

Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2026

The Westphalia Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order by newly elected Mayor Delbert Wieberg. Roll call was taken by city clerk Tammy Massman. Members present were Mayor Delbert Wieberg, Aldermen Chris Dickneite, Jake Plassmeyer, Caitlin Berhorst and city clerk Tammy Massman. Others present at the meeting were sewer operator-Aaron Lachowicz of Mid Mo Operations, UD reporter-Theresa Brandt, and city resident Dennis Peterman.

The first order of business was the administration of the Oaths of Office to unopposed elected board members- Mayor Delbert Wieberg, Alderman Caitlin Berhorst and Alderman Chris Dickneite as recorded as the official results for the April 7th, 2026 election process.

Mayor Delbert Wieberg next made a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen to consider the nomination of city resident, Dennis Peterman, to be appointed as interim Alderman filling the seat for which Pro-tem/Alderman Delbert Wieberg previously held. A motion was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer and was seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst to approve city resident, Dennis Peterman, as interim Alderman of the City of Westphalia. Aldermen votes: Chris Dickneite-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. Resident Dennis Peterman accepted the interim appointment as Alderman until the next planned election cycle in April 2027. Oath of Office for newly appointed interim Alderman Dennis Peterman was recorded.

The meeting minutes from the March monthly meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer and was seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst, to approve the March meeting minutes. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. Aldermen Chris Dickneite and Dennis Peterman abstained due to not being present nor in-seat during the March monthly meeting.

The April monthly expense report was provided by city clerk Tammy Massman. The city expenses note the amount of \$3,579.63, sewer system expenses in the amount of \$6,598.36, special road district expenses in the amount of \$974.40. City receipts in the amount of \$9,414.49, sewer system receipts in the amount of \$10,186.25, and special road district receipts in the amount of \$351.25. Total city checking account balance of \$153,837.80, total sewer system checking account balance of \$86,872.94, total special road district checking account balance of \$144,324.45, and total special road district savings account balance of \$5,136.98. Total city CDs in the amount of \$465,493.01, total sewer system CDs in the amount of \$553,122.61, and total special road district CDs in the amount of \$556,517.82. A motion was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer, and was seconded by Alderman Chris Dickneite to approve the April monthly expense report. Aldermen votes: Chris Dickneite-yes, Dennis Peterman-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. Parts for the blower #2 have been ordered and are pending delivery. Operators will install the new parts for the blower upon receipt. Control panels were treated for ants. Notification from MO DNR permit writer-Lexi Baiter was received denoting that the city's sewer permit modification application, that was required due to the relocation of the outfall line as part of the Pentecostal Bridge reconstruction, was accepted. City clerk Tammy Massman read the correspondence aloud. Per Baiter:

“I am working on the modification and renewal and will be routing the permit through to public notice. It was on hold due to uncertainty with federal and state 508 accessibility requirements, but this is no longer a concern for this permit. I anticipate once it is routed, it will be on public notice within the next few weeks”.

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Following the public notice, the application will be ready for acceptance and final approval. Lachowicz voiced plans to collect quarterly samples next week. Lachowicz shared that 6 sewer line locates have been received to date this month as part of the MO 811 One-Call system. The UV light system was turned on April 1st denoting the start of the recreation season. City clerk Massman shared that the 1st quarter EDMR and SSO reports were submitted to MO DNR. Lachowicz cited that no other concerns for the plant or lift stations.

Alderman Chris Dickneite requested an update on some of the previous discussions related to considerations for sewer rate increases. Sewer incomes verses expenses for the sewer system, current sewer rates, comparison rates for neighboring plants, rate study analysis considerations, low-interest loans verses grant considerations, etc. were reviewed. Lachowicz noted that rate comparisons should be considered as variable given the differences of the plant type, style and operation. Clerk Massman will forward via email to council members historical data relative to the topics discussed for further review. MRPC and MO Rural Water entities were denoted as potential resource partners available to assist with grant applications and rates analysis. Improvements made to the air header at the main treatment plant as part of the awarded ARPA funds received by the city was shared. All council members, clerk-Massman, sewer operator-Lachowicz and reporter-Brandt then exited City Hall and went to tour the wastewater treatment plant. While at the wastewater main plant, Operator Aaron Lachowicz provided an overview of the plant, the equipment, and the stages in the process for wastewater treatment. All questions were answered for council members.

All council members, city clerk-Massman, sewer operator-Lachowicz and UD reporter-Brandt returned to City Hall. The April council meeting continued. Considerations and further discussions related to proposed sewer rate increases and potential plans for construction of a new sewer plant were entertained amongst council members. Some next steps identified included the need to gather additional information, establish a formal rate increase proposal, host a public hearing (prior to any allowable implementation of sewer rate increases), and development of a new sewer ordinance. Potential buy-out proposals of the sewer system by an outside vendor were also noted as a consideration that may present. Aldermen will continue to consider the topic with noted plans to readdress the topic again on the May agenda.

Mayor Wieberg continued the meeting with the next agenda item-Westphalia Hills annual fireworks display. City clerk Massman reported that a representative from Westphalia Hills Retirement Center had contacted the city to inform of plans for the 2026 Independence Day Celebration which is planned for June 26, 2026, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Retirement Center has requested permission to have its traditional fireworks display within the city limits of Westphalia at dark. A motion was made by Alderman Chris Dickneite, seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst, to approve the fireworks display. No alternate date was provided. Aldermen votes: Chris Dickneite-yes, Dennis Peterman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. City clerk Massman will forward a correspondence to the facility denoting the approval for a fireworks display.

Insurance renewal was discussed as the next agenda item. Handouts were provided to Aldermen. The city's current general liability coverage has an expiration date of June 30, 2026. A renewal quote from carrier-Mo Perm is noted to include the recently adjusted increases to values assessed for city buildings and equipment. The base rates for all coverages increased 10% for 2026, and an inflation adjustment was applied to structures at 6.2% for 2026. The adjustments are noted to be mandatory and cannot be changed. Alderman Plassmeyer questioned what was covered under the line item identified as "equipment breakdown". Alderman Dickneite inquired if a comparison quote from another carrier was obtained by the Assured Partners agent. City clerk

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Massman will reach out to the city's commercial lines agent and request that further explanation be provided regarding coverage for "equipment breakdown" and validate whether another carrier had been considered for coverage in efforts to obtain a rate comparison. Massman will forward response from the agent to all council members once received. Prior years insurance rates and coverage thresholds are also planned to be emailed by Massman to Mayor Wieberg and aldermen for review. The topic of insurance renewals will be addressed again on the May agenda.

Next, Mayor Wieberg provided an update for street repairs, noting he had been in contact with 3 contractors: Verslues Construction, Stockman Construction and Raithel Bros. Construction, to review the scope of work detailing 2 projects along Bridge Avenue for gutter/culvert repairs, a section of Main Street repair where fiber internet was installed, and a project including curb, guttering, driveway and sidewalk replacement along Main Street from the Dave Patterson property down to the Towne Club. Bid proposals were received from Verslues Construction and Stockman Construction. Raithel Bros. did not submit a bid proposal to date. Handouts were provided. Mayor Wieberg reported that Verslues Construction provided individual estimates for each area, with a total bid of \$78,300.00. Stockman Construction also provided individual estimates for each area, with a total bid of \$133,845.00. A difference of \$55,545.00 was denoted. A motion was made by Alderman Chris Dickneite, seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer, to approve and award Verslues Construction with the contract for street repairs as proposed. Aldermen votes: Chris Dickneite-yes, Dennis Peterman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. City clerk Massman will forward the signed proposal to Verslues Construction to allow work to commence and alert Stockman Construction of the council's decision.

An area of sidewalk near the second entrance of the Fatima school parking lot was identified as a liability concern for city; noting it as an area for trip/fall hazard that needs to be repaired. It was discussed that at the time of the school districts remodel, the drive and sidewalk at the location was cut leaving a step onto the sidewalk, which does not meet ADA standards currently. Mayor Wieberg was recommended to discuss this area of concern as an additional add-on project with Verslues Construction and request an estimate with plans for potential repair while contractors are in town. All aldermen noted agreement.

Mayor Wieberg continued discussions for street repairs; revisiting previously identified areas under consideration for repair with aldermen. Areas to be considered for additional bid proposals were identified as the culvert/gutter along South Maries Avenue near Shelter Insurance, the gutter area at the end of Bridge Avenue that intersects with Co Road 611 and the culverts along North Maries Avenue near the city's maintenance building. It was noted that bid proposals were required for any projects anticipated to incur costs above \$5,000. Mayor Wieberg will begin collecting additional bid proposals for these identified areas. Wieberg also requested considerations for sealing the cracks in the asphalt streets (West Main and Maries Avenue) to achieve a longer life out of the streets.

Lastly, in other business, housekeeping topics were addressed. Mayor Delbert Wieberg reported that he has continued to utilize community service hours for ongoing city-wide clean-up efforts, with plans of focusing on the area around the sewer treatment plant and the spraying of weeds throughout the city next month.

Mayor Delbert Wieberg reported that he had received a call from resident Rusty Sharisin regarding water drainage and run-off concerns off of Hwy 63 onto his property, especially in the event of heavy rain showers. A video was provided for council member's viewing. Mayor Wieberg and Aldermen discussed that it would be in Sharisin's interest to contact the MO Department of Transportation to further discuss and review any potential resolutions possible given the amount of run-off water that was coming off the highway.

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Mayor Wieberg requested feedback from council members regarding a single business license renewal that has been delinquent. Business license renewal payments of \$25 were requested of all city business owners prior to their expiration on March 31, 2026. Two businesses were reported to have been delinquent of payment past the deadline. Penalty invoices were issued. One business came into compliance rendering \$45 within the first 10 days into April. The second business was notified of the continued delinquency by mail correspondence twice, and verbally by Mayor Wieberg in between mailers, alerting of the incurred penalty fees assessed totaling \$85 for the renewal license as of April 21st. On April 24th, city clerk Massman located at City Hall, a check from the business owner dated April 22, 2026 in the amount of \$25. Mayor Wieberg questioned if the \$25 payment should be accepted by the city or if payment of the revolving penalty fees should be pursued. Discussions followed amongst Aldermen. Copies of the letters sent by the city were reviewed. It was noted that the business owner had not been delinquent in past years. A motion was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer, seconded by Alderman Chris Dickneite, to accept payment of the originally invoiced business license fee, \$25 from the business owner. Aldermen votes: Chris Dickneite-yes, Dennis Peterman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.

City clerk Massman reported that 1st quarter payroll reports, Form 941 and Division of Employment Security were submitted. Annual financial reports to the Mo State Auditor's office were additionally submitted and accepted. Copies were provided to the city's accountant.

Sewer Operator Lachowicz added one additional item of note for the sewer report. A letter of non-compliance following the site visit on March 27, 2026 was received from MO DNR. Minor citations were identified. Lachowicz and Massman prepared a response, identified plans to address action items, and submitted additionally requested information to MO DNR earlier this week. Acceptance of the response sent to the department regarding the plan of actions moving forward are pending.

The next city meeting date was set for Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A motion to adjourn the regular monthly meeting was made by Alderman Chris Dickneite and seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer. Aldermen votes: Chris Dickneite-yes, Dennis Peterman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Caitlin Berhorst-yes