

Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for August 25, 2026

The regular portion of the Westphalia Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order by Mayor Delbert Wieberg following the public hearing that established the 2026 tax levy rates. Roll call was taken by city clerk Tammy Massman. Members present were Mayor Delbert Wieberg, Aldermen Dennis Peterman, 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 presenting guests; Stacia Bax-Clean Water Section Chief from MO DNR Financial Assistance Center and Emilie Peterson-Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider from Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. Sherrif Michael Bonham later arrived during the meeting.

The meeting minutes from the July monthly meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Alderman Chris Dickneite and was seconded by Alderman Dennis Peterman, to approve the July meeting minutes. Aldermen votes: Dennis Peterman-yes, Chris Dickneite-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.

The August monthly expense report was reviewed and questions were answered by city clerk Tammy Massman. The city expenses note the amount of \$31,584.11, sewer system expenses in the amount of \$10,523.45, special road district expenses in the amount of \$72,229.40. City receipts in the amount of \$12,293.82, sewer system receipts in the amount of \$8,514.40, and special road district receipts in the amount of \$8.63. Total city checking account balance of \$140,718.55, total sewer system checking account balance of \$93,468.30, total special road district checking account balance of \$79,976.30, and total special road district savings account balance of \$5,138.90. Total city CDs in the amount of \$471,520.99, total sewer system CDs in the amount of \$555,966.24, and total special road district CDs in the amount of \$558,705.01. A motion was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer, and was seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst to approve the August monthly expense report. Aldermen votes: Dennis Peterman-yes, Chris Dickneite-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. Quarterly oil changes were performed; Lachowicz noted he will be ordering additional oil to replace what was used. Grease was removed from all lift stations. Infrared control panel inspections were completed. Third quarter sludge and soil samples will be collected this week in anticipation of land application to follow in September. The EDMR – Discharge Monitoring Report was prepared by Lachowicz and city clerk Massman submitted it via the EDMR portal; denoting acceptance. Mayor Wieberg questioned what the average flow rate for the plant was. Lachowicz shared that flow typically averages 50-60,000 gallons per day aside any large rain event. Flow rates are anticipated to rise some, with the resumption of school and the additional water usage at those campuses. There was no update provided regarding the solicited lab pricing fees from Innovatia Lab in Fayette, MO. No concerns for the plant or lift stations were identified.

Mayor Wieberg noted plans for work to occur; raising a manhole; at the residence located at 112 East Main Street which is in the pathway for a road that is being constructed. Gaskets, replacement seals, and other supply needs were noted to be on hand. Mayor Wieberg will coordinate with Lachowicz and provide photo documentation of all repairs made.

Stacia Bax-Clean Water Section Chief from MO DNR Financial Assistance Center next presented to council members information regarding possible funding opportunities available through DNR; some handouts and a grant application was provided. Electronic versions were requested by clerk-Massman to share amongst all members; which Bax will provide. Details of the Clean Water Engineering Report Grant (ERG) were shared. The engineering assistance grant can award an 80% grant; with a maximum amount up to \$50,000; with an entity matching 20% (\$12,500) totaling \$62,500 for qualifying eligible communities.

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Osage County Sheriff Michael Bonham presented to City Hall and joined in the council meeting already in progress.

Bax continued; noting that the city had provided a copy of a prepared draft RFP (Request for Proposal) for engineering services for wastewater treatment plan upgrades for review. Bax shared the draft RFP with a DNR project manager; and it was determined that in order to be comply with the grant program requirements; some additional information (three items highlighted) would need to be added to the proposal prior to solicitation. An outline RFP will be provided for revision considerations. Bax next spoke about the scope of work for an intended project; outlining a sample project evaluation of a possible \$2.15 million project; sharing that presently the city is “teetering”; with respect to accessibility of an affordability grant; but otherwise, could be considered for low interest rate loan repayments; noted to be presently hovering around 1.5-1.6% integrated on a 20-year note. Projects are noted to be ranked according to need, affordability, and qualified funding. All variables are subject to fluctuations throughout. Bax shared that currently there has been noted competitiveness within the industry. Sewer rate increases for the city would not harm the ERG application process. Once an ERG application is submitted, a project manager would be assigned to assist the city moving forward. On average, a trajectory from initiation to completion was anticipated to be 3-4 years at minimum. Discussions and other hypothetical scenarios followed.

Emilie Peterson-Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider from Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. next presented to council members follow up details related to the sewer rate analysis her organization had previously provided. Peterson had developed and reviewed the preliminary rate analysis for project considerations; denoting income needed to fund a new project; basing it on 2% of median household income and the number of current sewer connections. A sewer rate of approximately \$102 per month was rendered. Ongoing proactive initiative was encouraged. Alderman Chris Dickneite noted that the information being provided by representatives from DNR and MAP will help to “paint the picture” for the public and citizens of Westphalia; supporting the reasoning and justifications of need for sewer rate increases. A motion was made by Alderman Chris Dickneite, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to submit a Clean Water Engineering Report Grant (ERG) application for financial assistance considerations. Aldermen votes: Dennis Peterman-yes, Chris Dickneite-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. Ongoing considerations for the development of a new sewer plant and the need to increase sewer rates was tabled.

Next, Mayor Delbert Wieberg invited Osage County-Sheriff Michael Bonham to address the council. Sheriff Bonham provided a community update; sharing that the Sheriff’s department has been monitoring traffic in the area; especially with the start of the new school year. Sheriff Bonham noted that some changes have been rendered by the Fatima school district, altering release times for student drivers and buses. The new Hwy 133 bypass was also discussed; planning meetings continue to be in progress with MoDOT; which local law enforcement and emergency staff services are participating in for preparation. Sheriff Bonham noted that his department is currently fully staffed and is available to continue to collaborate and address any concerns that the City of Westphalia or its residents might have.

Street Sign – Intersection at Bridge Avenue, Linn Street and Devin Lane was introduced as the next agenda item. Mayor Wieberg noted that he has received concerns related to traffic safety at this intersection. A Yield sign is noted to be the only signage present near the intersection; along Linn Street. Discussions followed regarding placement of Stop signs that may better serve traffic safety concerns; especially related to the future anticipation of the Pentecostal Bridge reopening on County Road 611. Stop signs and posts were noted to be

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available in the city maintenance shed. A motion was made by Alderman Chris Dickeite, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to remove the Yield sign at the intersection of Linn Street and Bridge Avenue; Stop signs will be erected at the intersection; one on the right side of Bridge Avenue and one on the right side of Devin Lane; allowing both Linn Street and County Road 611 to be throughways. Aldermen votes: Dennis Peterman-yes, Chris Dickneite-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. MO 811 will be contacted by Mayor Wieberg to initiate locate requests.

Next on the agenda was the annual Fall clean-up event. The weekend of October 3rd - 4th 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 Caitlin Berhorst, seconded by Alderman Chris Dickneite, to approve hosting the Fall Clean-up; on the weekend of October 3rd - 4th, 2026, anticipating approval by both Republic Services and Millard Family Chapels. Aldermen votes: Dennis Peterman-yes, Chris Dickneite-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, city clerk-Massman will produce a flyer and distribute the mailer to city residents.

The clerk's report followed as the next agenda item. City clerk Massman provided a handout and reviewed the month's task pad items. Correspondences and preparatory plans for the 2026 Car Show continue with the event organizer. The Car Show was approved to be held within city limits on September 11, 2026. Preparations for the August Public Hearing Notice regarding the establishment of the 2026 Tax Levy's and 2026 Pro Forma for the Osage County Clerk's office and State Auditor are in progress. An upgrade to city's computer system was completed. Compilations for the annual SRD Financial Statement continue for the State Auditor. The Biennial Billboard Permit was reviewed and processed. The EDMR – Discharge Monitoring Report was completed and filed with MO DNR. Receipt of the annual MRPC Renewal of Membership was shared and reviewed.

Mayor Delbert Wieberg and Aldermen discussed membership with MRPC and voiced desire to remain active with the association. A motion was made by Alderman Chris Dickeite, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to maintain Basic membership with MRPC; approving payment of the \$500 annual membership fee. Aldermen votes: Dennis Peterman-yes, Chris Dickneite-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. City clerk Massman will render payment for the renewal fee and assist in completion of membership contracts.

Lastly, was other business on the agenda. No items identified.

The next city meeting date was set for Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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