterprise Funds are treated like a business where revenue covers the expenses. The IEPA reviews our rates to ensure they are sufficient to pay for the debt service. Internal Service Funds assure the using departments are paying for it. They include MERF, Streets, Police, Benefits Funds and others.  
**3) Trust & Agency Funds** is the Police Pension Fund which has a separate board. They have separate requirements but the funds belong to the pensioners.  
Finance Director Baxter explained that when reading the financial reports, the first set of numbers is the fund number, the second set is the department, the third set is the class and the last four numbers are the sub-class. Anything with the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of numbers that have 300 would show revenue. She noted that the bulk of the revenue will be found in the unrestricted section of the financial report. Home-rule sales tax is separated and given at the end of the year. They provide a report to track major revenue. They also provide a history for 6-7 years to show progression as well as a projection based on previous years and reports helping to identify areas where we might be up or down. "Level the Playing Field" regulation affected our local use tax negatively but positively affected our home-rule sales tax. The final page in the financial report is the State of the Treasurer that shows what we have at the moment. Ms. Baxter explained that the auditors said they would not recommend transferring surplus from the General Fund to the Enterprise Funds. Communities don't do it unless they are in bad shape. She further noted it would affect poorly to rating agencies. Treasurer Crocker further clarified that transferring money from General Fund would make residents who are not on that utility pay for it.

**Resolutions**  
*R-1443 (19-25) Annual FY26 PPUATS Funding Agreement* Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Dennis Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would approve the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to approve the fiscal year 2026 joint funding agreement. **Title:** Annual FY26 PPUATS Funding Agreement  
*Aldersperson Moss motioned to approve; Aldersperson Johnson seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

*R-1444 (20-25) Adoption of Illinois Municipal League's Civility Pledge* Mayor Stevens presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would adopt the Civility Pledge for the City of Washington. **Title:** Adoption of Illinois Municipal League's Civility Pledge  
Mayor Stevens shared that this was adopted by the former Council, read from IML's explanation of the pledge and read the resolution aloud.  
*Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.*  
Aldersperson McIntyre expressed support and favor for this.  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.


**First Reading Ord** City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would approve and authorize the execution of a first

*T-Mobile Water Tower #1 Cell Lease First Amendment Agreement* amendment to a communications site license agreement between the City of Washington and T-Mobile LLC. **Title:** T-Mobile Water Tower #1 Cell Lease First Amendment Agreement

**Second Reading Ord** City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration:  
*3598 (33-25) Nuisance Abatement Costs Payment Timeline Reduction Code Amendment* **Synopsis:** Adoption of this ordinance would reduce the amount of time to pay for nuisance abatement charges from 45 days to seven days. **Title:** Nuisance Abatement Costs Payment Timeline Reduction Code Amendment  
*Reduction Code Amendment* *Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson Ernst seconded.*  
7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith  
0 Nays:  
Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Alderson Comments** Alderson Ernst shared that there was a prayer on the square event where they lifted up the family of a man who was killed for sharing openly. Alderson Sluder felt it expressed gratitude and healing and it was powerful to see different opinions come together. Mr. Carr and Alderson Smith discussed the timeline for Candlewood Bridge, clarifying that it is dependent on ICCI and IDOT schedules before winter.

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

  
Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk