

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
November 4, 2024

1. Call to order by Mayor Garrett Edgar.

2. Roll Call.

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

Absent:

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

Others: Elizabeth Baskerville-Hiltgen, City Attorney
 Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
 Taylor Miller, July 4th Committee
 Neal Daney, KMEA

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented 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 of October 7, 2024, by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2024-11.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2024-11 by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

7. July 4th Committee.

Motion to approve street use permit for Washington, Kansas Community Events Committee for July 3 & 4, 2024, for D Street, FNB Parkview Lane and Park Road by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Taylor Miller, Washington, Kansas Community Events committee member, discussed activities for the 4th of July celebration in the city's park. Festivities will start the evening of July 3rd. They would like to reserve use of the volleyball courts July 3rd & 4th; have a smoke off east of the two rock buildings; food vendor; a parade to honor military, police and first responders at 9 a.m. July 4th around the city's park; have youth relays and games in the city park July 4th; use the ballfield for a landing zone and asked if the free swim could be moved to 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. July 4th. Consensus was to work with the committee on their activities and relocate the semi parking on the east side of the rock buildings for July 3rd & 4th.

The consensus of the council was to allow Miller to alter the Turkey Trot route if need be.

8. Law Enforcement Contract.

Consensus of the Council was to notify the sheriff of the city's intent to renew the Law Enforcement Contract for 2025.

9. 2024 Audit/2026 Budget.

Motion to authorize the mayor to sign the engagement letter with Shipley CPA, LLC, for the 2024 Audit at a cost of \$9,200; and 2026 Budget at \$1,550 by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

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

10. KMEA Ninnescah Flats Solar Project Agreement.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss contract negotiation for confidential data related to third parties to include Mayor, Council, City Administrator and City Attorney to resume in Council Chambers at 7:43 p.m. by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss contract negotiation for confidential data related to third parties to include Mayor, Council, City Administrator and City Attorney to resume in Council Chambers at 7:53 p.m. by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-07, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE NINNESCAH FLATS SOLAR PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS AND THE KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY; AND MAKING CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT AND

SECURITY THEREOF AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

11. EMS Variance Request.

Motion to authorize staff to move forward with requesting a variance for staffing per the Kansas Board of EMS regulations for an additional 24 months by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

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

12. Holidays.

Motion to give employees a half day off Christmas Eve 2024 with pay by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

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

Motion to give \$50 scrip to fulltime employees and \$30 scrip for active fire and emergency medical service employees by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

13. Employee Health Insurance.

Motion to pay the total premium for fulltime employee/spouse/children/family 2025 health insurance premiums of BCBS Platinum SG Option A health insurance plan and employee only dental as presented, and allow employees the option to add spouse/children/family dental with the employee paying the difference by Morse and seconded by Crome.

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

Motion to reimburse Medicare eligible employees and their spouses who are not enrolled in the City's BCBS plan structure for 2025 Medicare premiums by Anderson and seconded by Pinnick.

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

14. Advance.

Motion to approve 2025 renewal of the Advance Insurance Policy providing employee life, short-term disability and accidental death insurance as presented by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

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

15. Tennis Court Fencing Bids.

Council took no action on the bid to replace fencing at the tennis court.

16. Hay Ground Bids.

Motion to accept the bid and authorize the mayor to sign the lease agreement effective upon acceptance of bid from Jay Peters in the amount of \$180.00 per year for haying rights of approximately 3.1 acres more or less out of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of 1-3-3 which terminates December 31, 2027 by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Motion to accept the bid and authorize the mayor to sign the lease agreement effective upon acceptance of bid from Jay Peters in the amount of \$300.00 per year for haying rights on approximately 6 acres more or less on the W ½ of the NE ¼ of 33-2-3 which terminates on December 31, 2027 by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Motion to accept the bid and authorize the mayor to sign the lease agreement effective upon acceptance of bid from Jay Peters in the amount of \$425.00 per year for haying rights on approximately 6 acres more or less on the E ½ NE ¼ of 11-3-3 located at 1004 D Street which terminates on December 31, 2027 by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

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

Motion to accept the bid and authorize the mayor to sign the lease agreement effective upon acceptance of bid from Jay Peters in the amount of \$1,125.00 per year for haying rights on approximately 16.6 acres more or less out of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW/4, NE/4) of 14-3-3 which terminates December 31, 2027 by Crome and seconded by Morse.

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

17. Electric Meters.

Motion to approve the purchase of 100 electric meters from Dutton-Lainson Company at a cost of \$7,913 plus \$150 freight and tax to be paid out of the electric distribution fund by Morse. Motion died for lack of second.

18. Lions Club Proposal.

Motion to reimburse the Lions Club \$2,838.65 from the Larry Davison Bequest for cost exceeding \$12,000 for the construction of the new shelter house at the south end of the city’s park by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

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

19. PEO Request.

MaryKay Sherlock, Chapter AN PEO president, sent a letter to update the council on their plans to redo rose garden in the city’s park. PEO will work with John Kern, WCHS Vo-ag instructor, adding native Kansas plants and stepping stones decorated by WCHS art students. Consensus of the council is to work with the PEO.

20. Ball Association Concession Stand.

Council was given a copy of the letter sent to the Washington Ball Association at the council’s request regarding their proposed improvements to the ball diamond concession stand/bathrooms/storage room. As of October 31, 2024, no additional information has been received from the ball association.

Mayor Garrett Edgar inquired about demolition of the concession stand. City Administrator Carl Chalfant stated he was going to ask GPAC, Inc. to perform an asbestos inspection.

Mayor Edgar will follow up with the ball association on the final design, bid document and available funding of the project. City Attorney Elizabeth Hiltgen stated Washington Rotary will be putting money from the Festival of Trees towards the project.

21. Christmas Lighting Contest.

Motion to approve the 2024 Christmas Lighting Contest with the following prizes:

- 1st Place – 100% off the customer’s electric portion of their utility bill due on February 10, 2025;
- 2nd Place – up to \$50 off the customer’s electric portion of their utility bill due on February 10, 2025;
- 3rd Place – up to \$25 off the customer’s electric portion of their utility bill due on February 10, 2025 by Crome and seconded by Morse.

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

22. Executive Session.

Motion to recess into executive session to discuss employee performance of non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, City Administrator and City Attorney to resume in the Council chambers at 8:43 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

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

Motion to recess into executive session to discuss employee performance of non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, City Administrator and City Attorney to resume in the Council chambers at 8:53 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Anderson.

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

23. City Administrator Report.

- a) **C Street Project.** Staff is awaiting cold mix delivery from Hall Brothers to complete the west 12 feet of resurfacing on C Street between 4th & 5th Street.
- b) **Street Project, East 2nd.** Rob Peschel, CES, sent communication about the need for some temporary construction easements and additional street right-of-way along Pierce Street. A copy of the map was enclosed. Staff advised him to proceed with developing the proposed temporary easements and 15' along right-of-way acquisitions.
- c) **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 October 16, 2024.
- d) **Old City Hall Lot.** The consensus of the Council is to accept proposals of the old city hall lot.
- e) **Old City Hall Debris.** GPAC planned to mobilize equipment at the old city hall dumpsite on Monday, Nov. 4th with a meeting with KDHE on Nov. 5th, however, it was postponed until November 14th.
- f) **Code Violations.** Staff visited with City Attorney Elizabeth Hiltgen about a solution for code violations at 321 West 5th Street. There is discrepancies and ownership issues and Hiltgen has ordered a certificate of title to determine who the owner is. Hiltgen stated City Administrator Chalfant will need to submit his written finding on the properties.
- g) **Engines.** Farabee's replaced the fan motor on the cooling tower of engines eight and nine and worked on engine nine to decrease the opacity. KDHE may inspect the opacity when they are here Nov. 5th. Discussed having the injectors inspected as the engine runs fine on natural gas.
- h) **Storm Sewer.** Ohlsen's placed a utility locate request for start of the storm sewer installation between West 2nd Street and West 3rd Street to begin work October 7th and were pulled off to complete another job they were working on. They hope to be here Monday, Nov. 4th to complete installation.
- i) **Playground Grant.** Staff worked very hard with Deb Ohlde, NCRPC, to finish up the playground grant and get it submitted by the deadline on October 31, 2024. Staff also visited with both Ohlde and KDHE regarding the playground surfacing grant. They both encouraged the committee to apply this year and explained that if the timeline doesn't work out there may be a request for an extension. Ohlde's projection, if the playground grant is awarded, is a potential closeout date in the fall of 2026. Staff explained this to KDHE, and their advice was to apply this year and if not awarded the playground grant, there would be no

penalty to decline the surfacing grant and then immediately reapply the next grant cycle. Staff will proceed with applying for the surfacing grant, which opens November 15.

j) **Turkey Trot 5K.** The playground committee has submitted the map for the 5K on Thanksgiving.

k) **League of Kansas Municipalities Conference.** City Administrator Carl Chalfant recently attended the annual LKM conference and gathered some information about housing and economic development. Chalfant said they were very educational sessions.

24. City Clerk's Report.

a) **Reports.** The Library and Fire October minutes and Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site were given to the Council for review.

b) **Thank You.** Staff shared a thank you for the James Alldredge memorial.

25. Council Member Reports.

Terry Morse.

a) **Public Works Superintendent.** Morse suggested splitting the job of public works superintendent, creating a public works superintendent and water and wastewater operator positions. Currently one person does it all.

b) **Library.** Morse stated the library is closed while doing construction.

Mary Ann Crome.

a) **Efficiency.** Crome stated staff needs to be more efficient getting things done such as filling potholes, painting, etc.

Jerry Fuhrken.

a) **Highway Noise.** Fuhrken asked about changing signage to no engine breaking coming into town. Currently it says Vehicle Noise Laws Enforced.

Motion to adjourn by Pinnick and seconded Anderson.

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

Adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk