

January 4, 2017

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting January 4, 2017 at City Hall. Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order, with the following council members present: Freddie Andrews, Randy Fisher, Steve Hoots, Bill Jacquot, Barb Nash, Chris Renner and City Clerk, Brenda Robinson.

Also in attendance were: Barb Hoots, Deputy City Clerk; Amy Brown, City Treasurer; John Coonrod, City Attorney; Carmen Ensinger, *Scott County Times*; Leland Evans, Assistant Supt. of Public Works

MOTION: Chris Renner moved and Barb Nash seconded to pay bills as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Steve Hoots moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

George Lindsey, Police Chief was not able to get his monthly report. Bill Jacquot asked about the progress on Bryce Kennedy (new part-time officer). Lindsey said they had not received his background check yet. Lindsey said he wants to get off the 911 board. He stated the mayor and Bob Smith have shown interest in being on the board. The board meets the 2nd Thursday of each even month. Lindsey said he was trying to get things lined up so he could retire; Chris Renner agreed with him. Lindsey said the 911 board has wanted to go with Morgan County, but they did not know what the cost would be and once you lose 911 you are not able to get it back. He was afraid that Morgan County would not handle the city utility calls.

Mayor McIntire said John Simmons had a long day with his dad having surgery then having to admit his wife to the hospital, so Leland Evans came to the meeting. Evans passed out the monthly report. He said he would talk to Vortman's Computer Service & Sales about prices for 2 computers. All the maintenance employees have to take gas modules and it takes a long time to do them on the current computers. He will get bids then talk to the purchasing committee so they can decide at the February meeting.

Mayor Rex McIntire told the council that Randy Ford had turned in a work release for light duty. Freddie Andrews said they had never let anyone else come back on light duty before. Mayor McIntire thanked everyone who filed for elected offices. There are races in every ward and city clerk. The mayor and treasurer are running unopposed.

McIntire wanted to pay tribute to the 8th grade girls' basketball team for being state champions. He also wanted to pay tribute to the high school girls' basketball team. They are currently ranked in the top 10 in Class 1A in the state. They have a 16-0 record and recently won the Beardstown Holiday Tournament. He also acknowledged the 7th grade girls' basketball team for winning 2nd place in the state.

McIntire read a letter from the Historical Society asking for a donation of \$1,000 to help pay the city gas bill at the Depot. The city has helped them for several years. Randy Fisher said they are lean on money right now and this will be a big help. They host doorbell dinners there.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Barb Nash seconded to donate \$1,000 (credit) to the Winchester Depot for gas. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

McIntire said membership dues for the Morgan/Scott Economic Development are due. The dues are \$1,200 a year. Morgan County has helped us out with several things.

MOTION: Steve Hoots moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to renew membership with Morgan/Scott Economic Development for \$1,200. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

McIntire announced the winners for Christmas Lighting Contest:

1st place: AJ & Hillary Shewmake - \$50 check, \$25 Visa gift card & \$25 Buck & Jo's certificate.

2nd place: Levi & Janet Feenstra - \$50 check, \$25 Firehouse Bar & Grill gift certificate

3rd place: Lawrence & Sherry Coultas - \$25 check & \$25 Pharmacy Plus gift certificate

Honorable mention: Colin & Jackie Kuchy - \$25 certificate from Pitt Stop

Honorable mention: Lynette Schafer - \$25 certificate from Winchester Bowl

Honorable mention: Phil McLaughlin - \$25 certificate from Dorsey's Sentry Hardware

Honorable mention: John Peters - \$25 check from Mayor Rex and Caryl McIntire

Donors were:

United Community Bank

Farmers State Bank

First National Bank

Dick Coon, State Farm Insurance

Dorsey's Sentry Hardware

Anders Barber Shop (Clem & Retha)

Winchester Bowl

Pharmacy Plus

Pitt Stop

Buck & Jo's Too

Firehouse Bar & Grill

Marshall's Chevrolet

Mayor and Caryl McIntire

McIntire said John Simmons and him would get with Mary Pranger about the water problem at her house.

John Coonrod, City Attorney presented an Ordinance Amending Section 24-2-2 and Motor Vehicle Schedule D of Chapter 24, Article V of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. This ordinance designates Market Street from Hill Street to Moore Street being a one-way street west bound. This will assist Pharmacy Plus with their drive up window.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Randy Fisher seconded to approve Ordinance 844, An Ordinance Amending Section 24-2-2 and Motor Vehicle Schedule D of Chapter 24, Article V of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod said the city had obtained ownership of the Dobson property at 209 S. Main with a fee simple title. The remaining mortgage was released on December 28. Now we need to move forward on demolishing the building. Send out specs for demolition with completion completed within 30 – 45 days. The city cut off the water and gas so when the building is demolished the city will cut off the sewer.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to solicit bids to demolish the house at 209 S. Main. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod stated there was a dangerous dog incident earlier and they are following up on it.

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Randy Fisher said the cemetery committee met, then he passed out a paper with some new and old rule and regulations for the city cemetery. Grave owners do not maintain some things. Some of the footstones are above ground and need to be below ground level. He asked council to go over the rules and get with the committee if there are any things they liked changed. Saddles can remain on top of the tombstones and anything else that is on the base of the stone, so it will be easier to mow. Fisher would like to put out bid specs for mowing the cemetery as well as the parks and library. Maybe have a 2-year contract with option of another year, and a clause stating can terminate any time. Return the bids by February 1 and open at council meeting.

Fisher talked about the water line at Jim and Millie Kirkpatrick's. He would like to abandon the current water line. McIntire told him to sit tight; Neihaus said he would work with the city to fix this.

Freddie Andrews asked about correcting the tile behind Alan Maberry's property. He said it would get worse with the spring rains. The city needs to get an easement.


Andrews suggested we get all the new gas customers we can get with the affordable housing development. The gas main on Commercial should have easements. Do not dead-end gas lines but make a loop, which would be better for everyone.

Amy Brown, City Treasurer passed out her monthly report. She will make some transfers next month.

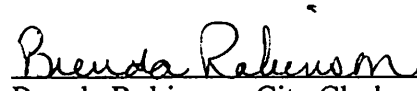
McIntire said he checked with Melinda Hembrough about her house on North Main just north of the City Library. Melinda is not in any hurry to sell, but would be asking about \$69,000 or \$70,000. It was suggested maybe see if she would sell or lease the back yard for library parking.

Freddie Andrews said there are 3 or 4 new firemen and they would need some equipment in the near future. They are working on the truck they had donated to the fire department. He was asked if there were any grants out there to help and he said no there wasn't. Now they are taking over the city of Manchester only for fire calls.

MOTION: Chris Renner moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.; the earliest adjourn ever.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Brenda Robinson, City Clerk