

February 1, 2017

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting February 1, 2017 at City Hall. Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order, with the following council members present: Randy Fisher, Steve Hoots, Bill Jacquot, Barb Nash, Chris Renner and City Clerk, Brenda Robinson. Freddie Andrews was absent.

Also in attendance were: Barb Hoots, Deputy City Clerk; Amy Brown, City Treasurer; George Lindsey, Police Chief; John Coonrod, City Attorney; Carmen Ensinger, *Scott County Times*; concerned citizens, Ruth Early, Nancy Stice, Teri Little and Hillary Shewmake.

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

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

Mayor McIntire began the meeting stating Freddie Andrews had a family emergency and would not be in attendance. John Simmons's brother Jim is bad and they called the family in; he is at the Scott County Nursing Center. He took a few minutes to talk about the devastating fire in White Hall. He mentioned the devastating fire in Franklin that killed a mother and her two (2) children. He said we needed to keep all these people in our thoughts and prayers.

Teri Little and Hillary Shewmake addressed the council about the increased speeding and racing on Coultas Road. Little stated she knew it wasn't the police departments fault, they had been doing their part. Little said they come out of town from Jefferson Street and pick up speed. She and her dad were walking one evening and they tried to stop one kid and he just moved over and laughed at them. They found out who the kid was, and the father took the license plate off the vehicle so he can't drive it. McIntire said he should have been given a ticket for reckless driving. There are little kids out in that area now and they are afraid someone will get hurt. They used to have people ride their bikes out there, but haven't seen them in a while. McIntire stated Police Chief Lindsey needs to patrol out there and write tickets then maybe they would slow down.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

George Lindsey, Police Chief passed out his monthly report as follows:

Domestics – 3; Suicide threat – 1; Involuntary medical evaluation – 1; Civil property exchange – 1; Burglary (residence) – 1; Disabled motorist – 1; Burglary alarms – 3; Criminal trespass – 1; Bar fight – 1; Auto theft – 2; Felony theft – 1; Well-being – 2; and Speeding complaint – 1. Lindsey commented on the auto theft they had the person in jail, but hadn't recovered the vehicle yet.

Lindsey reminded the council they needed to replace him on the 911 board since he had resigned. He suggested Bob Smith.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to nominate Bob Smith to replace Police Chief Lindsey on the 911 board to represent the city. It was stated the county commissioners would have to approve this. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Lindsey stated he took his police car to Waid's and they hooked it up to a machine; they tightened a hose. The smell is gone and there was no charge. He stated he had ordered uniforms in March of 2016 and they just came in last week costing \$1,900.

Mayor McIntire suggested tabling John Simmons part of the meeting. One thing he wanted to bring up was the ICC was here last week. They had recently sent out a survey and had only received a few back. Mayor McIntire commented that it was imperative that the customers respond to the gas survey.

McIntire stated they have had two (2) meetings about the affordable housing. The old trailers are removed and they should begin soon. There will be four (4) total units at the old Blue Villa and old Sunset Restaurant. The city engineers and affordable housing engineers met and things are kosher with what has to be done. There will be six (6) different sub divisions. Most will have a common driveway. The ones on Cross Street will have their own driveways. Engineers discussed the setbacks and sizes of the lots. They want to go with gas on twelve (12) and hopefully all sixteen (16) will be on gas. There is a sewer problem on Cross Street, so will use a pumping system to run to sewers on Cherry Street. The gas lines will be ran by city employees. The city will have twenty (20) new residential customers.

McIntire said they met with JDRC and there were people from USDA. Mr. Reynolds had information from rural development. They grant money to businesses or municipalities with a USDA Application. The city could receive \$99,000 for infrastructural improvements to make downtown more attractive, with sidewalks, lighting, landscaping and street repairs. McIntire will begin working on the application. Submission date is March 31, 2017.

John Coonrod, City Attorney reported on the proposed new subdivisions. We will need to engage the services of the City Engineers (Benton's) to review proposed preliminary subdivision plats. The subdivision code has not been updated since 1995 and needs to be brought up to date. Also, some discrepancies were discovered in the Zoning Code and will need to be cleaned up.

Coonrod presented the new city cemetery ordinance for council approval. This ordinance amends Section 10-1-5 of Chapter 10, Article I of Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois and if passed goes into effect March 1, 2017. All cemetery deeds now state that they are subject to city regulations.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Chris Renner seconded to approve Ordinance 845 – An Ordinance Amending Section 10-1-5 of Chapter 10, Article I of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod brought council up to date on the Maberry easement. A large area has caved in on the city's designated drain. There is a large Oak tree in the line and there are issues that the tree might be injured. The landowners have not yet responded to letters. The city may have to obtain an easement on the Coon property.

Coonrod reported on the Dobson demolition. He proposed advertising through February 28 and open bids on March 1, 2017. There is a scope of the demolition at city hall for review.

Coonrod stated he would like to attend the Annual City Attorney Seminar in Bloomington on March 31, from 8 – 5:30. He will donate his time and requested the city pay the \$175 fee and mileage to attend.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Barb Nash seconded to send City Attorney John Coonrod to the Annual City Attorney Seminar in Bloomington, March 31, with him donating his time. The city will pay the \$175 seminar fee and pay mileage. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Randy Fisher would like to table opening the mowing bids at this time. He commented that he would like to see all department heads figure out what their office needs are and the cost to do this for a year, an actual operating budget. This should show what the city departments need to focus on.

Bill Jacquot stated the gas department needs two (2) computers to do their module training. They received bids from Vortman's; each computer would run about \$700. The police department received some laptops from State Farm and will loan them to the gas department. Vortman's can update them for the gas department for \$130 each. The gas department will have to purchase a printer. Police Chief Lindsey said he has eight (8) unused laptop computers.

MOTION: Chris Renner moved and Barb Nash seconded to upgrade two (2) of the police department computers for the gas department for \$130 each plus purchase a printer. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Jacquot said they had looked at a used police car and have decided this is not the route to take. They have decided to pursue a pre-application from USDA Rural Development for a police car. This grant could qualify the city for a 55% grant not to exceed \$25,000. This needs to be in the application and needs to include all equipment needed. The purchasing committee, mayor and police chief will meet to decide what type of vehicle to purchase.

Amy Brown passed out her monthly report. She would like to make a permanent transfer from the General Fund to the Library Fund in the amount of \$25,000.

MOTION: Steve Hoots moved and Barb Nash seconded to transfer \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Library Fund. Roll call resulted in four (4) yeas and one (1) abstention. Randy Fisher abstained. Motion carried.

Brenda Robinson, City Clerk read a letter from the Post-Prom Committee asking for a donation for their event. They have been providing a safe, drug free environment for the kids after prom for several years. In the past the city has donated \$50.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to donate \$50 to the Winchester High School Post Prom Committee. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.


Robinson reported there is a gas training seminar in Springfield, March 16. John Simmons would like to send Leland Evans and Bill McNeece. The cost is \$50 each.


MOTION: Steve Hoots moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to send Leland Evans and Bill McNeece to the Gas Training Seminar, March 16 in Springfield. Cost will be \$100. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire stated Eric Tuey had two (2) dog calls and took one (1) dog to the vet during the month of January. He reported mileage of 35 miles.

The council was supposed to go into closed session to discuss personnel, but the Mayor said he and Police Chief Lindsey had discussed the matter and it was on hold for right now.

MOTION: Chris Renner moved and Barb Nash seconded to “end this meeting”. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.


Rex McIntire, Mayor


Brenda Robinson, City Clerk