

MEETING MINUTES OF 9/8/2025

Posted: Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Notice of Public Meeting

Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting
Washington Parish Courthouse
908 Washington Street, Franklinton, La 70438
Council Chambers
Monday, September 8, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA:

Item No. 1: Call to Order: Council chairwoman Kim Wagner called the meeting to order.

Item No. 2: Invocation: The invocation was led by Councilman Steven Branch.

Item No. 3: Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was led by Councilman McMasters.

Item No. 4: Roll Call: Council Clerk Jesse Applewhite called the roll. Present were Clark Harry, Steven Branch, Reginald McMasters, Joe Culpepper, and Kim Wagner. Not present was Carley King and Shawn Rice.

Item No. 5: Approval of Minutes: August 25, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the Council votes to approve the minutes? *No one came forward.*

Councilman Culpepper: As no one has come forward, I make a motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2025, regular Council meeting.

Councilman Harry: Second.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: I have a motion by Councilman Culpepper and a second by Councilman Harry.

Roll call of the vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) Harry, Branch, McMasters, Culpepper, Wagner

NAYS: ()

ABSTAIN: ()

ABSENT: (2) King, Rice

Item No. 6: Proclamation: Honoring the Life of Matthew Tate.

President Ryan Seal read the Proclamation and presented it to the wife and son of the late Mr. Tate.

Item No. 7: Proclamation: National Library Card Sign Up Month.

President Seal read the Proclamation and presented it to the Director of the Washington Parish Library Sonnet Ireland and staff.

Item No. 8: Sonnet Ireland: Director of the Washington Parish Library.

Assistant Branch Manager of the Bogalusa Branch Emmet Guy and Franklinton Branch Manager Nikita Beauclair spoke about their role in the library system and what it has to offer.

Ms. Ireland spoke about the variety of programs the Washington Parish Library offers and the different tools available to the public such as Wi-Fi, computer and printer access. She also spoke of plans to renovate the Angie Branch location.

Item No. 9: Ordinance No. 25-765: Introduce and Ordinance Accepting Luna Lane as a Parish Road.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: This is an introduction only.

Item No. 10: Ordinance No. 25-766: Introduce an Ordinance to Grant a Predial Servitude of Way and Passage to the Washington Parish Communication District for the Benefit of a 0.028 Acre Parcel of Land Including the Communications Tower.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: This is an introduction only.

Item No. 11: Ordinance No. 25-767: Introduce an Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of Immovable Property Owned by the Washington Parish Government Including Improvements, if Any, Being 28.228 Acres, More or Less, Located in Section 32, Township 3 South, Range 12 East in Washington Parish, Louisiana and Authorizing the Washington Parish President to Sign Any and All Documents Necessary to Accomplish This Act of Sale.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: This is an introduction only.

Item No. 12: Ordinance No. 25-768: Introduce an Ordinance to Amend the 2025 Annual Operating budget for the Washington Parish Government.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: This is an introduction only.

Item No. 13: Public Participation:

Penny Moses of Angie, who is on the Washington Parish Library Board of Directors, spoke about the lack of participation and availability of the board members and how it could negatively affect the library and in turn, the community.

Sheriff Jason Smith submitted a statement to the Council to read on his behalf since he was unable to attend the meeting. Councilman Culpepper read the statement which included updated information on the issue of overpopulation in the current Washington Parish Jail and plans for a new jail. Smith also wanted to inform everyone that they are working with Washington Parish Schools to train and plan for critical incidents, specifically school shootings, which will ensure the safety of students and staff.

Councilman Culpepper expressed the importance of the critical incident plans in schools and having frequent drills allowing students to rehearse a possible situation.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: Would anyone else from the public like to come forward and speak before the Council votes to close public participation?

No one came forward.

Councilman McMasters: As no one has come forward, I make a motion to close public participation.

Councilman Branch: Second.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: I have a motion by Councilman McMasters and a second by Councilman Branch.

Roll call of the vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) Harry, Branch, McMasters, Culpepper, Wagner

NAYS: ()

ABSTAIN: ()

ABSENT: (2) King, Rice

Item No. 14: President's Report:

Director of Finance/Personnel Lacy Burris provided a copy of the Major Funds Budget to Actual Financial Report and explained it in detail. She also announced the new road paver has been ordered and will allow the parish road crews to catch up on previous jobs that were paused due to issues with the old road paver.

Director of Public Works Alex Sumrall gave reports for the month of August.

Transportation Report:

- Drainage Projects: 34 roads totaling 61 miles
- Cold Mix Distributed: 21 tons over 12 roads totaling 17 miles
- Hot Mix Distributed: 280 tons over 12 roads totaling 18 miles
- Culverts Installed: 12
- Graded Roads: 57 roads totaling 72 miles
- Gravel Hauled: 80 yards over 3 roads totaling 7 miles
- Bushhogged Roads: 183 roads totaling 326 miles
- Trash Picked Up: 183 bags on 20 roads
- Road Signs Installed: 21 on 11 roads
- Parish Ground Maintenance: cleaned/cut 7 locations

Permit Report:

- Reconnects: 92
- New Construction: 8
- Mobile Home: 15
- Remodel: 5
- Elevation: 4
- Portable Sheds: 3

Parish President Ryan Seal commented on the recent 2025 Opening of the Court Ceremony. He also spoke of his meeting with the Outdoor Hospitality Industry group. Seal informed everyone of some upcoming events happening in September including the next Parish Pulse meeting and the Washington Parish Fair flag raising ceremony. He spoke about September being National Recovery Month and the Hope Alive Empty Chair Project which would have chairs positioned on the steps of the courthouse building to represent lives lost to drug addiction in Washington Parish. President Seal reminded everyone of the upcoming election on October 11, 2025. He also stated that the parish got another report from the Environmental Consultant which determined Washington Parish was cleared from any effects of the Smitty's fire.

Item No. 15: Council Discussion:

The Council thanked the Washington Parish Library for all their hard work and effort put into the library and the community. Condolences were given to the Tate family. They also encouraged everyone to support our students from Washington Parish Schools at all the sporting events happening this season.

Item No. 16: Adjourn:

Council Chairwoman Wagner: May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Councilman McMasters: I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Culpepper: Second.

Council Chairwoman Wagner: I have a motion to adjourn by Councilman McMasters and a second by Councilman Culpepper.

Roll call of the vote as follows:

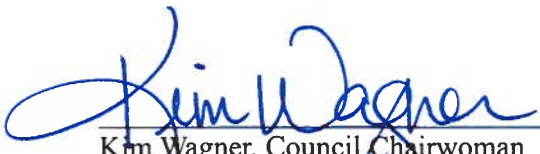
YEAS: (5) Harry, Branch, McMasters, Culpepper, Wagner

NAYS: ()

ABSTAIN: ()

ABSENT: (2) King, Rice

Council Chairwoman Wagner: Meeting adjourned.


Kim Wagner, Council Chairwoman
Washington Parish Council


Jesse Applewhite, Clerk
Washington Parish Council

Order of Voting

Kim Wagner	Carley King
Clark Harry	Joe Culpepper
Steven Branch	Shawn Rice
Reginald McMasters	

The next meeting will be held on September 22, 2025.

In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Jesse Applewhite, Clerk to the Council, at 985.839.7825, describing the assistance that is necessary.

(All Ordinances, Resolutions, and attachments in their entirety are available at the office of the Clerk to the Council at 909 Pearl Street, Franklinton, Louisiana or at 985.839.7825, or wpgov.org.)

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