

June 7, 2017

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting June 7, 2017 at City Hall. Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order, with the following council members present: Freddie Andrews, Ron Bell, Lawrence Coultas, Randy Fisher, Steve Hoots, Bill Jacquot and City Clerk, Brenda Robinson.

Also in attendance were: Barb Hoots, Deputy City Clerk; Amy Brown, City Treasurer; George Lindsey, Police Chief; John Simmons, Supt. of Public Works; John Coonrod, City Attorney; Carmen Ensinger, *Scott County Times*; Bill Sleeman, Benton & Associates; Joe Green, Gary LaForge, Windsor Homes; Becky Bigelow, Winchester Picnic; John Paul Coonrod and Chuck Frost, Winchester Civic Group; Cheryl Thomas and Mary Pranger.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to pay bills as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Steve Hoots seconded to approve and dispense of the reading of the minutes from the May 3, 2017 council meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to approve the minutes of the special meeting, May 23. Roll call resulted in four (4) yeas and two (2) abstentions. Ron Bell and Randy Fisher abstained. Motion carried.

Becky Bigelow, member of Community Picnic invited everyone to the picnic at the fairgrounds, July 15. She thanked the city employees for all their work last year getting the car show set up. Last year they had around 150 cars and this year they are planning on around 200 cars and hopefully more. She hopes the city employees can help again with the car show and find places for all of them. The parade will start at 10 a.m. and she mentioned there will be a petting zoo and face painting for kids, a rock climbing wall and something for veterans. The Fire Department will do the cooking. Last year there was a beer run on Friday before the picnic, but since the Morgan County Fair has a band that night they don't know if they will have a beer run. They plan a Glow Run for Thursday evening, the 13th. There will be a movie in Monument Park at dusk. Becky was wondering if the city could spray the park for bugs. She was told it will be taken care of. There will be another raffle consisting of ¼ beef, ½ hog from Mayor McIntire and family, set of tires from Marshall's and other things. The proceeds from the raffle will go to the Civic Group, Flag Fund, Picnic and Monument Fund. The profits from the food stand is split with the organizations that work. The PEO will be selling lemonade shakeups. The city looks good on the holidays with the flags flying. Lawrence Coultas said "A BIG THANK YOU" for doing this.

John Paul Coonrod, Civic Group gave an update on the Farmers Market and Music on the Square. There has been fresh produce for a month now. Kids are not charged to have a booth. The Farmers Market is every Thursday from 4 – 7 p.m. The music on the square will begin on June 8 with Tapestry and will continue each Thursday until August. There will be food for purchase. This looks to be a successful event. Coonrod thanked the city for the use of the facilities.

Chuck Frost, Civic Group said the group has applied for a 501(c) non-profit status. This could take several months. With the 501 (c) the group can give donations. The Civic Group has procured light poles to be placed in Douglas Park. They will use 35-watt bulbs. Justin Daws purchased the poles for \$1,200. The Civic Group will donate them but will not be able to help with electricity. It was decided to get two (2) bids for electrical work and get them installed to use on Thursday nights. We need to focus on downtown as that is the future of the city.

Coonrod urged everyone to go online and complete the Co-op Grocery Store survey. This will not compete with Lashmett Meat Market. They will give this tally to Sean Park. It will be a smaller and more streamlined grocery store. It may take up to 8-months to get the money arranged. There was talk about logo branding with murals to work hand in hand with the city. A city mapping may be in the future costing \$2,000. **Mayor McIntire** told council the Times Office has been sold, so hopefully that is a plus.

Mary Pranger said she contacted Eric Tuey about her water problems and he is taking it under advisement. She was advised to talk to her neighbors and maybe share the cost of re-routing the water, since it falls on her property. She was told this is not a zoning or city problem and since the city does not have a building code there is not much we can do. Mayor McIntire said he would go with Mary to talk to neighbors and try to work something out. She asked about maybe finding someone to waterproof her basement. She was told it would be expensive.

Cheryl Thomas asked council “What are your thoughts on Hill Street?” She has a copy of the assessment the city did on the property. This assessment was for South Main and not Hill Street. There is no record of it being a public street. She said she may have to put a retaining wall, but can’t afford to do it or she may have to get an attorney which she can’t afford either.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works passed out his monthly report. He had 32 locates (leaks on these lines) 13 on South Hill; 7 on East Lewis St; and 10 on North Green. There was a leak on service line at 23 South Mechanic and will cost about \$2,000 to replace. He would like to set up a meeting with the water and gas committees about old lines, etc. Ron Bell said he told him when he was off and to call to set up a meeting with Freddie Andrews also.

Mayor McIntire said get bids from Bigelow’s and Gregory’s for wiring the new lights in Douglas Park. Make sure the base specs are enough to hold the lights. It shouldn’t be too expensive since Gregory just did the breakers.

McIntire suggested adjusting the speed limit on East Cherry Street, since it goes from 55 mph to 30 mph. He suggested going from 55 mph to 40 mph then 30mph. Will have to get approval from IDOT. He also suggested the speed limit on North Main be 35 mph from Old 36 to the old city limits at the park. He suggested maybe speed limit on Old Route 36 be 45 mph from North Main to West Cherry. He has heard a lot of trucks blow their horns with people pulling out in front of them and commented someone is going to get hurt. City Attorney will send a letter to IDOT requesting changes.

John Coonrod, City Attorney said there were engineers from two (2) firms to review the three (3) subdivisions plats at Blue Villa, Cherry Street and Coultas Road and the parcel on Mechanic Street. Joe Green and Gary LaForge are representing Windsor Homes and Bill Sleeman, Benton & Associates, representing the City. Sleeman said he went through everything with a fine toothcomb and made corrections for water and sewer. EPA is writing the permits and sanitary is in process with guarantee of performance. The three (3) subdivisions are good to go. The Coultas Road subdivision meets all the requirements.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Ron Bell seconded to approve the three (3) subdivisions plats known as Blue Villa, Cherry Street (to be Independence St.) and Coultas Road. Roll call resulted in four (4) yeas, one (1) present and one (1) nay. Freddie Andrews voted present and Steve Hoots voted no. Motion carried.

Coonrod presented plats of survey and consider each plat separately. First plat is West Jefferson and Elm Street, Lot 4 County Clerk Division, taken corner for city property. On Cross Street across from the High School, Block 11 in Harlin Addition, Parcel 1 & 2, two (2) easements. The city will own easements with water and sewer on the East and the same on the West side of said property.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to approve parcel Lot 4 conveyance to the City of Winchester. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) present. Freddie Andrews voted present. Motion carried.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to accept easement for 8-inch sewer line and 6-inch water line on Cross Street across from the High School. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) present. Freddie Andrews voted present. Motion carried.

Coonrod received the easements from Jeff and Gina Davis on their property on Commercial St. for gravity flow package lift station.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to accept the easement form Jeff and Gina Davis on Commercial Street. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) present. Freddie Andrews voted present. Motion carried.

Coonrod said the Mechanic site Block 18, Pittman property, was surveyed into four (4) parcels with three (3) building sites. The zoning approved a 5-foot variance set back. Tract 4, at the bottom of the hill has a sewer easement and water crosses the property. The conveyance maintains the waterway and will benefit the city. Coonrod suggests the city accept tract 4, which may eliminate the need for a water line easement. Windsor Homes is to give the city tract 4 for \$2.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Ron Bell seconded to accept tract 4 on Mechanic Street. Roll call resulted in three (3) yeas and three (3) nays. Voting nay were Freddie Andrews, Lawrence Coultas and Steve Hoots. Mayor McIntire had to break the tie by voting yea. Motion carried. Mayor McIntire stated in his four (4) years as mayor he has not had to break a tie.

Coonrod presented the annual appropriations ordinance. The total appropriation is \$9,377,600. The city does not plan to spend this much, but it needs to be appropriated.

MOTION: Steve Hoots moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to approve Ordinance 849 – Annual Appropriations Ordinance Fiscal Year 2017-2018 of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod passed out an ordinance pertaining to peddler's fee. Current peddler fee is \$10 daily or \$20 a year. This was changed to \$20 daily and setting a penalty of not less than \$25 to not more than \$750 per day for violation of ordinance.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Steve Hoots seconded to pass Ordinance 850, An Ordinance Amending Section 7-1-12 of Article I and Section 7-2-10 of Article II and Adding Section 7-1-13 of Article I and Section 7-2-11 of Article II of Chapter 7 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod presented council with a resolution authorizing emergency lighting. This resolution pertains to city police officers. An off duty officer, in their personal vehicle, can carry emergency lights to assist an on duty officer during an incident not just in the city limits, but anywhere.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve Resolution 2017-06-01 Authorizing Emergency Lighting. Roll call resulted in three (3) yeas and three (3) nays. Voting nay were Freddie Andrews, Steve Hoots and Bill Jacquot. Mayor McIntire had to break the tie again with a yea. Motion carried. McIntire said "I think we need to have some faith in the officers we hire."

Coonrod said the Dobson property was published for three (3) weeks in Scott County Times. It has since been found out the driveway is a shared drive. One bid was received and it was late coming in. Bill Jacquot suggested rejecting the bid, not open it, rebid and state it has a shared driveway. Publish it in the paper again.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to reject any and all bids on the Dobson property so South Main and re-advertise stating the shared drive. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) abstention. Ron Bell abstained. Motion carried.

Coonrod said he has the easement for gas line to old Blue Villa. The Maberry easement has not been signed. It was noted that High Street floods when it rains. In April the street showed big problems. The large oak tree is the problem. Maberry doesn't want it damaged. He was told they would do everything they could not to damage it and keep the tree alive.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Ron Bell agreed to Alan Maberry's term for the easement. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod discussed the alley behind the football field between Elm Street and Arch Street known as High School Street which could be vacated. Thomas Alley was discussed; nothing will be done with it either.

Coonrod said citations for a dangerous dog complaint ended with a \$300 fine. Another citation was sent for cat and dog feces. There is a pending citation for a nuisance violation.

George Lindsey, Police Chief said he talked to Paul Rueter about fixing the blue car and was told he would have to remove the seats and carpet costing around \$800.

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Randy Fisher: Chris Renner, Randy Fisher, Bill Jacquot and Barb Hoots met at the city cemetery and marked 37 stones for repair. Jacksonville Monument gave a bid of \$5,830 to repair the 37 stones. Randy recommended repairing the 37 stones and delay borrowing money until this fall.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to accept the bid from Jacksonville Monument for \$5,830 to repair the 37 stones. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Bill Jacquot wanted to thank Bill McNeece for all his help getting the pool up and running. Things are going smoothly. There was a problem with two (2) boys, but that has been addressed and it is better. The attendance per day has been around 91. Swim lessons and water safety are being taught and swim camp will begin July 3. Water aerobics, 3 days a week, will begin soon.

Bill Jacquot, chairman of the Purchasing Committee met with John Simmons, May 18 to discuss purchasing a mini excavator. The machine can dig graves and clean ditches. The Cat mini excavator 304E2 costs \$54,885.

Lawrence Coultas, chairman of the finance committee met and called the local banks for a loan. UCB had the lowest interest rate of 2.19%. A 5-year loan would be \$12,100 annually. Money would come from water, sewer, and gas funds. The city would have to pay \$4,885 up front.

Simmons said they could sell the trencher and get \$20,000 for it, which could go toward the purchase of the excavator.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to purchase the 304E2 mini excavator for \$54,885. Roll call resulted in four (4) yeas and two (2) nays. Freddie Andrews and Steve Hoots voted nay. Motion carried.

Steve Hoots, chairman of Building and Grounds Committee reported on the no smoking policy from the health department. He suggested making all city properties smoke free. A resolution will be presented at the meeting next month.

Ron Bell said Randy Ford asked him to pass out the water usage on water loss. Last year 12,426,500 gallons were lost. This is better, but still have some leaks out there.

Randy Fisher gave an update on the city library. Story hour had 79 kids and 14 adults for a total of 93 people at story hour. They are need of more parking. They received a \$1,000 grant and are in line for a \$5,000 grant from the Tracy Foundation. They were very impressed with the story hour. They service several surrounding communities and thought this one was the best.


Amy Brown, City Treasurer passed out her monthly report. The final payment for the balloon payments for the salt shed was made yesterday. The balloon payment of \$46,000 will be due next month or refinance. The funds will come out of streets and alley.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to go into closed session to discuss police personnel. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried and went into closed session at 11:13 p.m.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Randy Fisher seconded to come out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried came out of closed session at 11:20 p.m.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to extend more than 1,000 hours (no IMRF paid) for Caleb Handy with extreme circumstances. He has agreed to sign a release stating this. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Ron Bell seconded to adjourn meeting. Roll call resulted in two (2) nays and four (4) yeas. Freddie Andrews and Lawrence Coultas voted no. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Brenda Robinson, City Clerk