



CITY OF WASHINGTON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
July 13, 2023 6:00 P.M.



Scott J. Putnam, Mayor

City Council

Ken Westcott, Councilman
Joe Pintola, Councilman
Andrew Callan, Councilman
Joseph DeThomas, Councilman

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Joseph DeThomas	Present
Councilman Andrew Callan	Present
Councilman Joe Pintola	Present
Councilman Ken Westcott	Present
Mayor Scott Putnam	Present
Solicitor: Jack Cambest	Present

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Individuals or group representatives who have signed in prior to the meeting, will have 5 minutes of microphone time to address Council during the public participation portion of the meeting. We prefer if there is a group, a representative be chosen to speak. Audience comments will not be permitted following the public participation portion of the meeting; therefore, we ask that you please review the agenda for any item(s) you may wish to discuss. We have, in the past, had individuals' direct comments to Mayor and Council that were not correct or could not be documented. For that reason, we ask that your information be to the point and factual. Although we may not be able to answer your question at this meeting, we will refer your request or recommendation to the proper department for any necessary action.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: For the family, friends and bystanders of the motorcycle fatality today on I-70 East.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JoJo Burgess/1440 Allison Avenue: Advised that he will be filing a Right-To-Know request regarding City expenses incurred for the following events: Juneteenth Celebration, Washington Pride Weekend & the Whiskey Rebellion. Requested that a flyer for the 8th Ward Kids Day Out event on July 15, 2023, be placed on the City Website and Facebook.

Fern Sibert/486 Addison Avenue: Suggested that the Street Sweeper schedule be posted online and signs posted on streets to advise residents when their vehicles need to be removed so a proper street cleaning can be done. Asked why water isn't being used to help minimize the dust. She will be collecting caps for benches and picnic tables through September.

John Benko/120 Maple Alley: Complaint about cars in the alley. Code Enforcement Officer would speak with him after the meeting.

John Rozzo/3475 Vista Valley Road: Advised that 1190 Jefferson Avenue has had two suicides inside the building and that a man was beaten there. He stated that although City turned down the owner's request to use the property as a boarding house that she has turned it into one anyhow. As a business area located near this building, he and other businesses are concerned. City Administrator, Donn Henderson informed Mr. Rozzo that they were made aware of this situation recently and that code enforcement is working on this issue.

Dave Fraley/309 Taylor Avenue: Wants to know when East Alley will be paved. He stated he has been asking for this to be done for 15 years. Councilman Pintola is going to look into it tomorrow morning.

CLOSED TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATION-Civil Service Commission Chairman, Richard Beck, presented City Council with the Firefighter List of Three.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to accept the Minutes from the June 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to accept with appreciation, the retirement letter of Lt. Hancock, effective July 13, 2023, at 1800 hrs. after 21 years of service, amend the Salary Resolution and pay all monies due.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to make a conditional offer of employment to James Kubacki from the Police Eligibility list, effective August 1, 2023, upon completion of pre-employment requirements and scheduling by the Chief, amending the Salary Resolution accordingly.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to instruct Civil Service to begin testing for a new police eligibility list.

Motion was made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to accept with appreciation the resignation of Daniel Grossman from the fire department effective June 11, 2023, pay all monies due and amend the Salary Resolution accordingly.

Motion was made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to accept with appreciation, the retirement letter of Gene Mercer Jr., From the Fire Department effective August 5, 2023, at 0800 hours after 26 years of service, pay all monies due, and amend the Salary Resolution accordingly.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to enter into an executive session to discuss the List of Three Fire Fighter Candidates at 6:39 P.M.

Motion was made by Councilman Callan, second by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to end executive session at 6:43 P.M.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to make a conditional offer of employment to Andrew Newman from the Fire “List of Three” candidates, effective July 14, 2023, upon completion of pre-

employment requirements and scheduling by the Chief and amend the Salary Resolution accordingly.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve the following payments (a.- r.) in the amount of \$497,856.50.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve the following transfers: (a.) in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve the following refunds: (a.) in the amount of \$5,332.00.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to authorize the Treasurer to open a new bank account “Health Insurance Deductible Fund” and amend the 2023 budget accordingly. (FUND 63)

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to transfer \$10,000.00 from the General Fund Reserve (46.00/492-900) to the Health Insurance Deductible Fund. (63.00/392-900)

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve FMLA for employee K. E. from July 15 through August 17, 2023.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve the release of Fire Escrow funds of \$5,332.00 to Dolores Miller for fire escrow at 113 Gibson Ave.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve the release of Fire Escrow funds of \$47,765.44 to Theresa Payne Price for 351 & 353 Locust Avenue Fire Escrow.

Motion was made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the Enterprise lease for a Chevy 5500 for 6 years, at an annual cost of \$18,133.92, plus additional costs associated with properly equipping the vehicle for service.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve the EHD Insurance Policy renewal effective July 6, 2023 through July 6, 2024.

COMMENT: Mayor Putnam stated that originally Rick Scott advised that there would be a 12% increase but after reviewing some items with City Administrator, Donn Henderson, the increase was 9%.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion was made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 18 of 2023** to remove handicap parking signs from 115 Hall Avenue, 965 Addison Avenue and 65 W. Hallam Avenue.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 19 of 2023** to renew the Washington Business District Authority for a term of 5 years, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028.

COMMENT: Councilman DeThomas stated that believes that Shana Brown has been doing a very good job promoting City of Washington Businesses and events and that retaining the WBDA is very important.

Councilman Westcott agreed and shared that the new facade grant application process starts tomorrow.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 20 of 2023** to erect the Flight Fest Banners to be erected August 1, 2023, and removed August 16, 2023.

World Series Banners to be erected July 28, 2023, and removed August 17, 2023.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 21 of 2023** to erect the Italian Festival Banners to be erected August 16, 2023 and removed September 24, 2023.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 22 of 2023** to erect the Stem Fest Banners to be erected August 14, 2023 through September 18, 2023.

ORDINANCES

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 1969 BILL NO. 4 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 208, MUNICIPAL CLAIMS AND DELINQUENT TAXES, ARTICLE I COLLECTION OF FEES AND COSTS FOR DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS, §208-2 SCHEDULE OF FEES.

*****NO VOTE REQUIRED*****

DEPARTMENTAL DISCUSSION:

Councilman Joseph DeThomas –Thanked Richard Beck and the Civil Service Commission for their hard work. He thanked first responders for protecting citizens during all of the ongoing events in the City.

Councilman Andrew Callan- Congratulated DeAnna Martin & her staff for their hard work and successful Spark in the Park this year.

Councilman Joe Pintola – Stated that Public Works is short staffed and has two employees who will be resigning. Said they will be replacing those two employees and hiring an additional two employees.

Councilman Ken Westcott – Thanked Joe DeThomas for his efforts and work during the Whiskey Rebellion. Thanked the Civil Service for their service. Thanked Fire Fighters Dan Grossman & Gene Mercer, Police Officer Jack Hancock for their many years of service to the City of Washington and wished them well.

Mayor Scott Putnam – Echoed Councilman Westcott's sentiments and wished the new employees much success.

Solicitor Jack Cambest – No Comment

- The next scheduled Regular Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers. The Agenda Meeting will be held on Monday, July 31, 2023.
- The Farmer's Market is open on Thursdays at 3:00 P.M.
- The Pony League World Series will be held August 11th- 16th 2023.
- Shark in the Park, Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.
- Flight Fest, Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Motion was made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.