

**WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting – Washington County Courthouse**  
**8:15 a.m., July 28, 2025**

**1. Joint meeting was called to order by Scott Zaboktrsky, Washington County Commissioner.**

**2. Roll Call.**

Present:	Garett Edgar, Mayor Mary Ann Crome, Council Member Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member Terry Morse, Council Member Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member
Absent:	Amy Anderson, Council Member
Staff Present:	Carl Chalfant, City Administrator Denise Powell, City Clerk Caroline Scoville, Full-time EMT
Others:	Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News Raleigh Ordoyne, Washington County Commissioner Arthur Schottel, Washington County Commissioner Scott Zaboktrsky, Washington County Commissioner Elizabeth Baskerville-Hiltgen, County Attorney Diana Svanda, Washington County Clerk Randy Hubbard, Washington County Emergency Preparedness Ranai Meier, Director, Washington County Communications Levi Whitley, Director of Republic County EMS Teresa Penning, Linn City Clerk Alan Hornbostel, Linn EMS Lisa Voelker, Linn EMS Director Ashley Holle, Linn City Council Roxanne Schottel, Washington County Hospital Faith Holle, Washington County Hospital Scott Fischer, Clifton EMS John Tillinghast, Mayor of Clifton Keyna Steinbrock, Clifton City Council Brittini Oehmke, Hanover Hospital Jayda Edgar, Hanover Hospital Bill Slater, Washington

**3. Countywide Ambulance Service.**

Washington County Commissioners requested a joint meeting of city and county officials to discuss the future of the county's ambulance services. Whitley talked with the group about how the county-owned service in Republic County is operated and answered questions from those present. He said the first step in setting up a county wide service would be to hire a director. He said to be "very picky" and he thought the director should not be someone currently on any of the ambulance services in the county.

Attorney Elizabeth Baskerville-Hiltgen told the group that the commissioners cannot come in and shut down city owned ambulance services wanting to continue doing business and they will need to inform the commissioners that they are or are not interested in being a part of a potential countywide service. She also said

the discussions of a countywide ambulance service goes back 30 years. Whitley said “if this has been dragging on for 30 years, someone needs to make a decision and that decision will make some people mad.”

Whitley said Republic County is an aggressive ALS service with 18 employees and pay rates range from \$18.50 per hour to \$24 per hour. Republic County has a budget of \$900,000 a year for their service but it didn’t include employee benefits. Actual cost is \$1.2 million with benefits. Whitley said one-third of the budget is paid by runs, the rest are taxes set by a mill levy.

Options for countywide ambulance service were discussed, including the county contracting with a private entity; county owned and operated service; or county contracting with one of the current city-owned services.

Commissioner Ordoyne said he thought the most efficient way to move forward was with a countywide ambulance service was to use an existing service and their license.

According to the commissioners, the 2026 budget is budgeted at one-half mill or \$800,000.

All services in the county have staffing issues and which has been an ongoing issue. All cities with ambulance services were asked to discuss their ambulance programs and decide if they want to keep a service or pursue a countywide service.

Hubbard said “our goal is to provide the best care possible.” Oehmke said, “we all want what is best for the patients and sometimes that means putting your ego and pride aside.”

Washington County Commissioners appointed Hubbard as the point of contact and directed him to report back to the commissioners in the coming weeks to let them know how the city’s current ambulance services wish to proceed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

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**Denise M. Powell, City Clerk**