

**WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting – City Hall**  
**6:00 p.m. – Monday, March 16, 2026**

**1. Call to order by Mayor Garrett Edgar.**

**2. Roll Call.**

Present:                    Garrett Edgar, Mayor  
                                 Amy Anderson, Council Member  
                                 Mary Ann Crome, Council Member  
                                 Allison Kern, Council Member  
                                 Bryan Loberg, Council Member  
                                 Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member

Absent:

Staff Present:            Carl Chalfant, City Administrator  
                                 Denise Powell, City Clerk  
                                 Caroline Scoville, Full-time EMT

Others:                    Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News  
                                 Randy Hubbard, Washington County Emergency Preparedness

**3. Approval of Agenda.**

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

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
                 Mary Ann Crome  
                 Allison Kern  
                 Bryan Loberg  
                 Carolyn Pinnick

**4. Ambulance Service.**

Randy Hubbard, Washington County Emergency Preparedness, was present to discuss the possibility of the City of Washington contracting with the City of Linn for ambulance service similar to the current agreement between Washington and Hanover.

Hubbard stated it isn't a necessity for Linn at this time, but they are looking in the future. This has been discussed with the commissioners and they are supportive and recognize this is a temporary solution.

Additional funding provided by the county could be used to bring wages in line with other services and help purchase equipment for Linn. It could also provide some compensation to the Washington staff who will be affected by the agreement. The county attorney informed Hubbard that while the money could come from the county, it is the city's discretion as to how it is spent. A decision tonight would be to simply sit down at the table and work on the terms of an agreement.

Mayor Edgar asked if the commissioners would be at the meeting, and Hubbard said they certainly could be there, but ultimately a decision would be between the two governing bodies. Hubbard said this is an opportunity to work together to continue to provide a strong EMS service for the community until a long-term solution is in place.

Pinnick asked what it would do for Washington and why they should take it on. Hubbard replied that this would be a cooperative agreement between the two services. The board of county commissioners said it would be beneficial until they can establish a fulltime service.

Hubbard said that Washington could say no tonight and Linn would continue to operate their service as is. Linn is in service 99.9% of the time. Linn is in a different boat but have their challenges, like Hanover did a few years ago, and “is one work comp accident away from being able to provide a service”. Tonight all that is being asked is if the City of Washington is willing to meet with Linn to discuss an agreement. Both sides are dependent on each other.

Loberg asked if Washington would have enough staff to cover if Linn were out of service. As part of the negotiation, Hanover would have to be brought back to the table. Washington is in service all the time, and Hanover is in service about 75% of the time based off 2025 data. Scoville said that is where resource management would come in to play. Theoretically personnel could work with another city’s personnel to provide service. They all currently have mutual aid agreements in place. Scoville said that when Hanover surrendered their license in April 2022 and didn’t get back up and running with Washington until September 2022, there were only two trucks available, Washington’s and Linn’s.

Anderson asked if either party decided it wasn’t working out, could the agreement be terminated? Hubbard said it would have to be in the agreement. Each truck cost \$40 to permit and \$100 service permit fee and all licenses expire April 30, 2026. If Linn decided they wanted to resume operations it isn’t a lengthy process to regain their own license. Anderson inquired about the county payments, asking if there potentially could be more money and would the city get the distribution? Hubbard said yes.

The agreement with Washington and Hanover was discussed. Washington pays for everything but housing expense and leases Hanover’s truck for \$1. Kern inquired if there would be a housing expense at Linn. Hubbard stated that would have to be addressed in the agreement.

Hubbard met with Linn’s mayor and one council member last month, and the two took the discussion to their ambulance director and EMS staff and then to the city council on March 9. They voted 5 to 0 to enter into discussion with the City of Washington.

What’s important is they truly care about providing coverage to the community. Linn recognizes they are trending in the same way Washington is with personnel. Kern asked if Scoville could handle the additional scheduling. It will add work as the billing and payroll will need to be done through the City of Washington as well.

Anderson asked what the down side is, and Mayor Edgar said he doesn’t see a downside. If there was an easy solution it would have already been done. “This is another move to a county wide service,” Anderson said. Hubbard said it will never replace the full-time model. At any time either city could terminate the Linn and Hanover contact. Commissioners have stated it isn’t the future of EMS in the county. “Are the commissioners proceeding with getting a county license,” Pinnick asked, and Hubbard said no. Where would the ambulance service full-time site would be? That is a question that cannot be answered at this time.

In 2025, the commissioners did establish a separate mill levy for ambulance service. Anderson said she would feel better if the commissioners gave a timeline and steps for establishing a full-time service.

Scoville said she and Lisa Voelker, the Linn EMS director, both want to do what is best for the county. Several years ago, they spent several days working together on developing EMS protocols, knowing at some point they would all be on same team. All three services operate under same set of protocols. Clifton has more advanced personnel and operates under different protocols.

Scoville said it gives some flexibility and no one’s license would be in jeopardy if everyone operated under one license. Rather than be reactive, this would make a solution proactive. Hubbard asked Chalfant’s opinion and Chalfant stated he sees it as a win win situation. He also said the commissioners need to be included in the discussion.

Consensus of the council is to visit with Linn. Mayor Edgar will reach out to Linn to set up a meeting.

**5. Ball Association Grant for Ball Diamond Concession Stand.**

Motion to authorize Ryan Kern to sign the T-Mobile grant application upon approval and review by city administrator and city attorney by Pinnick and seconded by Loberg.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Mary Ann Crome  
Allison Kern  
Bryan Loberg  
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to adjourn by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Mary Ann Crome  
Allison Kern  
Bryan Loberg  
Carolyn Pinnick

Adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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**Denise M. Powell, City Clerk**