



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 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, Moss, Smith
Absent: Alderpersons McIntyre, Sluder
Remote: Alderperson Martin

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

Approval of Remote Attendance Mayor Stevens asked if there were any objections to the work-related remote attendance. No objections were provided and no vote was taken.

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations Mayor Stevens read a proclamation recognizing and congratulating the Washington Middle School 2025 Baseball Team for their victorious season and their IESA 2A State Championship Title.
WMS Baseball Proclamation
Alderperson Johnson motioned to approve; Alderperson Ernst seconded.
6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Washington Historical Society "ROOTS" Celebration Proclamation
Mayor Stevens read a proclamation proclaiming November 9, 2025 as "Washington Historical Society 'Roots' Celebration Day."
Alderperson Smith motioned to approve; Alderperson Moss seconded.
6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Audience Comments None provided.

Deletions/Additions None provided.

Consent Agenda Mayor Stevens presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:
A. Approve October 6, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
B. Approve Washington Police Evidence Storage Pay Request #7
C. Approve Purchase Authorization – Liftstation SCADA Improvements
D. Approve Bills & Payroll
E. Accept Financial Reports for Period Ended August 31, 2025
F. Approve Health Insurance Renewal – Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC)
G. Approve Core & Main Sales Tax Sharing Agreement Payment Request #3
H. Approve Terms for Tree Board Appointees with Randey Wall Appointed as Chair
Alderperson Smith motioned to approve; Alderperson Ernst seconded.
6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communication Mayor Stevens invited everyone to the Let's Talk Washington event to be held at the Washington Fire Department on Tuesday, October 28th at 5:30 p.m.
October Let's Talk Washington Event

GPEDC Report from Alderperson Moss Alderperson Moss attended the quarterly meeting of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Commission Board of Directors and received updates including:

- They are the regional administrator of the application for foreign trade zones which allows for the deferral of duties and taxes on imported goods making them more affordable for U.S. companies using foreign components.
- They administer broadband expansion.
- They administer several federal grants.

- They heard from the start-up company, Humod who is developing a new prosthetic foot by, which is being manufactured in Washington with the help of a local machine shop, using AI technology to interpret motion to allow for more natural motion.
- Meeting preparations started for Big Table Peoria.
- Planning and Development Director Oliphant attended two entrepreneurship/innovation sessions where they focused on making Central Illinois the next Silicon Valley of the region. Mr. Oliphant shared that it was inspiring.

Alderson Moss shared that there is a series of Big Table events which include a Big Table Tazewell County which will be on December 10, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Tremont High School and all community members are welcome to attend.

**City Administrator
Communication
Council Report**

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr opened for questions. None provided.

*Approve Police Dept.,
Purchase of Lexipol
Policy Service*

Chief Stevens explained that Lexipol provides accuracy that they can count on. Most of the cost is paid by the Illinois Public Risk Fund through grants and rebates. The final amount for the agreement would be \$28,062.75.

Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson Johnson seconded.

6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Approve Purchase Auth.,
Community Christmas
Tree*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr explained provided price options and noted that funds are available under tourism and economic development. Consensus supported purchasing the 26' tree for \$29,339.25 plus \$1,000 for potential shipping. The tree should be delivered by Thanksgiving.

Alderson Ernst motioned to approve; Alderson Smith seconded.

6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolutions

*R-1446 (22-25) Approve
State Historical Marker
for Candlewood Bridge*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** The following resolution would approve the application for a state historical marker for Candlewood Bridge. **Title:** Approve Application for State Historical Marker for Candlewood Bridge

Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson Ernst seconded.

6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*R-1447 (23-25) Approve
223 Property Farm Lease
for 2026 Crop Year*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would approve and authorizes a Cash Rent Farm Lease with Aaron Vercler. **Title:** 223 Property Farm Lease for the 2026 Crop Year

Alderson Smith motioned to approve; Alderson Johnson seconded.

6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*R-1448 (24-25) Approve
Washington Park Dist.,
Annexation of 223
Property*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following resolution for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would approve the Washington Park District annexation petition. **Title:** Washington Park District Annexation of 223 Property

Alderson Johnson motioned to approve; Alderson Ernst seconded.

Alderson Blundy favors receiving a rebate from the Park District. He feels not annexing the property gives the City more leverage for future development.

Alderson Blundy motioned to approve an amendment to include language requiring a property tax rebate for as long as the City owns the property; no second was provided and the original motion stands as presented.

Alderson Moss explained that he will abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest.

4 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Smith

1 Nays: Blundy

1 Abstain: Moss

Motion carried by roll call vote.

First Reading Ord
*Intergovernmental
Agreement with Citylift
for ADA Paratransit
Services*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this resolution would approve an intergovernmental agreement for ADA paratransit services. **Title:** Intergovernmental Agreement with Citylift for ADA Paratransit Services

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr reviewed the history of the service. Alderson Johnson expressed interest in providing input, noting her family's use of the service. Mayor Stevens clarified that additional discussion would not affect the current agreement. City Administrator/City Engineer Carr will explore options for Alderson Johnson to communicate with the service provider. Mayor Stevens noted the program's benefit to the community.

*Amend Chapter 16,
Article III of City Code
regarding the solicitors,*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would amend Chapter 16, Article III of the

- peddlers & similar vendors* Washington City Code regarding the solicitors, peddlers & similar vendors. **Title:** Solicitor Ordinance (Revised)
Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr proposed adding language that includes specifying the license plate's state of issuance to the application, and requiring fee payment at the time of application, noting that some permits have not been picked up after staff has completed the work. Council and the City Attorney agreed with the recommendations.
- Parking on Street for RVs and Campers for 24 Hours Code Amendment* Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would amend section 52-52 of the Washington City Code regarding prohibitions on parking of certain vehicle types on streets. **Title:** Parking on Street for RVs and Campers for 24 Hours Code Amendment
Aldersperson Martin suggested allowing 12 hours in lieu of 24 hours. Chief Stevens shared that he receives requests to park overnight. Aldersperson Moss clarified that it would be 24 hours cumulatively over seven days. Aldersperson Blundy favors 24 hours and shared that he has had experience with this process.
- Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal and Rabies Control with Tazewell County* Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance for consideration: **Synopsis:** Approval of this ordinance would authorize the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois, to enter into an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Washington and County of Tazewell for animal and rabies control services. **Title:** Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal and Rabies Control between the City and Tazewell County
- Second Reading Ord 3600 (35-25) Amending Code to Establish the Office of Deputy City Administrator** City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance 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
Aldersperson Moss motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.
Aldersperson Blundy feels there is not an immediate need.
5 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith
1 Nays: Blundy
Motion carried by roll call vote.
- Second Reading Ord 3601 (36-25) Amending Code for Board and Commission Meeting Attendance** City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following ordinance 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 motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.
6 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, Moss, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.
- Aldersperson Comments** Aldersperson Johnson expressed appreciation for attendance at their Let's Talk Ward 1 event. Aldersperson Blundy expressed concern regarding the timing of the WCHS football play-off game and trick-or-treating activities. Chief Stevens explained that changing the trick-or-treating event might cause additional public safety issues. He explained that it would take months of planning to properly communicate the community activities similar to other communities.
- Executive Session** *At 7:11 p.m. Aldersperson Moss motioned to move into executive session; Aldersperson Smith 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 8:03 p.m. Council reconvened in open session.
Aldersperson Ernst moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Martin seconded.
Motion carried by voice vote.


Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk