

**WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – City Hall**  
**May 6, 2024**

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

**2. Roll Call.**

Present:                 Garrett Edgar, Mayor  
                              Mary Ann Crome, Council Member  
                              Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member  
                              Terry Morse, Council Member  
                              Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member  
                              Amy Anderson, Council Member

Absent:

Staff Present:         Carl Chalfant, City Administrator

Others:                 Marcia Funke and Bill Pannbacker, Washington Lions Club  
                              Tyson McGreer, Tom Saitta and Mike Schmaderer, KMEA  
                              Russelly Shipley, Shipley CPA, Zoom

**3. Approval of Agenda.**

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

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

**4. Citizens Comments.**  
**None.**

**5. Minutes.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 1, 2024, and special meeting minutes of April 12 & April 22, 2024, by Crome and seconded by Morse.

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

**6. Appropriations Ordinance 2024-05.**

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2024-05 by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

**7. KMEA Presentation.**

Tyson McGreer, Tom Saitta and Mike Schmaderer, KMEA, were present to discuss what Kansas Municipal Energy Agency offers and how they manage the city's energy. KMEA was organized to get communities access to bigger power supplies. KMEA is a member organization and each member is an owner and has a vote. The

beauty of partnering with KMEA is they have the ability to optimize the city's resources; a 24-hour help desk to manage the load and provide dispatch instructions.

Schmaderer gave an update on the engine installation. He said they are still trying to figure out the controls and wiring and are about 80% done. "The guys at the power plant have been very helpful," he said. The plan is to be up and running by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Garrett Edgar asked if the city would receive blueprints of the wiring, to which Schmaderer responded they will get everything he has.

McGreer and Saitta talked about electric capacity, bulk electric and the city's electric load. Southwest Power Pool load growth is about 5 percent per year, they said.

Transmission cost is one of the most expensive parts of the utility bill and there isn't really anything that can be done about it, said McGreer. The city purchases most of its energy and has the value of the power plant to generate as a hedge to higher market volatility. The power plant gives the city reliability and the ability to hedge when buying from the market. Five megawatts are needed to cover the city's peak load. The city generates about 1% of its energy a year. The City is required to keep excess capacity of 15% above their load in the summer months which will go to 16% in 2026 and 36% in the winter months. The City does sell excess capacity generally at market value. The city has energy contracts for hydro, wind, coal and natural gas. Solar will be popping up more over the next five years.

City Administrator left council meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Motion to recess into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of second parties to include the Mayor, Council, City Clerk, Tyson McGreer and Tom Saitta, KMEA, to resume in the Council chambers at 8 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

#### **8. Audit.**

Motion to accept the 2023 Audit of the City of Washington's finances as prepared by Shipley CPA, LLC by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

#### **9. Lions Club Request.**

Marcia Funke, president elect and shelter house committee, and Bill Pannbacker, shelter house committee, visited on behalf of the Lions Club about improvements to the south shelter house in the city's park. The Lions Club has raised \$6,396.29 and FNB Washington has donated \$3,000 towards the project. The Lions Club received a bid from Wolfgang Construction for labor and material at a cost of \$12,000 for total replacement of the east shelter house.

Pannbacker asked the Council if there is a demand for two shelter houses at the south end of the park since there is now three at the north end. Funke told the Council the concrete pad on the west shelter house would have to be replaced. They want clarification of what city's needs and wants are.

Funke stated she was under the impression the city would demo the current shelter house and haul off the debris.

Mayor Garret Edgar stated the council needs to take a look at the shelter houses and decide what needs done. The Council will discuss it at the June meeting.

**10. Mayoral Appointments.**

Motion to approve 2024 Mayoral Appointments as presented by Mayor Garrett Edgar by Crome and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

**11. ARSI Agreement.**

Motion to approve the updated collection services agreement between the City of Washington and Account Recovery Specialists as presented by Morse and seconded by Crome.

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

**12. Uniforms Resolution 2024-02.**

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-02, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN EMPLOYEE UNIFORM POLICY FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

**13. KDHE Waste Tire Grant.**

Motion to pay \$5,774 to Champlin Tire Recycling, Inc. for tables and benches for the pool and campground paid out of the Larry Davison bequest with 50% reimbursement through the KDHE Waste Tire Grant by Crome and seconded by Anderson.

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

**14. Intangibles Tax.**

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-03, A RESOLUTION ELIMINATING THE LEVYING OF A GROSS EARNINGS TAX ON INTANGIBLES FOR THE CITY OF WASHINGTON by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

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

**15. Transformers**

Motion to purchase 3 – 10 KVA, 2 – 15 KVA, 4 – 25 KVA, 2 – 37 KVA, and 3 – 50 KVA single phase pole mount 2400/4160y, 120/240-volt reconditioned transformers from T&R Electric at a cost of \$20,948 plus tax to be paid out of the electric distribution fund by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

Motion to authorize staff to purchase 3-50 KVA single phase pole mount 2400/4160Y, 120/240Y volt reconditioned transformers from T&R Electric at a cost of \$5,985 plus tax upon receiving a signed estimate from the customer for a utility upgrade by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

**16. Cybersecurity Assessment.**

Motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Cyber Hygiene Authorization to Conduct Continuous Scans of Public Facing Networks and Systems by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

**17. Executive Session.**

Motion to recess into executive session to discuss employee performance for nonelected personnel to include the Mayor and Council and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 9:26 p.m. by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Motion to give power plant operator #2 a \$2 per hour increase effective the first pay period after May 27, 2024, by Crome and seconded by Morse.

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

## 18. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Pool.** City is still short one lifeguard. This may affect the schedule occasionally through the summer unless we can get another one hired. The pool will close at 6 p.m. in June and will go back to closing at 8 p.m. July.
- b) **City Hall Renovations.** Mayor Garrett Edgar asked the council to bring thoughts regarding the City Hall renovations to the May council meeting. No action was taken.
- c) **East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Project.** Rob Peschel, engineer CES Group, dropped off preliminary plans for the E 2<sup>nd</sup> St. project, and copies are available for council.
- d) **Code Violations.** Most of the initial violations have been addressed. There are two whom staff is working with as long as they continue to make progress and keep staff informed of that progress. One owner has had a family emergency and staff will work with them when they can get back home. Staff has not had time to follow up on the next round of violations.
- e) **US-36 KDOT Unofficial Detour Route Reimbursement.** City Administrator made contact with Becky Newbury with KDOT on May 1, 2024 in reference the proposed reimbursement. She found where it had been accidentally dropped in the process. Newbury stopped by city hall on May 2, 2024, with the verification paperwork and stated payment should be received within approximately 5 days.
- f) **Wastewater Routine Compliance Inspection.** A routine inspection was completed April 11, 2024, by KDHE on the City's wastewater lagoons. Staff received notice the review of data and documentation determined overall compliance.
- g) **Energy Assessment.** KRWA did an energy assessment on the pumps at the wells and the water plant. It was noted by adjusting the settings on the VFDs, there could be a significant savings on energy consumption.
- h) **Storm Sewer.** Received information from Ohlsen Right of Way that they plan to start on the storm sewer on West Second Street after May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- i) **Prairieland Electric.** Staff received notice that the city will receive a 15 cent per kilowatt reduction in the local access delivery charge from Prairie Land Electric Cooperative.

## 19. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Budget.** Staff has begun working on the 2025 Budget.
- b) **Upcoming training opportunities.** The League of Kansas Municipalities will host The Annual League Conference Oct. 7-9 in Wichita. Cost is \$250/member and \$80/guest. Council Member Terry Morse expressed interest in attending the meeting.
- c) **Reports.** The Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site March financials for Friendly Corners and Washington City and RFD #9 April fire minutes were given to the council for review.
- d) **Thank you.** City Clerk Denise Powell thanked the Council for the memorial in honor of her mother, Diane Ouellette.

## 20. Reports.

### Carolyn Pinnick.

- a) **Potholes.** Potholes need addressed. City Administrator Chalfant said as soon as the streets dry up, they will get started.

**Terry Morse.**

- a) **Power Outage.** Morse asked why the power went out Friday night. Chalfant said we were dropped by Prairie Land Electric. Morse would like staff to call Prairie Land after each outage as to why power was out and keep documentation of outages.

**Mary Ann Crome.**

- a) **C Street Island.** Inquired if a decision was made on the C Street Island. City Administrator Chalfant said no decision was made but someone has cleaned up the north end.
- b) **Fairgrounds.** Was approached by someone as to who owns the road between the rock buildings and the gold barn. Stated last year the road was surfaced right before the fair. City Administrator Chalfant stated the road did not get surfaced last year and there was a water main break that caused the road to be in the condition it was. Chalfant said the plan is to resurface the road this year.
- c) **Wood Chips.** Suggested hiring the individual that made a proposal last month to spread the wood chips in the playground as he did it for free last year. Consensus was to direct staff to get ahold of Josh Rhodes
- d) **Cleanup around town.** Would like to proceed with getting town cleaned up.

**Garret Edgar.**

- a) **Code Violations.** Would like to make sure code violations letters are sent.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

Adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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**Denise M. Powell, City Clerk**