

Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2025

The Westphalia Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg. Roll call was taken by city clerk-Tammy Massman. Members present were Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg, Aldermen Stanley Heckman, Caitlin Berhorst and city clerk-Tammy Massman. Alderman Jake Plassmeyer presented later during the meeting; as noted in the minutes. Others present at the meeting were sewer operator-Aaron Lachowicz of Mid Mo Operations, UD reporter-Theresa Brandt, Osage R-III Superintendent John Kitchens and community residents including Anne Steele, Suzie Dickneite, Janice Nilges and Mary Neuner.

The meeting minutes from the July monthly meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman and was seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst, to approve the July meeting minutes. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.

The August monthly expense report was provided by city clerk-Tammy Massman. The city expenses note the amount of \$2,485.07, sewer system expenses in the amount of \$8,756.04, special road district expenses in the amount of \$1,431.39. City receipts in the amount of \$12,472.42, sewer system receipts in the amount of \$9,325.58, and special road district receipts in the amount of \$8.62. Total city checking account balance of \$158,401.90, total sewer system checking account balance of \$75,456.96, total special road district checking account balance of \$82,275.95, and total special road district savings account balance of \$5,131.22. Total city CDs in the amount of \$462,920.83, total sewer system CDs in the amount of \$548,373.84, and total special road district CDs in the amount of \$551,211.25. A motion was made by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst, and was seconded by Alderman Stanley Heckman to approve the August monthly expense report. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.

The sewer system report was next on the agenda. A report was submitted by Mid MO Operations. Sewer operator-Aaron Lachowicz provided an update. The gearbox was rebuilt and installed. It is working well. The limit switch on the clarifier is acting up. Lachowicz requested that it be replaced. Anticipated cost was estimated at \$320.00. Sludge is recommended to be hauled in September. Operators will coordinate sludge hauling with contractor. The treatment plant and lift stations are all running well. A motion was made by Alderman Delbert Wieberg, and was seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst to replace the limit switch. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.

Next on the agenda was Superintendent John Kitchens. Superintendent Kitchens addressed traffic concerns the council had discussed last month. Kitchens noted that it was early in the year, and that he has only witnessed two dismissals, but that at present, he has observed students driving carefully through the parking lot and on the city's street. Kitchens encouraged city residents that if problems arise, please report the concerns to the district; voicing his door is always open to residents who have concerns. Kitchens noted that the district may not be able to do anything from a discipline standpoint, but that they could discuss concerns with the students and pass the concerns along to parents; emphasizing that the district does take the concerns seriously. Kitchens further iterated that he has discussed safety concerns with the Osage County Sheriff's office as well, requesting collaboration and mutual aid support to monitor speeding, but also recognizes their offices' limited availability. Kitchens reported that considerations for altering dismissal times for buses and student drivers would need to be negotiated earlier in the year, during the months of April and May when structuring contracts with partnering parochial schools and the busing company for the next school year. City resident, Susie Dickneite noted she is probably one of the loudest voices in the superintendent's office; stating she has watched kids burn off right in front of the superintendent's office and fly down the hill speeding, voicing "It is very dangerous and disrespectful." Speed bumps were addressed again as an option to curb speeding. Alderman Wieberg reported that he has received mixed feelings about speed bump installations. Establishment of a formal policing system for the city was discussed as an option, but noted that it could not be self-sustained financially. Kitchens

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reiterated that he will continue to address the topic as a “serious thing” and provided his email contact:

kitchensj@fatimacomets.org as means for residents and the public to provide feedback in continuing efforts to address concerns. Superintendent Kitchens thanked council members for the invitation to attend the meeting and discuss concerns. Kitchens then exited the building.

Alderman Jake Plassmeyer presented to the meeting.

Next on the agenda was SRD culverts. Pro-tem Wieberg voiced concerns that some of the city’s culverts, noting specifically the culvert at the intersection of South Maries Avenue and Hwy 63, near Shelter Insurance, and culverts along Linn Street and Bridge Street are needing to be cleared. Wieberg reported that Fire Chief-Jim Roark and some additional volunteer fire fighters attempted to assist in flushing the lines, attempting to clear them, but were unsuccessful. Wieberg recommended that the city consider hiring a company with a Jetter system, such as All Clear Pumping, to clear the water drainage culverts. Wieberg noted anticipated costs to be about \$5,000. Discussions followed. It was noted that bids were likely to not be able to be obtained due to the “unknowns” within the lines; and that there are not multiple contractors within the area that have the equipment available to perform the work. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to approve culvert cleanings up to a \$5,000 limit. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. Pro-tem Wieberg will proceed with contacting All Clear Pumping to schedule cleanings of the culverts, noting priority order as the culvert at South Maries Avenue, followed by Bridge Street then Linn Street.

Discussions for the Fall clean-up event followed as the next agenda item. The weekend of October 11th - 12th was selected by aldermen for the clean-up weekend. There is no extra cost to the city for the annual clean-up event; as this service is included in the City’s contract with Republic Services. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman, seconded by Alderman Delbert Wieberg, to approve the Fall Clean-up weekend slated as October 11th – 12th, anticipating approval by both Republic Services and Millard Family Chapels. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. Reminders were given that this service is only for residents within the city limits. City clerk-Tammy Massman will proceed with obtaining permissions and establishing the date for the clean-up event with Republic Services and Millard Family Chapels. Once permissions and the date is secured, Massman will produce a flyer and distribute the mailer to residents.

In other business, City clerk-Massman reminded the council that the annual car show was planned for the coming weekend, Friday, September 5th, and reported that all documents were received from the event organizer including the confirmation of special event insurance coverage listing the city as additionally insured. It was further reported that at this time, the city has received all but one of the special caterer’s licenses required by businesses that plan for outside alcohol sales during the event.

Pro-tem Wieberg next shared that he had been in contact with the property owner along Linn Street, Sharon Lueckenhoff, to discuss concerns regarding tree limbs hanging over the roadway along Linn Street. Wieberg reported that Lueckenhoff voiced plans to contract with a tree service to have tree limbs removed. It was highlighted again that tree limb removal, is the responsibility of the property owner. Other tree limb concerns were noted, identifying them as hanging from trees that were outside of the city limit. Clean up efforts around town and tree trimming will continue to be negotiated with residents.

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Pro-tem Wieberg voiced he had received potential interest for the purchase of the city's plow truck. Advertising requirements for sales of the SRD equipment was reviewed by Massman-city clerk. A motion was made Alderman Stanley Heckman, seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst to place an ad in the *Unterrified Democrat* and on the city's website again advertising the sale of the city's plow truck, via sealed bid process, with received bids slated to be opened during the September 2025 meeting. Aldermen votes: Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, Caitlin Berhorst-yes and Delbert Wieberg-yes.

Alderman Stanley Heckman, seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer, motioned to solicit bids for snow removal. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. Discussions followed regarding scope of work relative to snow removal and potential contractors to solicit bids from. Alderman Jake Plassmeyer accepted lead in soliciting bids. Plassmeyer will provide updates regarding snow removal proposals to council members at the September meeting. Clerk-Massman will provide Alderman-Plassmeyer with the contact information of contractors previously contacted including WestCo, Jaegers and Hoelscher.

Pro-tem Wieberg noted that had received complaints/concerns regarding the overgrown areas on personal properties at the intersection of Castle Rock Road and Main Street, which are leading to traffic and safety concerns related to lines of sight. Wieberg voiced plans to discuss concerns voiced with the applicable residents.

Pro-tem Wieberg continued other business reporting that he continued to work on soliciting bids for repairs and maintenance on the city's maintenance building located at the corner of West Main Street and North Maries Avenue; reaching out to several contractors, 6 in total, but was able to only obtain 2 bids for interior work and 1 bid for repairs to the roof. Wieberg noted interior work quotes of \$10,600 from Doug Bax Construction and \$11,000 from Donnie Kempker Construction. The scope of work would include placing metal tin over the drywall given the drywall has never been painted and was only taped previously. A bid of \$28,500 was submitted by PMF (Professional Metal Fabricators) to replace the metal roof and repair any damage caused by water leaks; the scope of work was read aloud by Wieberg. Clerk-Massman reported that repairs to the city maintenance building had not previously been included in the city's annual budget. Discussions followed amongst council members considering whether to move forward with the maintenance repairs. It was noted that the building is currently being utilized for storage of the city's surplus items, sewer and SRD equipment. Wieberg reported that he had also been approached by a local group (naming several community residents, not city residents) to rent the city storage building for a resale shop, with proceeds to be donated to area schools and charities. Clerk-Massman noted concerns that there are potential restrictions for use of a municipality's property, especially considering use by others, not that of the entity itself that needed to be considered; encouraging that council members validate with the city's attorney what is allowable. UD reporter-Brandt confirmed Massman's concerns. Wieberg suggested potential sale of the property, voicing the ability to select who could buy it. Massman rejected the notion, voicing that at minimum, the building would have to be placed up for sale to the general public and would have to be considered in the same process of sealed bid solicitations as the city's equipment is being handled, given the building was obtained using public funds. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to table all discussions regarding the city maintenance building. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. City clerk-Massman will inquire with the city's attorney-Dougg Stultz regarding above discussions for further advisement. Alderman Heckman offered to assist in potentially obtaining other bids for repairs. The topic of the city maintenance building will be added to the September meeting agenda.

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Alderman Heckman questioned if the school zone lights had been witnessed to be in working order with the start of the new school year. Heckman will validate that the school zone lights are functioning properly, and alert RCS of the need for maintenance or calibration if not.

The next city meeting date was set for Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman and seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst. Aldermen votes: Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, Caitlin Berhorst-yes and Delbert Wieberg-yes.