

**WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – City Hall**  
**September 3, 2024**

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

**2. Roll Call.**

Present:                 Garrett Edgar, Mayor  
                              Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member  
                              Terry Morse, Council Member  
                              Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member  
                              Amy Anderson, Council Member  
Absent:                 Mary Ann Crome, Council Member  
Staff Present:         Carl Chalfant, City Administrator  
                              Denise Powell, City Clerk  
                              Caroline Scoville, Playground Committee  
Others:                 Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News  
                              Tyson McGreer, KMEA  
                              Travis Lehman & Adam Hatesohl, Washington Ball Association  
                              Taylor Miller, Playground Committee

**3. Approval of Agenda.**

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

Vote:    Ayes:   Amy Anderson  
                      Jerry Fuhrken  
                      Terry Morse  
                      Carolyn Pinnick

**4. Citizens Comments.**

None.

**5. Minutes.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 5, 2024, and adjourned meeting of August 22, 2024, by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote:    Ayes:   Amy Anderson  
                      Jerry Fuhrken  
                      Terry Morse  
                      Carolyn Pinnick

**6. Appropriations Ordinance 2024-09.**

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2024-09 by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote:    Ayes:   Amy Anderson  
                      Jerry Fuhrken  
                      Terry Morse  
                      Carolyn Pinnick

**7. 2025 RNR and Budget Hearings.**

Motion to open public hearing for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to revenue neutral rate and proposed tax rate by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to close the public hearing by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2024-04 OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS TO LEVY PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to open public hearing for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax detailed in the proposed 2025 budget by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to close the public hearing by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to adopt the 2025 Budget as published by Fuhrken and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

**8. Executive Session.**

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 Administrator, City Clerk, and Tyson McGreer, KMEA, to resume in the Council chambers at 7:10 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

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 Administrator, City Clerk,

and Tyson McGreer, KMEA, to resume in the Council chambers at 7:20 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

#### **9. Washington Ball Association.**

Travis Lehman and Adam Hatesohl, Washington Ball Association, were present to discuss a proposal and costs to construct new bathrooms, concession stand with crow's nest and storage room at the ballfield. They gave a rough cost estimate of \$150,000 for a stick building on a concrete pad and requested the money for improvements come from the Larry Davison Estate.

Hatesohl stated "the concession stand works but is very tight corners, has electrical issues, in need of refrigerators, the a/c works but there are more efficient options. Other added benefits would be a square building would open up the concession stand, include a storage room and field equipment room which is currently in the men's bathroom. Gates would stay the same and there would be two windows for serving from the concession stand."

The current building is 12' wide and they would like to make the new building 16' if possible. The hope is to use donated labor to lower the cost and have the city demo the current building.

Council Member Amy Anderson asked if the City pays the insurance on the building and Council Member Terry Morse asked about the utilities. Chalfant stated the city pays both as it is a city owned building.

The Council asked if they have talked to the Rotary Club and Lehman said no. Lehman said Rotary is donating \$12,000 from the Festival of Trees for two sets of bleachers at the school ball diamond and removal of the crow's nest.

Mayor Edgar asked about fundraisers. Lehman said this is the first step and they need to be cognizant to not step on the Munchkinland project toes. Lehman said practices start in March and games start in May and they would need to get started right away. Mayor Garrett Edgar stated they need a realistic timeline and personally doesn't know that next year is feasible.

Mayor Edgar stated they would discuss the proposal and be in touch.

#### **10. Playground Committee.**

Taylor Miller and Caroline Scoville, playground committee, were present to give an update on the playground fundraising and discuss the need for a preliminary engineer/architect report.

Staff reached out to CES Group for an estimate for a preliminary engineer/architect report and Rob Peschel, CES, estimated not more than \$8,500 for the cost.

They said they are gaining momentum with fundraising and as of August 30<sup>th</sup> have committed funds of \$174,487.93, and are working with Deb Ohlde, NCRPC, on the grant application.

The consensus of the Council was to accept the proposal to sell engraved bricks at \$250 for a 4x8 brick; \$500 for an 8x8 engraved brick and \$500 for an 8x8 brick with logo.

The group has several fundraisers planned including a meal deal at the Emergency Services Building, fun run at Fall Fest, Turkey Trot, Road Rally and more.

Rachel Tegtmeier has resigned from the committee.

**11. Taylor Miller Request.**

Motion to approve the street use permit from Taylor Miller as presented for Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 4:30 pm-10:30 pm contingent upon receipt of proof of liability insurance by Pinnick seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

**12. Vertical Bridge Tower.**

Motion to authorize the mayor to execute the Option and Lease Agreement with The Towers, LLC as presented by Anderson and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

**13. KMEA/KMGA Conference.**

Motion to allow Power Plant Operator David L'Ecuyer to attend the KMEA/KMGA Annual Conference October 23-24 in Wichita by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Carolyn Pinnick  
Nay: Terry Morse

**14. 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 8:35 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

**15. Employee Resignation.**

Motion to accept the resignation of Lawrence Winkler, street, water and wastewater operator, effective August 14, 2024, by Pinnick seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson  
Jerry Fuhrken  
Terry Morse  
Carolyn Pinnick

**16. City Administrator Report.**

a) **Computers.** Staff recently met with the Networks Plus representatives to go over the annual technology assessment, and it was noted the four city hall workstation computers are nearing the end of their life span. In 2020, all four work stations were replaced due to end-of-life issues with Windows operating systems, and previous council members asked that in the future they be replaced on a rotating basis so as to lessen the impact on the budget in a single year. It is time to start the replacement process. Consensus of the Council is to rotate the purchase of the computers and relocate the networking equipment from the basement.

b) **Phone System.** It has also been over 25 years since the phone system at City Hall has been replaced, and it is in need of updating. Consensus of the Council is to seek bids.

c) **Sewer.** Staff will be applying for the Kansas Water Office grant again for sewer lining.

- d) **Code Violations.** Staff has updated the code violation list and has followed up as time allows. Some have been resolved, some are still working on them, and some have been sent to City Attorney Elizabeth Hiltgen for assistance. One of the properties that was recently noticed has been sold, so that process will have to start over if the new owner doesn't resolve the issue.
- e) **Engines.** KDHE requires catalyst test on the RICE-NESHAP engines. The opacity test on engine 9 was not acceptable to KDHE. KDHE will not allow the city will run engine 9 until the black smoke is addressed. There were other things issues and a letter was drafted and sent certified to Farabee referencing items that needed addressed. A copy of the letter is enclosed was given to the council. City administrator Chalfant received a phone call from Chris Farabee addressing the letter on 8/29/24 and will have staff here as soon as possible, possibly the end of next week.

Engine emissions testing was completed and all engines passed. Chalfant stated a couple new catalysts will be needed before the next test cycle. Catalysts are currently \$3,500 and will go to \$6,000 in January due to the company be bought. Consensus of the Council was two order two catalyst.

- f) **Christian Church.** The Washington Christian Church is planning to replace curb and gutter in front of their C Street property and along East 1<sup>st</sup> street to the alley.
- g) **Storm Sewer.** Chalfant visited with Ohlsen's Friday about the installation of a storm sewer from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and they plan to be here in a couple weeks.
- h) **2003 Chevy Truck.** Gary Edgar, GWE, quoted \$1,277.04 for replacing the transmission in the 2003 Chevy Truck and only charged half his labor and reduced price on transmission. Chalfant authorized the replacement.
- i) **2021 Grasshopper Mower.** Authorized the motor be replaced in the 2021 Grasshopper mower at an estimated cost of \$2,949.
- j) **Ethan Schuette Request.** Ethan Schuette asked permission to fire the touchdown cannon from main street in front of his business for the Homecoming Parade, Sept. 20, 2024. Consensus of the Council is they like the idea and would like to work with Schuette to find a suitable location.

#### 17. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Payroll.** Consensus of the Council was to continue to pay the public works superintendent out of the street department until he is able to transfer to the electric department in the electric lineman #2 position.
- b) **Fence.** The Rotary has completed installation of the fence at the pickleball courts. A quote for materials to replace the fence around the tennis courts was given to the council for consideration utilizing funds from the Larry Davison bequest.
- c) **Citizens Guide to Open Government.** The Council was given a copy of the Citizens Guide to Open Government in which City Attorney Libby Baskerville-Hiltgen referenced at the August meeting.
- d) **Reports.**  
The Library and Fire August minutes and Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site July financials were given to the council for review.

#### 18. Council Member Reports.

**Caroly Pinnick.**

- a) **New Shelter House.** The sidewalk to new shelter is not wheel chair accessible and suggested staff take a look at it.
- b) **Potholes.** Addressed the need to fill potholes as running out of weather to do so.
- c) **Weeds.** Stated the brick streets need sprayed for weeds downtown and around the square.

**Jerry Fuhrken.**

- a) **Cemetery.** Discussed mowing at the cemetery.

**19. Utility Bill NSF Policy.** A citizen who paid a utility bill on line made an error when entering the account and routing number which created a return and according to the city's policy is treated as an insufficient funds payment. The citizen asked to be able to pay by check and forgo the \$30 fee. Consensus of the council was to follow the policy.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes:           Amy Anderson  
                              Jerry Fuhrken  
                              Terry Morse  
                              Carolyn Pinnick

Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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**Denise M. Powell, City Clerk**