

MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

EDWARD B. POPE CONFERENCE CENTER

48B Lexington Avenue, Washington, GA 30673

The Mayor and City Council of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Edward B. Pope Conference Center. The following members were present: Mayor Bruce Bailey, Councilman Newton Gunter, Councilman David Fisher, Councilman Larry Hill, Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey, and Councilman Andy Anderson. Attorney Kurt Worthington was also present.

a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with an invocation led by Councilman Larry Hill, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Approval of September 8, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes

Councilman Newton Gunter moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilman Andy Anderson. No discussions. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-Yes, and David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed.

c. Approval of October 6, 2025, Called Council Meeting Minutes

Councilman Andy Anderson moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilman Larry Hill. No discussions. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-No, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-No, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-Yes, and David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed 4-2.

d. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The motion was made by Councilman Andy Anderson, seconded by Councilman David Fisher, to approve the meeting agenda. A discussion was held on whether to add the Ethics Amendment to the agenda, but it was decided to schedule it for next month's meeting. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-Yes, and David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Comments: Limit to 3 minutes-Rules of Decorum were read

Several citizens expressed concerns and opinions on topics including the manner of our council, the City's spending, and the hard work of the street department in picking up trash, only to have it back on the streets the same

day. The Fitzpatrick Hotel, Callaway flyers on health care, the businesses on the square, and the need for the city to come together.

- **City Attorney Discussion Items:**

- a. Reading of the Oath of Office for Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey as a Newly Elected Official on October 4, 2025.
- b. An Ordinance to amend the Code of Ethics Ord. -Tabled to the next meeting.

- **City Administrator Discussion/Action Items**

- a. Water Plans and current happenings / Consulting with Carter & Sloope
- b. Update Andrew Drive / In progress Allstar Concrete
- c. Update Municipal sign / In construction
- d. Update on Voting to pass the FLOST / Vote November 4th
- e. Thank you to all the City Departments for a great summer

- **Mayor's Discussion Items/Action Items:**

- a. Request a motion to approve Committee member: Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey for the following: Water and Wastewater Treatment, Electric, and Public Works (In January but needs to work with the budget). Councilman Larry Hill made a motion to approve Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey for the following committees. Still, he requested that the mayor also appoint her to the Electric Committee (the mayor agreed). Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr, seconded the motion. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-Yes, and David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Council Members' Discussion Items:**

- 1. Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.:**

- a. Powers and duties Administration – Spoke about the city administrator notifying the council when personnel is terminated. And that the Code states that the Administrator oversees the city personnel, not the council.
- b. Putting family members on boards – Discussed not putting immediate family on committees and boards
- c. Repayment of funds that were given to the mayor for performing Administrator and/or Mayoral duties.

- 2. Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey:**

- a. Independent Review Panel: Adopted in April 2024. Why is it not being used?
- b. RFP for a Forensic Audit: This council voted to have one, and it has not been completed yet. The council voted to do an Audit because it was cheaper.
- c. RFP for Water Treatment Consultants: We have used consultants before and were successful at keeping the water clean, even though our system is extremely outdated.

- d. Wall Street on Whitehall: The City Administrator advised that the city could assist with blocking streets, cleaning around the area, and installing trash cans.
- e. Habitat for Humanity: City Administrator – direct this to Community Development
- f. Boys and Girls Club: City Administrator will explore a partnership with the school system, Housing Authority, and the City to provide services. -
- g. Nepotism on board: Immediate removal of spouses and children of the Mayor and Council from all boards and authorities. - discussed.
- h. Immediate removal of Angela Novelli from the URA-discussed – speak more about at the Mayor & Council Retreat

3. Councilman Andy Anderson:

- a. Correct misunderstanding and misinformation from social media postings about the cost and profits from buying and selling electricity and the impact on our city budget over the past few years.
- b. Citizens' concerns over speeding and extreme auto and truck noise violations within downtown streets.

4. Councilman Newton Gunter:

- a. I propose that we look at our Charter and make some adjustments to the requirements to run for elected positions in the City of Washington. We should at least follow the State Guidelines, which require you to live in the city you are running in—discussed-Speak more about at the Mayor & Council Retreat.

f. Council Members' Action Items:

1. Councilman Andy Anderson:

- a. Councilman Andy Anderson moves to finalize the resolution by the mayor to go to the DOT to 'Create a Transportation bypass for the City of Washington.' This resolution, drafted in coordination with the DOT Regional Office and our State Representative, Rob Leverett, has been in place since last fall and is needed to continue discussions with DOT, seconded by Councilman Larry Hill. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-Yes, and David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Councilman Larry Hill:

- a. A motion to add Marion Tutt to the WCCP Board. – Tabled (Retreat)
- b. A motion to add Delvecchio Booker to the URA Board. – Tabled

3. Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.:

- Move for Mayor Bruce Bailey to repay all the funds he received as mayor when he was interim city administrator. Discussion: Council members deliberated over the motion about the repayment of the funds. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J.

Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson- No, Councilman Newton Gunter-No, Councilman Larry Hill-No, and David Fisher-No. Motion dies. 3-3.

Motion to remove or add family members on boards for any elected officials while in office. Discussion: Council members deliberated over what constituted immediate family for the wording of the motion and the necessity of this restriction for the boards. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson - No, Councilman Newton Gunter-No, Councilman Larry Hill-No, and David Fisher-No. Motion did not pass. 4-2

4. Councilman Newton Gunter:

a. Councilman Newton Gunter moves that if an item is voted down or dies because of a vote, and the mayor does not break the tie, the item is not brought back for a motion for three months. Discussion: Council members raised instances where repeated motions for 4E and URA to receive funds would not have passed if they had not continually brought the motions back to the table. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-No, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-No, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-No, and David Fisher-No. Motion did not pass. 4-2

g. Executive Session

Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Councilman David Fisher, to go into executive session. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-Yes, and David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

h. Return to the Regular Session and proceed to cast any necessary votes.

Attorney Nelson: 1 Personnel Matter. No action was taken.

i. Adjournment

Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Larry Hill. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.-Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey-Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson-Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter-Yes, Councilman Larry Hill-Yes, and David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed unanimously.


Bruce A. Bailey, Mayor


Yoshe T. Jenkins, City Clerk



City of Washington

Oath of Office

I, Kimberly Rainey, do swear that I will well and truly perform all the duties of the office to which I have been elected.

I, Kimberly Rainey, do further affirm I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof; I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state prohibited by the laws of the State of Georgia; and I am qualified to hold said office according to the laws of Georgia and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Washington.

So help me God.

Executed this 4 day of October, 2025.

Kimberly Rainey
Councilmember

By: Barry A. Fleming
Superior Ct. Judge
Columbia Co. Georgia
10/4/25