

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
6:30 p.m. – February 2, 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
 Bryan Loberg, Council Member
 Allison Kern, Council Member
 Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member

Absent: Denise Powell, City Clerk
 Mary Ann Crome, Council Member

Staff Present: Carl Chalfant, City Administrator
 Fred Brungardt, Power Plant Operator
 Caroline Scoville, Full Time AEMT

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
 Tyson McGreer, KMEA
 Tom Saitta, KMEA
 Richard Applegarth, Washington
 Rick Dean, Washington Boy Scouts
 Chris Milam, Washington Boy Scouts
 Lyle Milam, Washington Boy Scouts
 Johnathan Matlack, Washington Racetrack

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion to amend the agenda and add USD 108 WCHS After prom donation and approve agenda by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Allison Kern
 Bryan Loberg
 Carolyn Pinnick

4. Citizens Comments.

None.

5. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2026, by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Allison Kern
 Bryan Loberg
 Carolyn Pinnick

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2026-02.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2026-02 by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Allison Kern
 Bryan Loberg
 Carolyn Pinnick

7. Council President/Financial Signer.

Motion to elect Carolyn Pinnick as president of the Council by Anderson and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Nay: Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to add Council President Carolyn Pinnick as authorized signer to the City's bank accounts at FNB Washington and United Bank & Trust, Washington, by Anderson and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Council Member Pinnick asked who takes over for mayor should they step down. Mayor Edgar and Chalfant stated the President of the Council would step into the mayor role.

8. KMEA.

Tyson McGreer & Tom Saitta, KMEA, were present to discuss what Kansas Municipal Energy Agency does to secure power needs within the city's portfolio.

KMEA is a nonprofit, developed in 1980 by cities who wanted access to coal, and needed assistance. They are headquartered in Overland Park with another location added six years ago in Salina (Mid States Energy Works) and have 89 electric members and a gas sister agency, Kansas Municipal Gas Agency which are both owned by the cities.

Engine #6 is down and does not count toward our capacity. KMEA shows unit 2 & 4 are retiring in 2028, they are non-RICE compliant, they don't have catalyst. Siatta asked if Chalfant agreed, and Chalfant stated yes due to cost to maintain the other engines, and the cost it would take to make those compliant. This would move our 9 megawatt behind the meter generation down to about 6 megawatts once those two engines are retired.

Our city will use approximately 3 megawatts of our internal generation to meet capacity of our own need with the balance of our obligation met by contracted resources.

Siatta said "the city's behind the meter generation hedges the cost of the market and provides the ability to generate if curtailed."

"Our power plant allows us to avoid \$180,000 per year. We have the ability to receive another \$80,000 per year for sale of excess capacity, and this is a conservative estimate," according to Siatta. "The market prices are going to continue to climb, so we could sell more capacity."

Mayor Edgar stated our capacity payments went down last year, and asked if there is a reason. Siatta stated, "that last year we sold about \$76,000. Part of that is because we sold more during summer, and KMEA sold it to KC BPU who no longer needed it and was dropped. If there is a market for excess capacity, they will sell it." McGreer said for the next 5 years, capacity will be tight.

Council Member Pinnick asked some questions about the numbers on the power plant summary sheet in the packet. Siatta and McGreer explained that is what is injected into the market. There are some resettlement dollars in there, because they keep resettling the market on a recurring basis. Council Member Kern asked if that amount was applied to the City's bill. McGreer stated yes, it reduces the bill.

Applegarth, McGreer & Siatta left at 7:57 pm.

9. Racetrack Request.

Motion to allow Washington Speedway to close E Street as proposed for racing events in 2026 by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Johnathan Matlack, Washington Racetrack, was present to discuss closure of E Street for the 2026 season. Matlack asked for approval for two years, and Edgar said “let’s do one for now”. Chalfant informed Matlack he must submit locates before installing poles because there is now fiber internet through that property. Matlack also asked if the trees were taken out of the pit area if the city would regrade the area as it would significantly improve drainage. Chalfant said that the city doesn’t have an easement or right of way, but would look into it.

10. Mayoral Appointments.

Motion to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Allison Kern as the city representative for electric utility, fire and ambulance; Bryan Loberg as the city representative for library, parks and recreation, cemetery and C Street Island; and Fred Brungardt as alternate on the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency Board to fill the unexpired term of Terry Morse by Pinnick and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

11. E 2nd St Pay Request.

Motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Contractor’s Application for Payment No. 5 of the East 2nd Street Rehab/Reconstruct project from Inline Construction in the amount of \$26,409.29 with the city’s portion being \$6,866.42 upon KDOT approval by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

12. Resolution 2026-02.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-02, a resolution making certain amendments to the personnel policy of the City of Washington by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

13. Friendly Corners Proposals.

Proposals for the former Friendly Corners building were reviewed. Two proposals were received, one from the Ministerial Alliance and one from Boy Scout Troop 86. Mayor Edgar asked staff to reach out to the Ministerial Alliance and ask them to attend the March council meeting.

Council Member Pinnick stated the way she read the ministerial alliance proposal they would allow other groups to use the facility, and asked if the alliance would allow the boy scouts to use it. Chalfant said that would be up to the ministerial alliance.

14. Tree Bids.

Motion to accept the tree and stump removal bid from B&B Tree & Bucket Truck Service LLC for the amount not to exceed \$9,936.00 by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Carolyn Pinnick
Bryan Loberg abstained

Pinnick asked about the low bidder, and Chalfant stated he had contacted references.

Loberg asked if he could still be on the board. Edgar stated staff is looking into that.

15. KRWA Voting Delegate.

Motion to appoint City Administrator Carl Chalfant as a designated voting delegate for the 2026 annual KRWA meeting of membership by Pinnick and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

16. Substation Maintenance Plan.

Motion to approve the KMEA Substation Maintenance plan dated July 27, 2022, as presented and to perform year one's maintenance at cost of \$4,480 for labor, \$420 per diem and \$190 mileage by Anderson and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Chalfant stated the plan was drawn up in 2022, and EMC Insurance made the recommendation that one is needed. Kern asked why it wasn't adopted at the time. Chalfant said previous staff thought they could handle the maintenance, and also due to budget considerations at that time. EMC indicated rates would go up if not adopted.

17. EMS Assistant Director.

Motion to ratify the City Administrator's designation of Caroline Scoville, AEMT, as assistant ambulance director, by Pinnick and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

18. Storm Sewer estimate.

Motion to accept the estimate not to exceed \$10,450.00 from Inline Construction, Inc., for replacement of three storm sewer caps, material and labor included, by Pinnick and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

19. Policy Updates.

Motion to adopt the updated Emergency Water Supply Plan as presented by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to adopt the updated Emergency Wastewater Supply Plan as presented by Kern and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to adopt the updated Municipal Water Conservation Plan as presented by Kern and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to adopt the updated Washington Municipal Power Plant Compliance Maintenance Plan as presented and authorize City administrator and Mayor to sign the Maintenance Plan by Kern and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

20. Cemetery Mowing.

Council reviewed the bid packet for mowing. Chalfant recommended bidding out mowing for the cemetery again this year, and continue having city staff mow the rest. Consensus of council is to bid only the cemetery. Scoville, full-time AEMT, will prepare the bid packet with the same terms as last year and have it ready for March meeting.

21. Sidewalk, Curb/Gutter, Housing Demo.

Consensus of the council was to resume the sidewalk and curb/gutter program this year and reserve the housing demo money for city use.

22. Delinquent Accounts.

Motion to write off the balances of the following accounts: Cothran, \$367.32; Delgado, \$105.88 and \$274.93; Hogan, \$385.41; Oldehoeft \$368.60; Sterns, \$248.61 and Tessier, \$548.07, by Anderson and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Scoville, full-time AEMT, explained how staff pursues delinquent accounts.

23. WCHS After-prom.

Motion to donate \$100 to WCHS After-prom to be paid out of the electric administration fund by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

24. Utility Rate.

Staff reviewed expense and revenue for 2025 utilities, along with projected debt service payments to determine if rate increases next year would be warranted.

Staff recommends a .002 cent per kWh increase and a \$1.00 increase to the base rate for the next four years for electric; a 25 cent per 1,000-gallon increase for water the next four years for city, rural and bulk rates and no increase to sewer rates.

Council Member Anderson stated all city employees got a raise, but many of the citizens did not, so how can the city ask to raise costs for citizens. Mayor Edgar stated the council doesn't have to do it, or they can adjust it. Council Member Pinnick asked to table this item until Council Member Crome can be here.

The item was tabled.

25. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Grant.** Firehouse Sub grant application was not awarded for this quarter. Staff reapplied for the next quarter.
- b) **EMS Year End Report.** Presented the 2025 EMS annual report.
- c) **EMS Personnel.** Kylee Riechers, EMT student, has decided not to complete the testing requirements, and has reimbursed the city for expenses above the cost of the grant. Courtney Porter, EMT, is moving and will not be able to fulfill her contract. She is requesting to transfer it to Waterville EMS and they have agreed to reimburse the City for expenses above the cost of the grant.
- d) **Asbestos Inspection.** City administrator has been in contact with KDHE to pursue the possibility of obtaining assistance from them through the Brownfields Program. Biggest obstacle right now is trying to obtain written permission from the property owner. Staff is holding discussions with KDHE and city attorney. Staff is still trying to obtain permission. City Attorney is still attempting to obtain permission.
- e) **Playground Project.** The bid packet has been sent out, and bids are due February 10th.
- f) **Vehicles needing replaced.** Staff has not been able to obtain an estimate for the repairs on the 2009 Electric Distribution pickup to date. They will try and have by next meeting.
- g) **East 2nd St. Project.** Monthly progress meeting was held on January 7th at City Hall. Inline reported they were waiting on the correct rock to proceed with concrete decking on the RCB (reinforced concrete box), which has to be completed before they proceed with pouring concrete on either side of the box. The road surface has all passed compaction test in this phase. They had all but four of the 31 storm boxes installed and will continue installing the remaining boxes. They also reported that they switch up the phases to deal with the weather. As of January 16th, they had the decking poured and both approaches to the RCB poured. They had the curb formed up at the intersection of A Street and East 2nd along with the west side of the RCB to the end of this phase. Weather halted progress by the weekend.
- h) **Progress Street at Industrial Park.** Since weather has postponed street patching, staff will be working on finishing out the north end of Progress Street in the Industrial Park as ground and conditions allow. This portion of the street had never been completed prior to the last two businesses obtained lots to build on. The two new businesses are Bob's Locker Plant and B&K Small Engine Repair.
- i) **Street Dedication.** The council needs to consider dedicating a 50-60' street running east and west across the north side of lot 14 at the Industrial Park before it can be considered for sale. With the current plat of the Industrial Park, selling lot 14 without the proposed street running east from Progress Street would landlock the current farm. Chalfant stated the road tube has been installed for the proposed street.

26. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **City Leader's Academy.** If anyone would like to attend, please let the city clerk know. It is April 17, 2026, in Salina.
- b) **Reports.** Fire minutes for December and January were given to the Council for review.

27. Reports.

Mayor Edgar.

a) **Industrial Park Lot.** Edgar stated he had someone ask about the seven-acre parcel (in the flood plain) in the industrial park and offered \$3,000 an acre to purchase it. "I think it is something worth thinking about", said Edgar. City Administrator Chalfant stated he had an inquiry on the other lot also but the party has not submitted a formal request.

b) **New Council Members.** Mayor Edgar welcomed the new council members.

Council Member.

Pinnick.

a) **AT&T.** Pinnick inquired about an AT&T box with an open lid by her house. Chalfant will contact AT&T.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Allison Kern
Bryan Loberg
Carolyn Pinnick

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk