

**WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – City Hall**  
**February 3, 2025**

**1. Call to order by Council President Terry Morse.**

**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:                Eric Gepner, Eric’s Automotive, Washington  
                             Ethan & Carly Sweetser, Morrowville  
                             Dan Lufkin, Code Enforcement Officer Fairbury, NE  
                             Carissa Lufkin, Fairbury, NE  
                             Chuck Penning, Washington  
                             Justin Dragastin, Dragastin Agency  
                             Laramie Jueneman, Washington Rotary Club  
                             Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News

**3. Approval of Agenda.**

Motion to approve the agenda as amended to add fire truck bid by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

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

Mayor Garrett Edgar arrived at 6:32 p.m.

**4. Citizens Comments.**

Laramie Jueneman and Devon Sherlock, Washington Rotary Club, presented a check to the City of Washington for the Ball Park Improvements in the amount of \$10,000.

**5. Minutes.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2025 and adjourned meeting minutes of January 16, 2025, by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

**6. Appropriations Ordinance 2025-02.**

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2025-02 by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

**7. 110 C Street Proposals.**

Motion to accept proposal of Ethan and Carly Sweetser for the lot located at 110 C Street; said lot utilized for business or commercial purposes only; construction of commercial building to commence within six months of date of conveyance; structure needs to comply with all applicable building codes and to be completed within 12 months; said lot not to be utilized for storage purposes; and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign said deed by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Staff received two proposals for 110 C Street Lot. Eric Gepner submitted a Homestead application for 110 C Street and would mainly use the area for parking and to sell used vehicles. He would like to install approximately a 20' fence across the back of the lot running north and south to hide a dumpster. Eventually would possibly add bay doors on the north side. Gepner said the north wall is a bit of an eyesore but costly to fix. He is looking at the possibility of adding one more employee and said he wouldn't leave junk vehicles there.

Ethan & Carly Sweetser submitted a Homestead application for 110 C Street for a small coffee shop. The plan is to transition their mobile coffee business in a small coffee shop featuring both inside seating and a drive thru. Sweetser's provided a sketch with their application. They plan to employ one or two people before opening and three or four in a six-to-nine-month time frame. Operating hours will roughly be 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**8. Code Enforcement Officer.**

Mayor Garrett Edgar asked Dan Lufkin, City of Fairbury, Nebraska, code enforcement officer, to come and present what his enforcement job entails.

Charles Penning reached out to the Council to hire him as the city's code enforcement officer. He retired two and a half years ago and is looking to fill a need in Washington.

**9. Insurance Bid.**

The Council tabled going out for bid for the city's insurance. Staff prepared the insurance bid packet and asked the Council for direction on property, auto and inland marine deductibles they would like bid.

The consensus of the Council was to wait and see what the renewal will be from the EMC Insurance before determining whether to go out for bid for the city's insurance. Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency, was present to discuss the city's current insurance package, upcoming renewal and deductibles. Dragastin stated the renewal should be out in about two weeks.

**10. Ordinance No. 825 Withdrawal KMG.A.**

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 825, AN ORDINANCE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS AUTHORIZING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE CITY AS A FULL MEMBER IN THE KANSAS MUNICIPAL GAS AGENCY; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER ACTIONS RELATED THERETO by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

**11. GRDA Agreements.**

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (GRAND RIVER DAM AUTHORITY POWER SUPPLY PROJECT NO. 2) BETWEEN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS, AND THE KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY; AND MAKING CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY THEREOF AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

**12. KRWA Water Apprenticeship Program.**

Motion to approve Appendix E, Employer Acceptance Agreement, adopted by Kansas Rural Water Association and authorize the City Administrator to mentor the apprentices and sign any necessary documentation by Fuhrken and seconded by Crome.

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

Motion to set a wage scale for the Water Apprentice Program at a minimum entry of \$15.00 per hour, upon completion of 2,000 hours \$16.00, upon completion of 3,000 hours \$17.00, and upon completion of 4,000 hours \$18.00 by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

Council Member Mary Ann Crome asked if the city had a contract with employees for training. City Administrator Chalfant stated they do with electric employees but not water and wastewater as there is no expense to city for water and wastewater training. Employees sign a contract and agrees to work for the City, one year of service for each year of training following the successful completion of the program.

**13. KRWA Conference Voting Delegate.**

Motion to appoint City Administrator Carl Chalfant as a designated voting delegate for the 2025 Annual KRWA Meeting of Membership by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

**14. Policy Updates.**

Motion to adopt the updated Emergency Water Supply Plan as presented by Morse and seconded by Crome.

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

Motion to adopt the updated Emergency Wastewater Supply Plan as presented by Crome and seconded by Morse.

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

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

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

Motion to adopt the updated Water Distribution System Valve Maintenance Program Policy as presented by Crome and seconded by Morse.

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

**15. Sidewalk, Curb/Gutter, Housing Cleanup Programs.**

The consensus of the Council was to table discussion on the Sidewalk, Curb & Gutter and Housing Cleanup Program for 2025.

**16. EMS.**

Staff presented a sample call time policy for EMS at the January Council meeting. The Council asked for a list of EMS personnel and amount of call taken in 2024 for each employee which was provided. Consensus of the Council was to reach out to the employees and see if they wish to stay active on city's service.

**17. Diesel fuel.**

Motion to purchase a tanker of dyed diesel fuel at \$2.47 per gallon from Sapp Brothers, Inc. by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

**18. Mayor Appointment**

Motion to approve the mayor’s appointment of Nathan Schuessler to Cedar Hills Golf Course board by Crome and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

**19. Water Rate Study.**

Consensus of the Council is to have City Attorney Elizabeth Baskerville-Hiltgen draft an ordinance to increase the per gallon water rates by 50 cents per 1,000 gallons.

**20. Asphalt Zipper.**

Council Member Terry Morse presented information on an Asphalt Zipper. Morse stated he picked up information at a recent meeting he attended and spoke with Dave Fokken of Asphalt Zipper by phone to seek more information and cost. Morse stated the zipper would fit on the bucket of loader, it has its own engine and trailer and could grind up to 10” in depth and 42” wide. Once the asphalt is ground and packed a company would have to be hired to lay hot mix. Consensus was the Council needs to figure out a plan on how to proceed with streets and budgeting for the expense.

**21. Fire Truck.**

Motion to ratify approval to allow City Administrator Carl Chalfant to bid up to \$60,000 on Purple Wave Auction for 2002 E One fire pumper by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

**22. City Administrator Report.**

- a) **Water Project Funding.** Staff was notified January 2, 2025, by Sarah Hopkins, USDA, that the city has \$213,468.71 from the water project grant that may be spent or will be de-obligated and sent back to National Water Office. As this needs to be a quick turnaround project, staff has reached out to see if the money could be utilized for sewer lining. Hopkins requested and received approval to use the remaining funds for sewer lining. Staff has begun work on a bid packet and contacting participating cities in a joint bid process.
- b) **Playground Surfacing Grant.** The KDHE playground surfacing grant was submitted on January 14, 2025. Staff recently received word from CDBG the city was awarded the playground grant.
- c) **Ambulance Staffing Waiver, EIG Grant, Donation.** Staff received approval for the waiver for ambulance staffing as requested through February 1, 2027. Staff also received notice of the EIG grant

award and payment for the first four students that were submitted in the amount of \$4,600. The fifth is waiting for processing.

Staff applied and was awarded a \$200 donation from Harbor Freight to purchase tools to remove football and other types of helmets/face masks. A set will be placed on each ambulance.

- d) **Biking Across Kansas 2025.** Washington was selected as an overnight stop on the 2025 Biking Across Kansas event on Wednesday, June 11. School representatives, Economic Development, City staff, and event organizers will be coordinating to work on this event.
- e) **Kansas Gas Bill.** Staff has been working with Kansas Gas to correct a billing error for the power plant natural gas.
- f) **Sewer Inlet.** During the snowstorm January 5-6, an unidentified person cleaned the alley behind City Hall with a 4-wheel loader with a bucket that had digging teeth. While staff appreciates the good intentions of the assistance, there was a significant amount of damage caused to the top casting of a sanitary sewer and a wooden storm sewer inlet. The resulting damage will cost the city approximately \$6,000 in repairs.
- g) **Snow Removal.** Chalfant commended staff for the work that was put in during the January snowstorm. A spreadsheet is enclosed detailing the actual costs involved, including labor, equipment, and salt/sand. The total is \$15,713.81. Staff went above and beyond for several days, and there were zero accidents or damage reported. City Hall received many thanks and praise for the job they did.
- h) **Electric Utility.** A tall implement went through and broke a neutral that crossed the highway 15 near the industrial park Thursday. Electric utility was shutdown to make the repair. Staff will bill the driver's insurance company.

#### 23. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Adam Grover/Locker Plant.** Staff is working with Adam Grover on the deed for industrial park lot 15, Business Incentive Plan and utilities for his new business in the industrial park. Grover is working with his accountant to acquire the necessary information to move forward with paperwork and with Washington County 911 to acquire a business address. Grover requested approval to begin dirt work prior to having all the paperwork in order.
- b) **Holidays.** No action was taken on adding Good Friday and Juneteenth as city employee holidays.

#### 14. Council Reports.

##### Carolyn Pinnick.

- a) **Ball Diamond.** Pinnick asked why the gate was open at the big ball diamond. Chalfant stated it was sprayed and must have been left unlocked. Staff will lock it.
- b) **Pipe.** There is green pipe laying on the grass east of Crest Street where the storm sewer was put in. Chalfant stated the pipe is to repair the irrigation system.
- c) **East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.** Inquired if sidewalk must be installed on the East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street project as she has received complaints that people do not want to scoop it. Chalfant said it was too late to make a change as it was part of the grant. Council also asked for a copy of the code on sidewalks.

#### 15. Executive Session.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss applicant for potential employment under non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 9:22 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Motion to adjourn by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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**Denise M. Powell, City Clerk**