



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 15, 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, Planning and Development Director Jon Oliphant, Public Works Director Brian Rittenhouse, Police Chief Jeff Stevens, City Treasurer Carol Crocker, City Clerk Valeri Brod, City Attorney Mark Walton, and Press

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Comments None provided.

Deletions/Additions None provided.

Consent Agenda Mayor Stevens presented the Consent Agenda for approval of the following items:
A. Approve December 1, 2025 Regular City Council and December 3, 2025 Special City
B. Approve Bills and Payroll
C. Additional Purchase and Payment Authorization - Tree Maintenance
D. Approve TIF Pay Request #13 – Tangled Roots, 140 Washington Square
E. Approve Reimbursement for Kitchen Remodeling – Washington Fire Department
Aldersperson Moss motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayoral Communication Mayor Stevens shared that the December Let's Talk Washington will be held on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Washington District Library, Main Branch Meeting Room. Everyone is welcome. Sergeant Simpson will be in attendance, and more information will be posted on the City's Facebook page.
December Let's Talk Washington

City Administrator Communication No comments for questions provided.
Council Report

Approve Engineering Agreement Amendment 1 - Catherine/Drainage Projects Construction Inspection Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr explained that the city has an engineering agreement with Millennia to provide constructing inspections. This agreement requires an amendment to get us to FY 2026 because the resident engineer was assigned across several projects for better cost efficiency. This will allow for the second phase of Catherine Street from the 2024 season through the 2025 season and allow for the completion of the Cedar Street Drainage project. This amendment would not exceed \$218,000.
Aldersperson Smith motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

R-1454 (30-25) Approve Mallard Crossing Subdivision Section Five Preliminary Plat Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration:
Synopsis: This resolution approves the preliminary plat for the Mallard Crossing Subdivision Section 5. **Title:** Approve Mallard Crossing Subdivision Section Five Preliminary Plat
Aldersperson Johnson motioned to approve; Aldersperson Martin seconded.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:
Motion carried by roll call vote.

R-1455 (31-25) Approve City Administrator Employment Contract Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration:
Synopsis: This resolution approves an employment agreement between the City of Washington and Jeff Fiegenschuh. **Title:** Approve City Administrator Employment Contract
Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Ernst seconded.
Aldersperson McIntyre explained that a thorough process was done to select this individual and that due diligence was completed. He believes this is an excellent candidate. Aldersperson Moss agreed and emphasized the importance of finding someone with a strong background who can lead the City into the future and noted the goal of reducing turnover in this role. Aldersperson Blundy also agreed and shared that he is looking forward to working with him.
8 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Moss, Sluder, Smith
0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayor Stevens provided the following statement:

“Jeff Fiegenschuh’s background in strong organizational leadership, fiscal stewardship and experience in building trusting relationships makes him an excellent fit for Washington. Jeff understands how to move projects forward while keeping residents at the center of every decision. We’re excited to welcome him into this role.” She added that the City posted the complete compensation package in accordance with statute.

*R-1456 (32-25) Approve
Advisory Question
Regarding Golf Carts*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration:

Synopsis: This resolution approves the City of Washington authorizing an advisory question of public policy regarding golf carts to be placed on the ballot during the general primary election to be held March 17, 2026. **Title:** Approve Advisory Question Regarding Golf Carts

Aldersperson Martin motioned to approve; Aldersperson Smith seconded.

The City Attorney explained that municipalities may pose questions on a ballot to gauge public opinion; however, such questions are non-binding. The question should be short and to the point and would appear on the March 17, 2026, primary election ballot. Aldersperson Martin suggested changing the wording from “any capacity” to “some capacity.” Aldersperson Blundy agreed and suggested clarifying that the activity would be regulated. Aldersperson Johnson agreed with the Attorney’s suggestion to keep the question simple. The Attorney also noted that there are other ways to gather public opinion. Aldersperson McIntyre favored Aldersperson Martin’s wording and shared concerns about public safety. Aldersperson Moss did not feel that this issue warrants a question on an official ballot.

Aldersperson Martin motioned to change the word “any” to the word “some”; Aldersperson Smith seconded.

7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Sluder, Smith

1 Nays: Moss

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Approve resolution with amendment.

7 Ayes: Blundy, Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Sluder, Smith

1 Nays: Moss

Motion carried by roll call vote.

First Read Ordinances
*Approve Remote
Attendance Policy
Amendment and
Codification*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration:

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would amend the City of Washington Code and City Council rules of Procedures regarding remote City Council meeting attendance. **Title:** Approve Remote Attendance Policy Amendment and Codification

**Second Read
Ordinances**

*3608 (43-25) Abating the
2025 Tax Levy in
Connection with the
\$4,735,000 General
Obligation Bonds, Series
2023*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration:

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would abate the levy for the year 2025, made in connection with the \$4,735,000 general obligation bonds, series 2023, of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois. **Title:** Abating the 2025 Tax Levy in Connection with the \$4,735,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023

Aldersperson McIntyre motioned to approve; Aldersperson Ernst seconded.

City Attorney Walton clarified that bonds carry an automatic tax levy that is separate from the annual tax levy. A determination is made as to whether sufficient revenues are available, which allows for abatement of the automatic levy. This is done when adequate revenue exists.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*3609 (44-25) Levying the
Annual 2025 Municipal
Property Tax*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration:

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would levy the annual 2025 municipal property tax for the City of Washington, County of Tazewell, State of Illinois (Taxes paid in 2026). **Title:** Levying the Annual 2025 Municipal Property Tax

Aldersperson Martin motioned to approve; Aldersperson McIntyre seconded.

Aldersperson Blundy expressed struggles and suggested producing a needs-based report. He is not comfortable with providing only ranges and would prefer individual amounts. Aldersperson Moss preferred the .99% increase because it didn’t put significant strain on the budget and feels it was more responsible.

6 Ayes: Ernst, Johnson, Martin, McIntyre, Sluder, Smith

2 Nays: Blundy, Moss

Motion carried by roll call vote.

*3610 (45-25) Approve
104-106 N. Main Street
TIF Redevelopment
Agreement*

Interim City Administrator/City Engineer Carr presented the following for consideration:

Synopsis: Adoption of this ordinance would approve a TIF redevelopment agreement with Strategical Pivot LLC for the redevelopment of 104-106 N. Main Street. **Title:** Approve 104-106 N. Main Street TIF Redevelopment Agreement

Aldersperson Johnson motioned to approve; Aldersperson Ernst seconded.

Aldersperson Blundy suggested a mechanism to measure the sales tax generated from this agreement, noting that it would be easier for residents to understand. Planning and Development Director Oliphant shared that individual property tax information can be found on the Tax Assessor’s website. He also noted that there are restrictions on what can be reported for some businesses, so ranges are provided.

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

0 Nays:

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Alderson Comments Alderson Smith acknowledged that the Council received communication from Marlene Miller regarding the Tangled Roots development. Ms. Miller indicated that she is seeking compensation for costs she incurred. She has not yet received a fire escape. Alderson Smith expressed a desire to move forward. Mayor Stevens shared that she has not received the communication and suggested that it be forwarded to staff and the attorney.

Alderson Martin complimented the Christmas on the Plaza event and thanked staff. He shared that the EDC has discussed marketing efforts with other entities and they will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Historical Society in 2026.

Alderson McIntyre also complimented the Christmas tree lighting event. He shared that the event was part of the bicentennial celebration and that many attended despite the very cold weather. He also noted that several employees were recently recognized for 15 years of service and thanked Public Works and the Police Department for their work during the winter storms.

Alderson Blundy shared his ideas regarding the budget process. He feels that the process provides a strong accounting view of the budget but struggles to translate that information into a policy-focused discussion. He would like to review how information is shared with the Council and work with the new City Administrator regarding the process.

Adjournment At 7:11 p.m. Alderson McIntyre moved to adjourn; Alderson Ernst seconded.
Motion carried by voice vote.



Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk