

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
6:30 p.m. – November 3, 2025

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

2. Roll Call.

Present: Garrett 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

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
 Blanche Graham, Washington
 Darren Booth, Theel Insurance

3. Approval of Agenda.

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

Vote: Ayes: 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 October 6, 2025, by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2025-11.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2025-11 by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

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

7. Blanche Graham Request.

Motion to allow Blanche Graham to remove the sidewalk at 311 F Street with the understanding the mayor and governing body may order a new sidewalk when in their judgement the same is necessary or upon a petition of ten citizens of the city at the cost of the property owner by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

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

8. 2025 Audit/2027 Budget.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the engagement letter with Shipley CPA, LLC, for the 2025 Audit at a cost of \$9,450; and 2027 Budget at \$1,600 by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

9. EMT Class Request.

Motion to grant permission to Caroline Scoville to hold an EMT Class at the Emergency Services Building beginning January 2026 by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Motion to enter into the Field Internship Agreement & EMT Initial Training Contract between Caroline Scoville and the City of Washington and authorize Service Director Leland S. Cook and Mayor Garrett Edgar to sign as indicated by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

10. Holidays.

Motion to give full-time employees the day after Thanksgiving and the afternoon of Christmas Eve off with pay by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

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

The City will be closed for Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025; Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27 & Friday, Nov. 28; will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24th, and be closed Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25; and New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

11. 2nd Street Pay Request.

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the Contractor's Application for Payment No. 2 of the East 2nd Street Rehab/Reconstruct project from Inline Construction in the amount of \$50,467.42 upon KDOT approval by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

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

12. Employee Health Insurance.

Reviewed 2026 BCBS health premiums and a proposal from Darren Booth, Theel Insurance, for Freedom Claims Management, on a partially self-funded insurance plan. Council asked staff to obtain more information and place it back on the December agenda.

Darren Booth, Theel Insurance, joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

13. Cemetery Mowing.

Motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$6,000 for two mowings in October at the cemetery by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Monte Hockett submitted a bill for \$6,000 for mowing the cemetery in October. His contract was through the end of September and any mowings outside of that date must be directed by the City Administrator. He mowed the cemetery twice without realizing it was outside the contract period and requested payment for at least one of the mowings.

14. Christmas Lighting Contest.

Motion to approve the 2025 Christmas Lighting Contest with the following prizes: 1st Place – 100% off the customer’s electric portion of their utility bill due on February 10, 2026; 2nd Place – up to \$50 off the customer’s electric portion of their utility bill due on February 10, 2026; 3rd Place – up to \$25 off the customer’s electric portion of their utility bill due on February 10, 2026 by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

15. Inline Construction Request.

Staff received a letter from Inline Construction that was shared with the Council on the current status of construction and the delays due to fabrication of concrete boxes and structures by Oldcastle. They are requesting a 30-day extension to the project due to the delay in receiving concrete structures. An extension will be considered at the end of the project.

16. Motor Grader Repair.

Motion to approve the quote of Murphy Tractor & Equipment for estimated repairs and freight for the 2002 John Deere 772CH Motor Grader in the amount not to exceed \$18,273.97 to be paid out of the Municipal Equipment Fund by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Discussion was held about selling the city’s 1980 John Deere motor grader. City Administrator Carl Chalfant said equipment is normally placed on Purple Wave Auction; however, a neighboring town is interested in it. Council asked staff to explore the value and put on December agenda.

17. Executive Session.

Motion to recess into executive session to discuss employee performance of non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:45 p.m.

by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

18. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Water Well and Pump Testing.** Council was given a copy of test results on the water wells and water plant high service pumps that were performed by Sargent Drilling September 30, 2025.
- b) **Asbestos Inspection.** A quote was received and approved from Associated Insulation, Inc. for an asbestos demolition inspection at 321 West 5th Street (Miller property) at a cost of \$2,100.
- c) **Playground Project.** Staff attended a TEAMS meeting to discuss the rebidding of the playground project. Key points were to remove the brick columns, ADA parking stripping and benches; remove the surfacing on the ninja course and bid alternates for surfacing on the main playground and the ninja components. They will meet with the city, playground committee and NCRPC after redesign work is completed prior to bidding.

Staff received notice that the city was not awarded a grant from Washington County Community Foundation.

- d) **Bobbi's Beauty Salon.** Mike White contacted the city to inquire if there is any federal assistance for tearing down the former Bobbi's Beauty Salon. He stated they are not getting any assistance from their insurance and there is no way he can afford to pay for it.
- e) **Sargent Drilling Pump Tests.** Sargent Drilling performed pump testing on September 26, 2025, on the two high service pumps at the water plant and the three well pumps. All results were very good and a copy was given to the council for review.

19. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Conferences:** Staff will be attending several conferences in the month of November. They include Power Plant Operator Workshop Nov. 3-5; KMEA/KMGA Conference Nov. 12-14; Transformer Connections Workshop Nov. 12-14; and KEMSA Conference Nov. 12-13.
- b) **Reports.** October Fire minutes and Library Board minutes were given to the Council for review.

20. Council Reports.

Pinnick.

- a) **Old Airport Hangar.** Discussed some lumber laying out by the old airport hangar.

Jerry Fuhrken

- a) **Street Sealing.** Discussed getting some street sealing done this year.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

Adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk