



**CITY OF WASHINGTON  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 2, 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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE: Our World and Israel**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Joe Manning**-630 Donnan Avenue: Commended the Public Works employees for doing a great job picking up leaves this week on his street and going above and beyond cleaning up the area.

**Jennifer Ralston**-100 Dewey Avenue: Called 911 regarding a noise complaint at 10:30 p.m. on October 27, 2023 regarding music at the American Legion. Stated that the police did not respond to the call and she found it concerning. Mayor Putnam advised her that Chief Rush will look into this.

**Diana Cramer**-101 Dewey Avenue: Reiterated what Ms. Ralston stated and asked why the DO NOT PARK BY ORDER OF POLICE signs were not placed on Dewey (during W&J Football Season this year.) She also stated that the speeding on Dewey is increasing, and she would like a police presence in the area to ticket speeders. She feels a lot of the speeders come from gas well traffic heading to McElree.

**Rashad Davison**-127 N Main Street: Spoke on behalf of the Washington Community Club. Advised Mayor and Council that Council's concerns regarding parking (should they be granted a Liquor License from the LCB) were taken seriously. They have reached out to Attorney Kurowski, who is a member of the Washington Community Club and neighbor of the Club. He has given them permission, should they have a parking need, for their patrons to use his parking lot. He also advised that they have reached out to the owners of two nearby parking lots and will use those lots and valet guests, should they have a large event requiring more parking spaces. He gave a list of Community Enrichment Activities that the Club has participated in during the past year.

**Public Comment Closed.**

**Motion** made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to accept the Regular Council Meeting minutes from October 5, 2023.

**Motion** made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve the Special Hearing Minutes from October 30, 2023.

**Motion** made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the following payments (a. -c.) in the amount of \$24,651.84.

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the following refunds (a. – b.) in the amount of \$275.00.

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the employment of Gary Bane as a public works laborer, effective 11-27-23 or based on availability to be determined by the City Administrator, and amend the Salary Resolution, pending pre-employment screening.

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve to approve the employment of David Wheeler as a public works laborer, effective 11-27-23 or based on availability to be determined by the City Administrator, and amend the Salary Resolution, pending pre-employment screening.

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the employment of Robert Schuerle as a public works laborer, effective 11-27-23 or based on availability to be determined by the City Administrator, and amend the Salary Resolution, pending pre-employment screening.

**Motion** made by Councilman Callan, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to authorize Harshman CE Group to prepare bid specifications and publicly advertise the bid for the Twist Way Improvements Project.

**Motion** made by Councilman Callan, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to authorize Harshman CE Group to prepare application to DCNR for the Park Comprehensive Plan Update.

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to commit \$10,000 from Park Development Fund to match commitment for State LSA Application.

**Motion** made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to authorize Harshman CE Group to prepare a parking study of Rosewood Ave.

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve the design of Presidents Pathway from Downtown Project funds account, not to exceed \$18,000, to be paid from **CHARGE:** 60.00/489-000.

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to increase the local match to \$60,000 from City held LSA Funds for Tourism Pickleball Lighting Grant.

**Motion** made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve Network Security (cyber) insurance coverage offered by RT Specialty for a cost of \$7,397.50, and subsequent payment.

**Motion** made by Councilman Callan, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve McKean Plumbing's proposal #6014 to replace heat exchanger on the carrier at the Police Department in the amount of \$3,350.00 and pay subsequent invoice once job is completed. **CHARGE:** 52.00/409-374

**Motion** made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to purchase replacement training equipment with proceeds from the sale of used equipment to the City of Pittsburgh. Not to exceed \$6,800.00.

## **ORDINANCES**

**Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve ORDINANCE 1941**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Motion** made by Councilman Callan, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 27 of 2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE HISTORIC STONE PAVILION REHABILITATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$184,500.**

**Motion** made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 28 OF 2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION FEE FOR 2024 AT \$300.00 PER DWELLING UNIT AS DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE I OF THE CITY CODE AND ESTABLISH A LATE FEE OF \$30.00 IF NOT PAID BY THE DUE DATE THAT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE AMOUNT SENT TO COLLECTIONS AGENCY IF NOT PAID IN FULL BY DECEMBER 31, 2024.**

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 29 of 2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO THE LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD TO TRANSFER LIQUOR LICENSE C-2488 (LID 1290) TO THE WASHINGTON COMMUNITY CLUB LLC. LOCATED AT 127 N MAIN STREET.**

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 30 of 2023** **BUDGET RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR THE CITY GOVERNMENT HEREAFTER SET FOR THE YEAR 2024.**

**COMMENT: Mayor Putnam stated that the 2024 Budget is over \$15,000,000 and there has not been a tax increase since 2019.**

**Motion** made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to **RESOLUTION 31 of 2023** **TAX RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING ORDINANCE NO 1356, CHAPTER 24, PART 5, LEVYING A TAX AND FIXING A TAX RATE FOR ALL CITY PURPOSES ON THE VALUATION OF SUCH PROPERTY AS HAS BEEN OR MIGHT HEREAFTER BE ASSESSED AND SUBJECT TO TAXATION FOR THE YEAR 2024.**

**Motion** made by Councilman Pintola, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 32 of 2023** **SALARY RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1356, CHAPTER 1, PART 2, APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2024.**

- The Agenda Meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.
- A Demolition Hearing will be held at 5:00 P.M. prior to the 6:00 P.M. Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2023.
- City Hall will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023 in Observance of Veterans Day.
- City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday November 23<sup>RD</sup> & November 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 in observance of Thanksgiving.
- Small Business Saturday is November 25, 2023.
- Light Up Night is Saturday, November 25, 2023 4 P.M. until 8 P.M.
- Christmas Parade is Friday, December 1, 2023.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL DISCUSSION:**

**Councilman Joseph DeThomas** – Thanked the first responders for all their hard work.

**Councilman Andrew Callan**- Thanked DeAnna Martin and her Park Staff for all the hard work invested in Dark in the Park this year. Stated that they had more than 1,100 people attend this year's event.

**Councilman Joe Pintola** – Leaf Pickup begins November 1<sup>st</sup> until the first snow. Must use designated paper leaf bags that can be purchased at a home improvement store and brought to the curb. Stated that they have hired three employees in the Public Works Department tonight and will be hiring one more soon.

**Councilman Ken Westcott** – Thanked the staff and especially Donn Henderson and Susie Koehler for all they did to get the budget to balance this year. There may be some carryover this year.

**Mayor Scott Putnam** – Thanked Chief Rush, the Drug Task Force and Police Department for their hard work. Congratulated DeAnna Martin & staff for a successful Dark in the Park.

**Solicitor Jack Cambest** – No Comment

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