

November 1, 2017

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting November 1, 2017 at City Hall. Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order, with the following council members present: Ron Bell, Lawrence Coultas, Randy Fisher, Steve Hoots, Bill Jacquot 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 Simmons, Supt. of Public Works; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Carmen Ensinger, *Scott County Times*; Chuck Frost, Civic Group; Donna Lawrence, John & Katie Borgens.

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

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

**Mayor McIntire** started the meeting by telling everyone that while he normally ran a loose meeting, he would like everyone in attendance not to talk if not a council member, unless they raised their hand.

**John Borgens** stated they live in Thad and Dena Walker's house on Maple Street. He said the neighborhood is overrun by cats. He said one neighbor has about 60 cats that she feeds. He has taken about 30 out to the country to people that want cats to catch mice.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney** said the city has a code for cats; it is the same one used for dogs. Cats without owners or without tags may be impounded by the city. Coonrod presented three (3) options: streets and alley committee come up with a plan, the council could pass an ordinance to allow city to put down stray cats, or the city could simply impound stray cats until the owner, if any, pays to release the cat. The dog rescue does not want to deal with cats. The city could also prohibit leaving food outside for the purpose of feeding stray cats.

**Chuck Frost, Civic Group** gave an update on the group. He said the Haunted House only had 248 come through, not as good as last year, there were 415. After paying insurance, etc. they made \$400. He talked about the Gala, November 25 at the Old School Museum from 7 pm – 11 pm. Cost is \$40 a person or \$75 a couple. It is a dress up affair, sports coats and nice dresses. They will be heavy on hors d'oeuvres with wine tasting. There will be music and then a silent auction.

Another event planned is Hometown Christmas or Christmas on the Square. The Odd Fellows will be taking care of Santa this year. Santa arrives December 2 and will be at the Community Outreach; December 9 at Marshall's; December 16 at Pharmacy Plus; and December 23 at Donohue Barber Shop. There will be lots of vendors on the square.

**Chuck Frost** stated he heard there was interest in someone purchasing Dorsey's Sentry Hardware. **Mayor McIntire** said about 6-weeks ago someone had looked at the Winchester Hotel.

**Chuck Frost** stated they plan to start the Mapping sometime in February and March. It will take 6 weeks to complete the study. They will come back in about 4 weeks with the results. The group will be asking the city to help financially. The cost of the mapping is \$2,073. They will need about 60 people to help. The Civic Group is now a 501(C)3 organization and will try to get Illinois tax-free status. At the annual meeting, they elected the following officers: Chuck Frost, President, Scott Rogers, Treasurer and Jackie Kuchy, Secretary.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney** gave an update on the CO-OP grocery store. They have formed a steering committee and are working with Rural Affairs, and hope to finalize the plans next week so they will be looking for investors. Start-up investment will be around \$60,000. Frost said at the Rural Conference he attended last year, they said if each resident spent \$29 a week, which would be enough to keep the co-op open. Pittsfield has a new Ace Hardware coming to town.

Lastly, the Civic Group is planning to produce calendars with dates of the meetings and other important events, like the community picnic and car show. They need pictures. Ron Bell suggested each month have a different business on a page. Frost thought that was a good idea.

There will be ribbon cutting on Wednesday, November 8 for the Windsor homes on Jefferson and Elm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**George Lindsey, Police Chief** passed out his monthly report as follows: 1- missing juvenile; 1 – telephone harassment; 8 – speak to officers; 5 – domestic reports; 2 - accidents; 1 – suspicious person; 1 burning complaint; 1 – criminal damage/property; 1 – unruly student; 2 – disables motorist; 1 – lifeline calls; 1 – well-being check; 1 – theft; 1 - dog call; and 1 - truancy. Lindsey said the squad car had arrived and everything is ordered. They have talked about leaving it unmarked like his blue car. He said Caleb may be a full time office next month.

**John Simmons, Supt. of Public Works** passed out his monthly report. He stated they have had several water leaks, but wasn't as bad as they thought. Scott County had more locates than any other county in the state in 2015. Mark Howard has completed his training in Effingham.

**John Simmons** said they would be doing a big job tomorrow on West Cherry and will detour all vehicles to Commercial Street. They are going to cut across Cherry to run a 2-inch gas main at the affordable homes site. They already have the pipe.

**Rex McIntire, Mayor** said several questions have been asked about the old grocery store. The owners are removing the asbestos from the ceilings and floors. Then the building will be torn down and a convenience store will be built on the site.

**Mayor McIntire** said he had contacted Pam Hembrough about the Shive property. She stated they would know more next week after they meet with their attorney. Congressman LaHood was in town and had a packed house at city hall with business men. Mr. Dave Roberts, Winchester School Supt. and John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney among other local business people were in attendance. They had a nice discussion. Monday, Representative C. D. Davidsmeyer was here, but there wasn't a big crowd. Tomorrow IEC State Treasurer Mike Frerichs will be at city hall at 12:30 p.m.

**Mayor McIntire** said he would like to do a Christmas lighting contest again. He would contact businesses to see if they would donate like last year. 1<sup>st</sup> place will be \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will be \$75, 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be \$50 and honorable mention will be \$25. People need to come to city hall and sign up.

**Mayor McIntire** said Barb Nash and Bill Jacquot are on the TIF Committee as representatives of the council. Since Barb Nash is no longer on the council, he would like to appoint Lawrence Coultas to replace her.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved and Randy Fisher seconded to approve the appointment of Lawrence Coultas to replace Barb Nash on the TIF Committee. Roll call resulted in four (4) yeas and one (1) abstention. Lawrence Coultas abstained. Motion carried.

**Mayor McIntire** stated the fire siren stand behind city hall is in bad shape and perhaps should be looked into. The fire department is aware of it.

The squad car has already been discussed.

Windsor Home ribbon cutting will be at noon next Wednesday. Three homes, the one on Elm Street and Jefferson Street and one on Railroad Street will be rented right away. At South Mechanic the three houses will be available soon, then there will be one per week ready for rent.

**Mayor McIntire** talked about the USDA grant. He needs to get the bid sheet ready. John Simmons will be having double knee replacement surgery on December 1. He needs to get the bids for electrical and landscaping. Actual construction will not start until Spring.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney** presented the annual tax levy; it is the same as last month. Rate increased at 4.5%. The last few years it has been 5%. For the last few years the property values have been going up.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved and Ron Bell seconded to pass Ordinance 856 - An Ordinance Imposing a Tax in the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Aramark contract dispute – Coonrod informed the council of a contract dispute between Aramark and the city. Service had been poor for some time and the City had intended to discontinue the contract, but had missed the deadline by sending notice of its intent to discontinue less than sixty (60) days before the end of the contracts term. Aramark had interpreted our notice as a breach of contract, triggering a penalty of \$4,308.35. Coonrod had sent a letter to Aramark clarifying that the contract was still in effect. Lawrence Coultas offered to negotiate with Aramark for better terms.

**Attorney John Paul Coonrod** presented a resolution in support of Illinois Bicentennial Celebrations to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of adoption of Illinois Constitution of 1818 and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of admission to the union as a state.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to adopt Resolution 2017-11-1 – A Resolution in Support of Illinois Bicentennial Celebrations. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Attorney John Paul Coonrod** presented a sealed bid for the Dobson property on South Main. Steve Doolin gave a bid of \$475 for the property.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to reject the bid of \$475 from Steve Doolin for the Dobson property on South Main. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

#### **ALDERMAN REPORTS**

**Randy Fisher** – Margie Coonrod had retired from the Library Board and a replacement is needed. The mayor appointed Gina Glossop for the replacement.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved and Steve Hoots seconded to approve the appointment of Gina Glossop to replace Margie Coonrod on the Library Board. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Randy Fisher** said the personnel committee met and discussed hiring someone full time to replace Bob Smith when he resigns at the end of October. Their recommendation is to hire Caleb Handy at \$16 an hour to replace Bob Smith. He will maintain his current job at the prison where he has insurance, so he won't need insurance.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved and Randy Fisher seconded to hire Caleb Handy at \$16 per hour to replace Bob Smith who is resigning. No insurance needed. Roll call resulted in four (4) yeas and one (1) abstention. Steve Hoots abstained. Motion carried.

**Randy Fisher** said Charlie Shelts is getting close to his 1,000 hours. He will work until November 17 or before, depending on hours worked. Let him go at 980 hours.

**Bill Jacquot** said the Cemetery Committee met and talked about the unused mowing equipment deciding to sell them via sealed bids. There is a 2007 - 60-inch 445 John Deere with 1,011 hours; 2014 – two wheel drive with 950 hours; 3 – self propelled push mowers (not for sale); offer 3 chainsaws for sale. Retain the Gravely riding mower. They want to wait until February to advertise the items for sale. Lance Barnett was only given a one (1) year contract so will need to advertise for mowing the parks and library for one (1) year. That way we can be on the same rotation as the cemetery mowing.

**Lawrence Coultas** brought up the IML Risk Management Annual Contribution for 2018. Option #1 is the best deal. The Illinois Municipal League dues are \$250. This option has a 1% early pay discount. Contribution amount is \$59,673 minus \$596.73 = \$59,076.27 + \$250 dues = \$59,326.27 due November 17, 2017.

**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to continue with the IML Risk Management Annual Contribution of \$59,326.27 for 2018, pay by November 17 for a 1% discount. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Attorney John Paul Coonrod** said the Gas Committee had met and suggested that the connection fee be changed to \$475 per tap plus necessary materials. Coonrod presented Ordinance No. 587 to codify the change.

**Ron Bell** said the water leaks were not as bad as first thought. John Simmons got a verbal from the state to bore under Cherry Street. When anything on or under state highways is done, it needs state approval. The city is not equipped to work on the state highway.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 857 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 38, Article IV, Section 6 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Amy Brown, City Treasurer** passed out her monthly reports. She reported the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of taxes has been received. The TIF fund now has \$37,653.67 in the account.

**Brenda Robinson, City Clerk** updated the council about the City's Holiday Gathering at Hamilton's on December 14. The meal will consist of prime rib and fried chicken. There will be a cash bar. Robinson will bring desserts. All employees who worked for the city in 2017 are invited. Reservations are due November 30.

**Brenda Robinson** brought up the fact that the formal appointment of John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney had not been voted on. Mayor McIntire thought we had, he announced him for the position, but apparently no motion was made.


**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas to hire John Paul Coonrod as city attorney replacing John D. Coonrod. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Brenda Robinson** read a letter from WGS PAT asking for a donation for their Penny Carnival, January 20, 2018. The city has donated a family swimming pool pass in the past. They are hoping we could do that again this year.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Ron Bell seconded to donate a Family Pool Pass to the PAT for January 20. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

  
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Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
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Brenda Robinson, City Clerk