

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – City Hall

6:30 p.m. – January 5, 2026

1. Call to order by Mayor Garrett Edgar at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Garrett Edgar, Mayor
Amy Anderson, Council Member
Mary Ann Crome, Council Member
Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member
Terry Morse, Council Member
Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member

Absent:

Staff Present: Carl Chalfant, City Administrator

Denise Powell, City Clerk

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
Jeanne Walker, Washington
Bryan Loberg, Washington
Allison Kern, Washington
Phyllis and Richard Applegarth, Washington
Tim and Jan Matlack, Washington

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

4. Citizens Comments.

None.

5. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2025; special meeting of December 10, 2025; and adjourned meeting of December 29, 2025, by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2026-01.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2026-01 by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

7. GAAP Waiver Resolution 2026-01.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 authorizing the City of Washington to waiver from generally accepted accounting principles and operate on the cash basis system by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

8. Jeanne Walker Request.

Jeanne Walker visited with the council about the options for the power plant, and was concerned with what was in December newspaper. She feels it is important to look at both sides. Richard Applegarth talked about the cost to purchase electricity if there's no contract for capacity. Bluestem has gone to \$50 meter charge but Applegarth said their per kWh is cheaper. They also implemented a demand charge on residential services. Applegarth said KMEA will come in and give presentation upon request. Applegarth said he sees and acknowledges it is council's choice to maintain that level of capacity, which is more capacity than what the city actually needs. Edgar wants to know what the citizens want, and wants to see the community grow.

Jan Matlack was on city council before 2000, and said the city is fortunate to have the option, but the city needs to decide if maintaining the power plant is viable or not. Morse said Evergy also charges demand.

Matlack's, Applegarth's, Walker and Scheer left at 6:47 p.m.

9. Leave Payout.

Discussion was held on leave and payout upon leaving city service in the personnel policy. Chalfant stated 20 years of service before receiving 100% payout on accrued vacation seems a bit excessive.

Consensus of the council was to have city attorney draft resolution to change policy to pay out 100% for accrued vacation after probationary period has been completed. Morse and Fuhrken stated if it's accrued, employees should be paid for it.

10. Bank Account Authorization.

Motion to remove Council President Terry Morse as an authorized signature on the City's bank accounts at FNB Washington and United Bank & Trust effective January 11, 2026, by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

11. City Administrator Report.

- a) **321 West 5th.** Chalfant has not had any communication since July and has reached out to property owner. If the owner or representative would sign written permission, there is a possibility of using the Brownfields program for funds to remove hazardous materials inspection and abatement. To qualify for this program the property cannot be owned by the city. Commercial businesses need asbestos inspection, but private property does not.

- b) **Grant.** Full-time AEMT Caroline Scoville submitted a grant to the Kansas Board of EMS for a LUCAS CPR device. It does have a 25% cash match, which, if awarded, will be covered by the donation from Mary Dodd's ice cream stand donation.
- c) **Asbestos Inspection.** City Administrator has been in contact with KDHE, and is pursuing the possibility of assistance from them through the Brownfields Program. The biggest obstacle is trying to obtain written permission from property owner. Discussions continue, and City Attorney Elizabeth Hiltgen will reach out.
- d) **Playground Project.** The bid packet is being prepared and sent out to bid.
- e) **Storm Sewer Inlets.** Chalfant has requested an estimate from Inline for replacement of 3 (three) failing storm sewer inlet boxes. As of January 2, no estimate has been received. The first inlet box needing attention is on East 6th St. just west of B St. on the south side of the street. The other two boxes needing attention are both in the middle of the block of 100 West 1st St.
- f) **Vehicles needing replaced.** Staff is having difficulty locating a regular cab pickup in good condition for the electric department and is requesting to obtain prices on a new pickup. The utility bed on the current pickup is in good condition and is only a few years old, which will be installed on the new one. Chalfant is still watching Federal Surplus Properties for possible replacement of the electric department's 2009 Chevy ¾ ton pickup and the City Administrator's 2010 Ford Escape.

Council asked staff to get quotes on repairs to the 2009 Chevy before looking at a new vehicle.

- g) **Substation Maintenance Plan.** The City approved a quote from KMEA Mid-States to develop a maintenance plan for the substations on June 6, 2022. The proposal was presented to staff July 27, 2022, however, was never formally adopted by the Council. Enclosed is a copy of the proposal. Staff has asked Mike Schmaderer, KMEA Mid-States, to review the proposal and provide a cost estimate. Staff hopes to have it for the February agenda. KMEA could walk through with distribution employees. Fuhrken inquired if it could be done for one year, and then staff could do it. Chalfant said no, because it's a five-year rotation plan.

Discussion was held regarding routine engine maintenance and the viability of keeping all the engines.

- h) **E. 2nd St. Project.** Construction meeting was Dec. 2, 2025, the contractor talked about getting stabilizer in for road surface so they get ready to put base down in preparation for concrete. While waiting for that they will install sanitary sewer manholes. Darrin Schmitz, Washington County Hospital, brought up concerns about patrons of the clinic walking across the construction zone.
- i) **EMC Inspection.** Inspection was completed by EMC, and no recommendations or suggestions were provided.
- j) **Executive Session.**

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee evaluation performance for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 7:57 p.m. by Morse and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Alison Kern arrived at 7:46 p.m.

12. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Letter to Editor.** In response to Richard Applegarth's letter in the Washington County News January 1, 2026, asking what happened to the \$650,000 from the insurance for the damages to #7 engine, the enclosed accounting shows the deposit to the Electric Production Revenue on September 21, 2021, in the amount of \$23,690; December 14, 2021, in the amount of \$303,862.50; and November 8, 2022, of \$332,552.50.
- b) **Reports.** December Library Board minutes were given to the Council for review.

13. Reports.

Mayor Edgar. Mayor Edgar thanked Council Members Jerry Fuhrken and Terry Morse for serving on the Council. Council Member Fuhrken said he has learned a lot during his term, and what it consists of. Edgar stated you need to remember there is no perfect way to do this, all you can do is just remember to make it better.

Crome. Crome asked if staff is still sealing streets, and Chalfant said yes.

Anderson. Anderson inquired about Friendly Corners, and it will be on February agenda.

Scheer arrived at 8:02 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded by Crome

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk