



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 6, 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 Rittehouse, Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Mark Walton, Press

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations Mayor Stevens read a proclamation proclaiming the 2025 Washington Community High School
WCHS Football Panthers Football Season as a Season of Legacy and presented the proclamation to Bandana
Bandana Proclamation recipient representatives Anthony Fryxell and Dale Sparks.
Alderson Ernst motioned to approve; Alderson Sluder seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.
Alderson Smith recognized Josh Hoffer as the current holder of bandana.

Audience Comments None provided.

Deletions/Additions None provided.

Consent Agenda Mayor Stevens presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:
A. Approve September 15, 2025-Regular City Council; September 20, 2025-Special City Council; and September 29, 2025-Special City Council Meeting Minutes
B. TIF Pay Request #11 – Tangled Roots, 140 Washington Square
C. Approve Purchase Authorization - Road Salt
D. Approval of Contract for Internet and Managed Services
Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson Martin seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communication Mayor Stevens read the memo provided in the packet and explained why she selected the appointees.
Appointments to the Police Supervisor Selection Committee

Recap of September Let's Talk Washington Held on September 16, 2025, there were 11 people in attendance at the event. The tables were set in a rectangle so everyone can see and hear. Everyone is welcome to attend these events.

October Let's Talk Washington This event will be held on October 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. The location will be determined and information will appear on the website and social media.

Five Points Board September Meeting Report by City Rep John Blundy Alderson Blundy shared that the meetings take place on the last Wednesday of each month. He explained that anyone can donate to Five Points at any time via the Five Points website. He shared that naming rights opportunities are available. They reviewed attendance at promoted events, ease of buying tickets through a provider, and making the ticket buying process easier. He shared that there are five scheduled events for October and tailgates that take place before home football games. He is working on the upcoming annual public meeting and will provide more information at a later time.

City Administrator Communication Council Report Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr opened the floor for questions. Alderson Blundy inquired about codification timelines. Clerk Brod explained that the city currently operates under a quarterly codification agreement and that the referenced report pertains to establishing an internal process for tracking ordinances. Alderson Blundy expressed difficulty locating updated ordinances, and Clerk Brod invited him to contact her directly with any concerns so they can be addressed promptly. Attorney Walton asked whether updates could be made monthly, and Clerk Brod responded that the contract could be renegotiated. When asked what is typical for codification, Attorney Walton stated that monthly updates are standard and noted that the city's current process is unusual. Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr added that the service could be re-quoted if needed.

Approve Purchase Authorization – Website Redevelopment Communications Specialist Amanda Roberts shared that this was budgeted. She found two standouts and feels Revise is the best fit. Regarding the budget, Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr explained that \$30,000 is budgeted under L.A. and there are professional services under water and sewer.
Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Sluder seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolutions
R-1445 (21-25)
Adopting Executive Summary of 2025 Leadership Goal Setting/Strategic Planning Work Session Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** The following resolution would establish the 2026-2028 City Council Goals and accept the Executive Summary of the Goal Setting Session. **Title:** Adopting Executive Summary of 2025 Leadership Goal Setting/Strategic Planning Work Session
Aldersperson Smith motioned to approve; Aldersperson Johnson seconded.
Mayor Stevens explained that included in the resolution is the executive summary.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.
It was noted that over 700 individuals completed the community survey.

First Reading Ord
Establish Office of Deputy City Administrator Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would amend the City of Washington Code to establish the office of Deputy City Administrator. **Title:** Amending the City of Washington Code to Establish the Office of Deputy City Administrator
Mayor Stevens asked if there was interest in waiving the second reading; none was expressed. Aldersperson Martin requested further discussion and proposed several language changes. Attorney Walton explained that mayoral appointments must align with the mayor’s term to avoid binding future administrations. He clarified that a contract for the position is optional, and the mayor has statutory authority to appoint officers with defined term limits. He also noted that the Deputy City Administrator would report to the City Administrator. Aldersperson McIntyre supported the concept but requested additional discussion. Alderspersons Moss and Martin suggested minor language revisions.
Aldersperson Martin moved to amend the proposed language in three places as follows: in Section 2(b), add “until a mayor can appoint an new deputy with council approval”; in Section 2(d), strike “mayor and,” making the deputy responsible to the City Administrator; and in Section 2(f), strike “Although selection of a new city administrator shall require appointment by the mayor and approval by the city council, it is presumed that the deputy city administrator will be appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of city administrator unless the deputy city administrator does not possess the necessary qualifications or otherwise has not demonstrated satisfactory performance for such office as determined by the mayor and city council.”
Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.
Attorney Walton confirmed he would follow the motion and that it could be revisited for further discussion. He addressed whether the position creates additional contractual obligations, explaining that it includes extra pay for the added responsibilities assigned to a department head, and that the role is governed by the ordinance. Aldersperson Moss and Mr. Carr clarified that the position does not include additional severance benefits. Mayor Stevens stated she had the option to serve as Acting City Administrator or appoint someone, and believes that if a department head is unavailable, the mayor could assume the role. Mr. Carr noted that Section 3 grants the mayor authority if the City Administrator or Interim is unavailable. Attorney Walton and Aldersperson Martin reiterated that the current motion is to amend the ordinance language, which will be subject to further discussion.

First Reading Ord
Amend Code Regarding Member Attendance at Meetings Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would amend the City of Washington Code regarding member attendance at board and commission meetings. **Title:** Amending the City of Washington Code Regarding Member Attendance at Board and Commission Meetings
Aldersperson McIntyre favors this. Mayor Stevens clarified that the language “other repeated failure to attend meetings” covers the importance of volunteer attendance at meetings on a regular basis and if work obligations change, it wouldn’t help staff or the community. She expressed concern regarding excessive absences. Aldersperson Martin clarified that this is for justification not necessarily removal.

Second Reading Ord
3559 (34-25) T-Mobile Water Tower #1 Cell Lease First Amendment Agreement Interim 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 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
Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Aldersperson Comments Regarding the Park District Annexation, Interim City Admin/City Engineer Carr explained that Mayor Stevens requested a discussion regarding a compromise. Mayor Stevens explained that everyone received an email explaining it.
Aldersperson Sluder shared Let’s Talk Ward 1 will be held on October 14, 2025, in a study room at library from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome.

Alderson Martin shared that the new store The Rambler opened on the Square.
Mayor Stevens shared that Sunny Side Street is a new restaurant that opened near Walmart.

Executive Session *At 7:21 p.m. Alderson Smith motioned to move into executive session; Alderson Moss seconded for the purpose of 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.*

Adjournment *At 7:35 p.m. Alderson Smith moved to adjourn; Alderson Sluder seconded.*
Motion carried by voice vote.



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk