



**CITY OF WASHINGTON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 4, 2024 6:00 P.M.**



JoJo Burgess, 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	ABSENT
Councilman Ken Westcott	Present
Mayor JoJo Burgess	Present
Solicitor: Jack Cambest	Present

MOMENT OF SILENCE: IN HONOR OF THREE LOCAL YOUTH SPORT LEADERS WHO PASSED AWAY IN RECENT WEEKS.

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 the 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:

Wayne Yescalis- 137 Maple Avenue: Dissatisfied that he had to obtain a Zoning Permit to put up a fence.

CLOSED TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Civil Service Chairman, Richard Beck, presented to City Council the Commission's recommendation for Civil Service Rule Changes.

Motion made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes from the September 12, 2024 Demolition Hearing.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes from the September 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve **Motion** to approve the following payments (A.-H.) in the amount of \$173,429.18.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to transfer \$805,319.07 from 29.00/492-900 (General Municipal Pension State Aid Fund) to 01.00/392-900 (General Fund) for 2024 Pension State Aid Allocation.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve payment to PNC Bank in the amount of \$805,319.07 as payment of the 2024 State Aid Allocation, CHARGE: 01.60/483-534 (Pension Contributions)

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve payment to PNC Bank, in the amount of \$851,974.25 for Act 205 Pension Collections thru 9/21/2024. **CHARGE:** 79.00/483-000. Act 205 Distressed Pension Fund.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligations as prepared by Cowden and Associates.

Police Fund: \$ 882,870.00
Fire Fund: \$ 254,959.00
O & E Fund: \$ 72,842.00
\$1,210,670.00

Motion made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the agreement with Washington School District for the annual collection of 2025 School District Mercantile and Business Privilege Tax.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to discontinue the 511 account wires from Keystone for Earned Income Tax (EIT) 70/310-121 and Local Services Tax (LST) 70/310-151 being deposited into the 511 Tax Collector Fund Account and to be wired directly into the General Fund Checking account with an effective date of January 2, 2025.

Motion made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to request the Civil Service Board to begin the process of compiling a New Hire Civil Service Fire Eligibility List.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, DeThomas, and carried unanimously to approve bidding of the 70 N. Main Street lot revitalization upon final design approval.

Motion made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve the Health Insurance Run out agreement with Plan Stewarts for completion of claims prior to 9/1/2024 in the amount of \$3,060.75 per month for 4 months plus a onetime set-up fee of \$1,500 and additional fees for claims processed in Jan. and Feb. of 2025.

Motion made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to enter into a 60-month lease agreement with Enterprise fleet management for 2025 Dodge Durango in the amount of \$59,333.00.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman DeThomas, and carried unanimously to offer a letter of support for the Bradford House LSA façade lighting application.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve the 2025 Meeting Calendar as follows:

2025 Meeting Calendar

January 6, 2025	January 9, 2025
February 3, 2025	February 6, 2025
March 3, 2025	March 6, 2025
March 31, 2025	April 3, 2025
April 28, 2025	May 1, 2025
June 2, 2025	June 5, 2025
July 7, 2025	July 10, 2025
August 4, 2025	August 7, 2025
September 8, 2025	September 11, 2025
September 29, 2025	October 2, 2025
November 3, 2025	November 6, 2025
December 1, 2025	December 4, 2025

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule:

2025 Holiday Schedule

January 1, 2025	New Year's Day
January 20, 2025	Martin Luther King Jr Day
February 17, 2025	President's Day
April 18, 2025	Good Friday
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day
June 13, 2025	Flag Day
July 4, 2025	Independence Day
September 1, 2025	Labor Day
October 13, 2025	Columbus Day
November 11, 2025	Veterans Day
November 27, 2025	Thanksgiving Day
November 28, 2025	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 25, 2025	Christmas Holiday

ORDINANCES

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Deallan, and carried unanimously to approve **FINAL READING of ORDINANCE NO. 1976 NO. 3 of 2024**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, ARTICLE XI – EARNED INCOME TAX, PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF THE SPECIAL TAX, UNDER ACT 205 OF 1984, FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO DEFRAY COSTS RELATED TO THE PENSION PLANS OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania, is desirous of repealing the special tax, pursuant to Act 205 of 1984, which established a special tax of .02% under the City of Washington Pension Distress status.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 17 of 2024** to add 1 handicap parking space at 109 West Walnut Street.

Motion made by Councilman DeThomas, seconded by Councilman Westcott, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 18 of 2024**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON AMENDING RESOLUTION 1 OF 2023 TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE SECTION 3.5 OF THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING NEW GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT AS A FIRE FIGHTER; AMENDING SECTION 3.14 TO PROVIDE FOR VETERANS PERFERNCE POINTS, RESIDENCY PREFERNCE POINTS AND CERTIFIED FIRE FIGHTER POINTS IN THE CREATION OF ELIBIBILITY LISTS.

Motion made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Callan, and carried unanimously to approve **RESOLUTION 19 OF 2024**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2023 TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.5 OF THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING NEW GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT TO ANY POSITION IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT; AMENDING SECTIONS 4.7 AND 4.8 TO CLARIFY THE PROCESS OF TAKING AND SCORING THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION AND ORAL EXAMINATION OF APPLICANTS.

DISCUSSION:

Councilman Joseph DeThomas – Advised everyone that Clean & Tidy is only collecting bottle caps until November 1, 2024.

Councilman Andrew Callan- Thanked the Street Department for building the ramp for the paver at the 7th Ward Playground. That work should be completed in next couple of weeks as should the paving for TWIST Way.

Councilman Joe Pintola - ABSENT

Councilman Ken Westcott – Stated the Pension Tax being removed is in part due to the refinancing the City did. Thanked the Civil Service for their work. Gave time for Shana Brown to announce her upcoming Downtown Events.

Mayor JoJo Burgess- Thanked the Chiefs and Civil Service for amending the Civil Service Rules in hopes to attract new applicants.

Solicitor Jack Cambest – Work Session scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 5:15 P.M. and a Special Meeting on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 10 AM.

Donn Henderson- Stated that their will be work session for Council on

- W&J Alpha Pi 5K starting at 50 S Lincoln Street 8:30 A.M. Saturday, October 5, 2024
- Market in the Park will be held Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Washington Park (between Main Pavilion and The Log Cabin) through October 12, 2024. And a Pop-Up Market the 2nd Saturday of December.
- Bowling with the Mayor at Alpine Bowling Lanes on Saturday October 19, 2024 from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. Free for kids up to 18 years old. Free bowling and refreshments.
- The Community Pavilion Farmer’s Market open on Thursdays from 3-6 P.M. until October
- Dark in the Park Light Scare will be held Friday, October 18, 2024 from 6:45 PM until 10:00 P.M.
- Dark in the Park Full Scare will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 6:45 PM until 10:00 P.M.
- Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 5:30 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.
- Light Up at Lemoyne Friday, November 29, 2024 4 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. at Strawberry Alley.
- Small Business Saturday is November 30, 2024.
- Christmas Parade, Saturday, November 30, 2024.
- Ugly Sweater Pop Up Bar at Grand Pavilion Friday December 6, 2024.
- Family Christmas Party (Small Children) Saturday, December 7, 2024
- Winter Social for Teenagers Saturday, December 14, 2024

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