

## **Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2026**

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, Jake Plassmeyer, Caitlin Berhorst and city clerk Tammy Massman. Others present at the meeting were sewer operator-Aaron Lachowicz of Mid Mo Operations and UD reporter-Theresa Brandt.

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

The January monthly expense report was provided by city clerk Tammy Massman. The city expenses note the amount of \$3,191.52, sewer system expenses in the amount of \$24,107.69, special road district expenses in the amount of \$1,175.00. City receipts in the amount of \$9,638.94, sewer system receipts in the amount of \$9,165.22, and special road district receipts in the amount of \$18,602.59. City clerk Massman noted that expenses for payroll across all 3 accounts were denoted pending at this time; new year calculations for payroll from the accountant to follow. January payroll will be included on the February expense report. Total city checking account balance of \$143,928.14, total sewer system checking account balance of \$79,913.33, total special road district checking account balance of \$136,137.44, and total special road district savings account balance of \$5,135.06. Total city CDs in the amount of \$464,693.92, total sewer system CDs in the amount of \$551,563.44, and total special road district CDs in the amount of \$554,114.71. A motion was made by Alderman Delbert Wieberg, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to approve the January monthly expense report as reported. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-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. A new lag float on the City View lift station is reported to require replacement; it has had a been ordered by Lachowicz and is anticipated to cost approximately \$100. An invoice for the part will be submitted for reimbursement once received. Lachowicz noted that he has been working to complete the mapping system for ongoing participation in the MO 811- One Call system. He is hopeful to have them completed and uploaded to MO 811 system in the coming weeks. Year end, Annual I & I, sludge and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports have been prepared by operators and clerk Massman. Massman confirmed submission of the required reports to the EDMR system earlier today. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter sampling will be collected in February. The city has received a DRAFT copy of the WWTP permit from MO DNR to review. A variance was requested pertaining to weekly sampling requirements; and this variance was approved. Sampling will now be required on a quarterly basis verses a weekly basis. This modification will prove to provide significant monetary benefit for the city. Weekly testing costs had been about \$81.00 weekly for the required testing as per the previous WWTP permit. Lachowicz noted he has additionally requested removal of aerobic digester DO samplings. This request remains under consideration. No other issues were identified for the treatment plant or other lift stations. Lachowicz did request from city clerk Massman the past quarter's electric costs specific to the Hwy 63 pumps in order to check the new pumps efficiency. Massman will forward the requested information via an email correspondence in the coming days.

Mayor Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg and Lachowicz next reported on the DNR infrastructure meeting they had attended earlier in the month. It was noted that the primary focus of the meeting was to offer education about the availability of low interest loans for infrastructure improvements by financial institutions, only minimal information was provided pertaining to grants. Other presentations identified shared information about clean water, water pollution and watersheds. Wieberg and Lachowicz shared details and insight relative to a presentation heard on a recent Boone County project that was highlighted.

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Mayor Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg next asked clerk Massman to provide an update on acquired area sewer rates. Massman shared that Lachowicz had provided monthly rates for Boone County at \$59.00 for gravity, Callaway County was \$45 base rate with \$7.20 per 1000 gallons used and MO American Water monthly rates were denoted as \$74.11 monthly. Massman additionally shared sewer rate comparisons obtained from City of Linn, \$18.75 base (domestic) plus \$.09 per gallon after 1000 gallons used; City of Chamois, \$26 base with an additional \$6.00 for any gallons exceeding 1000 gallons. City of Chamois was noted to have a built-in annual increase of \$1 to the base rate and a built-in increase for additional gallons used in excess of 1000 gallons through year 2028. Village of Freeburg currently reported a base rate of \$18.14; acknowledging that their entity is currently involved in a sewer project that may lend to either a sewer rate increases or potential decrease following the project's completion which is anticipated late 2027. Alderman Heckman noted that the city's current rates are comparable to those within the surrounding area. Mayor Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg posed revisiting the topic of increasing sewer rate charges verses passing the responsibility on to the next generation. Discussions about obtaining grants followed among council members and Lachowicz. Wieberg shared that he has not received any negative feedback following his proposal last month to double the sewer rates. Wieberg noted his preference is to continue to pursue an increase in sewer rates in order to build a new plant, or at minimum, accrue increased funds in the account in order to continue to maintain the current infrastructure. It was noted that the only item left to upgrade or replace at the current plant was the plant's skirting/baffle; which if required, would anticipate down time of 2-4 weeks for the main plant; and require the need to haul sludge offsite. Considerations and discussions followed: down time expenditures, expenses anticipated to build a new plant, gradual rate increases verses an immediate rate increase, the need to have two plants, the potential for unnecessary expenses to maintain 2 plants, cost anticipations of required engineering costs, grant writing/proposals, cost share responsibilities, the possibility of excess funds building in the sewer account with a rate increase that is doubled, etc. Alderman Jake Plassmeyer voiced that he believed that there needs to be agreement on the overall goal for the sewer system as a whole, before a consensus could be reached regarding the need to increase sewer rates presently. Wieberg voiced he wanted to build a new plant. No other alderman noted immediate agreement. A motion to table further discussions about increasing sewer rates was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer, and was seconded by Alderman Delbert Wieberg. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.

Next, on the agenda was Ameren Utility Pole guidelines; pertaining to Christmas decorations. Mayor Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg requested to move this agenda item to the February meeting, given the length of time spent on the sewer system discussions. City clerk Massman will forward to aldermen via email correspondence, the information recently received from Ameren pertaining to this topic, and will place it again on the February agenda.

The topic of insurance coverage - rate adjustments was next on the agenda. City clerk Massman provided an update that the city continues to await further information from the MO Perm carrier and underwriting. Massman noted she had circulated to aldermen the received information regarding the policy coverage inclusions and limitations related to equipment failures due to age; catastrophic events, and other specific limitations regarding replacement costs. Massman will continue to update council members by email correspondence as policy revision quotes and details are received by the carrier. The topic will be placed again on the February agenda.

Next, a culvert repair update was provided by Mayor Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg for the culvert located near Shelter Insurance; along South Maries Ave. A photo was taken and shared with council members,

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by Wieberg, detailing that repairs could not be completed at this time due to the need for more extensive repairs or rerouting of the line. To date, \$1175 of the \$5,000 limit threshold that was previously approved has supported only further discovery, better defining a more detailed scope of work. It was noted that the project does not need immediate attention and could be revisited in the spring when weather would be more favorable. No further actions are planned at this time. The topic will be reinitiated in the coming months.

Lastly, in other business, housekeeping topics were addressed. Elite Landscaping assisted in snow removal during the recent winter snow event. Salt reserves continue to be removed from the old salt shed. No concerns noted.

City clerk Massman noted previously that she had assisted the city's accounting firm, Graves and Associates, with the city's 2025-year end reports, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports, 1099's, and w-2 forms. All documents are complete and have been placed in the postal mail or filed electronically. Massman will continue to assist in establishment of the 2026 payroll and ongoing quarterly reports.

The next city meeting date was set for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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