

MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

EDWARD B. POPE CONFERENCE CENTER

48B Lexington Avenue, Washington, GA 30673

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Edward B. Pope Conference Center. Councilmembers present were Fisher, Gunter, Hill, Anderson, and Cullars.

- **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting began with an invocation led by Mayor Bailey, followed by a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chris Ketrow.

- **Approval of June 9, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes**

Councilman Cullars moved to approve the minutes, and Councilman Gunter seconded this motion. The motion was approved by a vote of the following: Cullars-Y, Hill-Y, Fisher-Y, Anderson-Y, Gunter-Y, and passed unanimously.

- **Formal warning issued to council members regarding ethical and procedural violations, including:**

Directing employees outside of proper procedures.

Bullying and improper personnel actions.

Unauthorized removal of city property.

Release of sensitive information.

consequences: \$150 fine, public censure, expulsion, removal from committees, referral for investigation.

- **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Councilman Gunter moved to approve the agenda, and Councilman Anderson seconded this motion after discussion about the proper process for adding items. The vote was called: Cullars-Y, Hill-Y, Fisher-N, Anderson-Y, Gunter-Y. Motion passed.

- **Citizens' Comments: Limit to 3 minutes**

Sean Preston: Alleged conflict of interest

Rebecca Preston: Alleged conflict of interest

John Wylie: Asked about the condition of the dilapidated property

Allegations of inconsistent personnel actions and a lack of transparency

Request for council to address safety and accountability

Community Initiatives:

Launch of Washington Wilkes Arts Foundation announced

Armor of God Boxing team recognized for achievements

AAU basketball team (Tiger Elite, 7th-grade girls) recognized as #1 in the state

Website and Digital Communication:

Amethyst Wesly (AW Digital Communication) presented a proposal for the city website redesign.

Community:

Citizens expressed dissatisfaction with the council's conduct, lack of progress, and missed opportunities.

Calls for unity, transparency, and better communication

- **City Attorney Discussion Items:**

Travel Policy - Tabled

- **City Administrator Discussion/Action Items**

Reported budget process underway

Three departments have submitted projected budgets

Goal: Avoid last-minute approvals, provide more review time

Working with DCA for funding on infrastructure for Andrew Drive

DCA funds recall clarified: Statewide HUD alignment, not city mismanagement.

- **Mayor's Discussion Items:**

Historic Preservation Board: Shawn Clippinger nominated

URA Board: Angie Novelli nominated

Motion made by Councilman Anderson to appoint both nominees.

Discussion about minority representation on boards. Second, by Gunter.

The vote was called: Cullars-N, Hill-N, Gunter-Y, A-Y; Fisher abstained.

The mayor broke the tie.

- **Naming Municipal Complex:**

Councilman Cullars made a motion to name the municipal complex after Willie Edward Burns.

Discussion about the appropriateness of naming after-living individuals.

Clarification. Only the complex grounds/building, not City Hall itself.

Second, by Councilman Hill. Call for vote: Hill-Y, Cullars-Y, Anderson-Y, Gunter-Y, Fisher-Y. Passed unanimously.

- **Fence Repair on Rusher Street**

Councilman Hill made a motion to repair the fence and turn it over to the property owners. Seconded by Councilman Cullars. Call for vote: Hill-Y, Cullars-Y, Gunter-Y, Fisher-Y, Anderson—abstained. Motion passed.

- **No Duplicate Motions**

Councilman Gunter made a motion that no duplicate motion can be made if a motion fails or dies for a term of 3 months before making a motion for the same issue. Seconded by Councilman Anderson. **Tabled.**

- URA motion by Councilman Hill to move forward with the \$75,000 for two years for a project manager and other items outlined in their request.

Tabled.

- 4E motion by Councilman Hill to move forward with the request for \$60,000 to the 4E youth organization. **Tabled.**
- **Executive Session**
Councilman Cullars made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill, to go into executive session to discuss three personnel matters. The motion passed. Cullars-Y, Hill-Y, Fisher-Y, Gunter-Y, Anderson-Y.
- **Return to the Regular Session and proceed to cast any necessary votes.**
Attorney Nelson: 3 Personnel Matters. No action was taken.
- **Adjournment**
Councilman Cullars moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Hill. The motion passed. Cullars-Y, Hill-Y, Fisher-Y, Gunter-Y, Anderson-Y.



Bruce A. Bailey, Mayor



Yoshe T. Jenkins, City Clerk



AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

August 11, 2025

Washington, Georgia's mayor and City Council went into executive session on August 11, 2025.

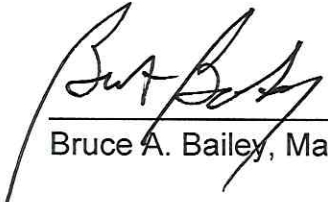
The following members were present: Mayor Bruce Bailey, Newton Gunter, David Fisher, Jr., Larry Hill, Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., and Andy Anderson. Attorney Adam Nelson was also present.

A quorum was present; Mayor Bruce Bailey called the meeting to order and presided over it.

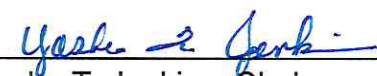
Executive Session Summary

During the executive session, the council discussed three personnel matters. No action was taken.

The open session was reconvened at 8:20 pm.



Bruce A. Bailey, Mayor



Yoshe T. Jenkins, Clerk



ATTEST