

MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 8, 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, December 8, 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 Adam Nelson 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 by Councilman Andy Anderson.

b. Approval of November 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilman Andy Anderson moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilman David Fisher. Discussion. None. 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 Councilman David Fisher-Yes. All approved.

Approval of November 14, 2025, Budget Work Session Meeting

Councilman Newton Gunter moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilman David Fisher. Discussion: None. 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 Councilman David Fisher-Yes. All approved.

c. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The motion was made by Councilman Andy Anderson, seconded by Councilman David Fisher, to approve the meeting agenda. Discussion: Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey requested that Water updates and Brightwood be added under her 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 Councilman David Fisher-Yes. All approved with the additions requested by Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey.

d. Committee/Boards/Authority Reports Review – Included in Packets

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

Committee comments consisted of a proposal urging the restoration of year-round youth programming, referencing the Boys and Girls Club and A-Star's impact on entrepreneurship and confidence, long-time attendees cited

Facebook negativity harming business, jobs, property, and reputation, proposing a pledge to avoid posting/responding to negativity, A small business owner described a hostile environment with rapid closures and ongoing lawsuits/ethics complaints, urging respectful engagement and support for local business and the hotel, The city clerk reported disrespect toward staff originating from council actions, called for unified leadership, and asked to do their job without intimidation; also noted Facebook attacks, Another city employee/business owner criticized unprofessional council bickering and frequent legal reliance as wasteful; urged maintaining reserves and professional conduct, a citizen requested a redaction meeting to correct September minutes and argued leadership change is needed, MLK weekend plans were announced for January 17-19 with broad participation encouraged, Traffic safety concerns.

f. City Attorney Discussion Items:

- a. Tabled Item from last meeting: An Ordinance to amend the Code of Ethics. (3) (Council plans to discuss at the Council Retreat)

g. City Administrator Discussion/Action Items

- a. Approval of 2026 Budget - Discussions

h. Mayor's Discussion Items/Action Items:

i. Council Members' Discussion Items:

1. Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey:

- a. Discussed budget items, non-negotiables, boys/girls club, Habitat for Humanity, and creating a five-year strategic plan.

2. Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.:

- a. Discussed budget items

3. Councilman Larry Hill:

- a. Discussed the URA and City-owned property on Gordon Street
- b. Discussed having council representation on all departments and boards

j. Council Members' Action Items:

1. Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr.:

- a. Executive Session

k. Executive Session

Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Councilman Larry Hill, 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 Councilman David Fisher-Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor and Council reconvened at 9:28 pm.

Attorney Adam Nelson: 2 Personnel Matters. 1 Litigation.

Motion to Approve the 2026 Budget:

Councilman Newton Gunter made a motion to approve the budget as is, except for not funding 501 (c) (3) organizations. Seconded by Councilman Andy Anderson. Discussion: Councilman Larry Hill disagreed with the 501 (c) (3) organizations not being supported, and Councilman Andy Anderson agreed not to fund 501 (c) (3) organizations. It was noted that 63 non-profits were registered in the city. Call for a vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr. – No, Councilman Larry Hill – No, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey – No, Councilman Newton Gunter – Yes, Councilman David Fisher – Yes, Councilman Andy Anderson – Yes. Vote 3-3. The mayor broke the tie. Motion passed 4-3.

Motion to Terminate the City Administrator

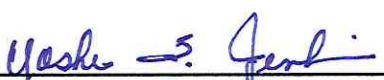
Motion was made by Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., to terminate the City Administrator immediately due to a “lack of performance.” Seconded by Councilman Larry Hill. Discussion: Councilman Andy Anderson disagreed, noting there are no metrics to prove a lack of performance and citing support for the administrator from city employees. Call for vote: Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr. – Yes, Councilman Larry Hill – Yes, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey – Yes, Councilman Newton Gunter – No, Councilman David Fisher – No, Councilman Andy Anderson – No. Vote 3-3. The mayor did not break the tie. Motion failed.

m. Adjournment

Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman David Fisher. 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 Councilman David Fisher – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.



Bruce A. Bailey, Mayor



Yoshe T. Jenkins, City Clerk



AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

December 8, 2025

Washington, Georgia's Mayor and City Council went into executive session on December 8, 2025, at 8:20 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Bruce Bailey, Councilwoman Kimberly J. Rainey, Councilman Newton Gunter, Councilman David Fisher, Councilman Larry Hill, Councilman Andy Anderson, and Councilman Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., as well as Attorney Adam Nelson.

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

Executive Session Summary

During the executive session, the council discussed two personnel matters and one Litigation matter. Action was taken on one litigation and one personnel Matter.

The open session was reconvened at 9:28 p.m.



Bruce A. Bailey, Mayor



Yoshe T. Jenkins, Clerk

