

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

Absent:

Staff Present: Carl Chalfant, City Administrator
 Denise Powell, City Clerk

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News

3. Approval of Agenda.

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

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

4. Citizens Comments.

None.

5. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2026, and special meeting of March 16, 2026, by Anderson and seconded by Kern.

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

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2026-04.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2026-04 by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

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

7. Audit.

Motion to accept the 2025 audit of the City of Washington's finances as prepared by Shipley CPA, LLC by Crome and seconded by Loberg.

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

8. Washington Fireworks Request.

Motion to donate \$1,500 to Washington Fireworks, Inc. for the 2026 Fireworks display to be paid out of the Electric Fund by Crome and seconded by Loberg.

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

9. Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency.

Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency, presented a dividend check of \$19,007.69 to the city through this year's KMU Safety Dividend program. The dividend is calculated on the group's overall loss experience and is a percentage of the premiums paid for work comp. It's a comprehensive safety and loss control program which helps participants minimize risks and potentially reduce insurance cost.

Motion to approve the quote as presented from Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency, in the amount of \$199,513.00 for the insurance policy period of April 1, 2026 through April 1, 2027, by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

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

10. Ordinances No. 828 & 829.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 828, AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING MINIMUM CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY RATES IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS AND AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER XXI, UTILITIES, ARTICLE 4, ELECTRIC UTILITY, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS by Pinnick and seconded by Loberg.

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 829, AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING WATER RATES AND AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE 2, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS, by Pinnick and seconded by Loberg.

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

11. Mark Herra Request.

Motion to approve the request from Mark Herra, The Plainsman LLC, for a Loud Speaker/Sound Amplifier Permit and Street Use Permit for April 24, 2026, at 131 East 3rd Street for a Grand Opening as presented by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

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

12. Stephanie Kern Request.

Motion to allow Stephanie Kern to host the annual Jim Clark Memorial softball tournament at the City's big ball field and access to the concession stand from 8am to 2am May 9th, 2026, by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

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

13. Diesel Oil Quote.

Motion to retroactively accept the bid of Sapp Brothers for 10-55-gallon barrels of S.A.E. 40 diesel engine oil; 1-55-gallon barrel 15W40 engine oil and 1-55-gallon barrel Universal Hydraulic Oil at a cost not to exceed \$5,777.75 by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

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

14. Washington County Fair Board.

Motion to allow the Washington County Fair Board to install a shade structure between the gold barn and the hog barn as presented by Pinnick seconded by Kern.

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

Larry Lovgren, Washington County Fair Board, was present to make a request to install a permanent awning with sun banner on on the north side of gold barn with cost paid out of the Washington County Fair Board budget. Lovgren said they are also doing improvements to the horse stalls.

15. Notice of Award – Munchkinland Playground.

Motion to authorize the mayor to sign the Notice of Award to Recreation Construction Group, LLC for Munchkinland playground by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

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

16. Employee Resignation.

Motion to accept the resignation of EMT Lindsay Bekemeyer effective March 30, 2026, by Pinnick seconded by Crome.

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

17. East 2nd Street Pay Request.

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the Contractor's Application for Payment No. 7 of the East 2nd Street Rehab/Reconstruct project from Inline Construction in the amount of \$217,770.88 with KDOT's share \$161,150.45 and the city's share of \$56,620.43 upon KDOT approval by Crome and seconded by Loberg.

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

18. Mayoral Appointments.

Motion to approve the appointment of Dave Fischer and Sandra Kingston to the Housing Authority Board for the term of April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2030, by Pinnick and seconded by Kern.

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

19. City Administrator Repot.

a) **Asbestos Inspection.** City Administrator has been in contact with KDHE to pursue the possibility of obtaining assistance from them through the Brownfields Program. The biggest obstacle right now is trying to obtain written permission from the property owner. Holding discussions with KDHE and City Attorney. City Attorney is still attempting to obtain permission.

Mayor Edgar asked staff to begin the process to test the structures to be condemned for asbestos at 321 West 5th. If it tests positive for asbestos the city will have to abate.

b) **KDHE Surfacing Grant.** Staff received notice March 10, 2026, the city was not awarded the surfacing grant for the playground project.

c) **Vehicles needing replaced.** Staff has received one estimate for the repair of the electric distribution pickup and at this time is waiting to receive a second estimate.

d) **E. 2nd St. Project.** Construction meeting update 9 a.m. April 1, 2026, at City Hall. Present were Darrin Schmitz and Josh Hockett, Washington County Hospital; Ben Ward, CES Group; Carl Chalfant, City Administrator; Denise Powell, City Clerk; and Steve Blumer, Inline Construction.

Blumer said A Street will be opened the week of April 6th. They are stabilizing the west side of East 2nd and hope to pour curbs Monday. Once 2nd Street is opened from B Street to A Street work will begin east of the medical clinic to Pierce Street. The curbs were poured on the west end of B Street.

Chalfant will visit with the postmaster about mailboxes located along East 2nd Street. Discussed painting lines in the parking area of the clinic and hospital. Chalfant will work with contractor on hospital parking area and hospital employees will paint them at medical clinic in off street parking.

- e) **Street Dedication.** The city council needs to consider dedicating a 50' or 60' street running east and west across the north side of lot 14 in 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. A description of the proposed street has been given to the city attorney to draft the ordinance.
- f) **Ball Concession Stand Grant.** Ryan Kern and Caroline Scoville, AEMT, finalized the T-Mobile grant, and after receiving city attorney approval, it was submitted on March 31, 2026.
- g) **Well Water Line.** Staff received a report at city hall on April 1st that the well water line was exposed just north of the city limits approximately ½ mile west of F St. City Administrator Chalfant took the two newer staff members to investigate along with informing them of where the line lays crossing the field and found the line exposed in the field water way, which recently has developed a big wash out. Staff has scheduled immediate bedding and filling in the wash out as soon as weather and field conditions allow. Staff does plan to rip-rap the lower portion of the water way to prevent future erosion.
- h) **Streets.** Mayor Edgar asked City Administrator Chalfant for the list of streets and which ones are priority for repair. Chalfant stated he plans to mill and overlay A Street and the 200 Block of East 4th and to chip and seal West 2nd Street.
- i) **Power Plant.** Engine 6 is back together and ran today to get seeded in. Mid-States is bringing a regulator for engine three and staff plan to replace it and have it back up and running.
- j) **Tie Breaker Replacement.** Chalfant stated the third week in April KMEA Mid-States will be here to replace the tie breaker in the substation at the power plant. City will need to generate during the repair.

20. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **City Attorney Fees.** Elizabeth Baskerville-Hiltgen recently informed staff her attorney fees for municipal court would be increasing from \$100 per hour to \$200 per hour. Municipal court is an expense to the city and staff would suggest whether the individual is given a fine or diversion that court cost be mandatory to help offset the cost. Court cost is \$108 per case. Hiltgen also suggested her regular fees may increase after mayoral appointments.
- b) **Friendly Corners.** The city attorney is working with the Ministerial Alliance on conveyance of the property at 100 B Street. Mayor Edgar said they weren't an entity and are trying to become an entity. They hope one of the churches will take it over and it will be deeded to that church.
- c) **Reports.** Fire and library minutes for March were given to the Council for review.
- d) **City's Online Bill Pay.** The city's online bill pay was targeted from a fraud account and was shut down by Forte. Staff discussed letting it sit idle for a time, doing away with it or setting a minimum payment amount. Council recommendation was to let it sit idle and readdress next month.

Reports.

Pinnick.

- a) **Animal.** Pinnick asked staff to check out a property on East 2nd that may have an illegal animal.

Kern.

- a) **Chickens.** Kern stated she recently received a call from Kelsie Beikmann about chickens and she wondered if the council was going to make a decision. Consensus was the council has an ordinance to address chickens.

Motion to adjourn by Loberg and seconded by Kern.

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

Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk