

March 7, 2018

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting March 7, 2018 at City Hall. Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order, with the following council members present: Ron Bell, Lawrence Coultas, Randy Fisher, Terry Gregory, Bill Jacquot and City Clerk, Brenda Robinson.

Also in attendance were: Amy Brown, City Treasurer; George Lindsey, Police Chief; John Simmons, Supt. of Public Works; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Carmen Ensinger, *Scott County Times*; Bill Sleeman, Benton & Associates; Chris Renner, Larry Robinson, Phil Pratt, Roger & Sandy Hurrelbrink, Darrell Howard, Chuck Frost, Winchester Civic Group, and Leigh Winner, Animal Control Officer.

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

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Ron Bell seconded to approve and dispense with the reading the minutes from the previous meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire introduced Jeff Pittman. Pittman will be replacing Steve Hoots who resigned in February, as Alderman/Ward I.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Randy Fisher seconded to appoint Jeff Pittman as Alderman/Ward I. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Brenda Robinson, City Clerk swore Jeff Pittman in as Alderman/Ward I and welcomed him to the council.

Sandy Hurrelbrink who lives on Willow Drive addressed the council on the low water pressure in the North East part of town. With more houses built in that part of town, it is going to get worse. McIntire had talked to Reg Benton a few years ago and he was looking for grants to build another one, the cost back then was around \$1,000,000. Bill Sleeman from Benton's said it is hard to get grants to build a water tower, you can get some for upgrades. Bill Jacquot asked about getting some booster stations to help increase the pressure. It was stated that might be the way to go for now but would be expensive. The pressure is lower North of Jefferson St.

Chuck Frost, Civic Group asked about the status of the grant funding for the square and wondering when it would start. McIntire said he hoped to get bid sheets out soon for electrical & landscape work. Hope to have the bids & people hired by the May meeting. Frost said they had some poles for the flags in Douglas Park. The group wanted to know if they could have things added to the city website calendar. Robinson said they could give them to her and she would get them on the calendar.

The mapping, Cultivating Your Community, begins next week at the First Baptist Church fellowship hall. This meeting is to set some goals and find out everyone's goals. Supper & babysitting is provided.

Frost said the committee plan to Paint the Town, this will be a mural on board than attached to the old Times office. The Old School Museum will be hosting a Smithsonian exhibit from October 1 to first weekend in December. The museum will be open longer hours.

Frost reported on the Rural Development Conference he along with Scott Rogers attended in Springfield. They learned about TIF changes. There was a session on Repurposing Old Buildings and how government is rural areas need to refocus services. The population in the cities are losing 5.3% and counties are losing 17%. Changes need to be made as the population dwindles. Rural partners with the mapping should have their results before the carnival comes to town in May.

It was the consensus of the council to okay the use of Douglas Park for the Farmers Market and Music on the Square on Thursday evening. McIntire would like to build a 30-foot concrete pad in the southeast part of the square for a stage for music in the park with part of cost by USDA Grant Funds. Frost said the Odd Fellows had built a stage and it works fine. So the concrete area is really not needed.

Frost, a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, asked permission to use Douglas Park to make Burgoo, April 7. Permission was granted for the burgoo.

George Lindsey, Police Chief passed out his monthly report. He had 3-thefts; 8-speak to officers; 3-disables vehicles; 2-traffic crashes; 3-prowler reports; 1-criminal trespass to property; 1-suspicious vehicle; 3-suspicious persons; 2-domestic reports; 1-overdose. He passed out the Animal Control Officers report – 6-dog calls; 0-to vet; 2 violation warnings given (running at large and no license/rabies vaccination); 1-impoundment redemption fee was paid, \$20 goes to city and \$20 goes for boarding. Two households were issued written warnings for violation.

Bill Jacquot, Alderman/Ward II thanked the police for the escort for the basketball team going to the Sectionals in White Hall.

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works requested gas main signs for the buried gas mains. The cost of 12 (twelve) signs are \$331.60. Simmons passed out his monthly report.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to purchase 12 (twelve) gas main signs costing \$331.60. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Rex McIntire, Mayor discussed the Coultas property. The Council as a group authorized him to bid up to \$7,500 an acre for the 27.9 acres. He has had all positive reports on the purchase and said it would be a big asset. He had proposal from all three (3) banks. McIntire said the cash rent may pay for about 60% of the cost. He said they may use it as residential or commercial use. The

city can whatever it chooses with it. He suggested they could make a little league park with shelters, but the city needs a water tower first.

Terry Gregory, Alderwoman/Ward III had a complaint from a neighbor about trash in a ditch that plugs up the culvert. McIntire said for Chief Lindsey to look into this problem.

The status of investigation on Barb Hoots was on the agenda and Bill Jacquot thought it should be brought up in closed session not open session. McIntire said that nothing had taken place yet, waiting on State Police and States Attorney, still pending.

The USDA Infrastructure Grant – for street lighting and landscaping improvements to the downtown square/business district. Must pay prevailing wages. An engineering service agreement is needed. Need to prepare spec plans for bidders. The city will pay for everything and pay the bills then the city will be reimbursed. Need to advertise for help. The USDA needs to approve this. Give Benton’s a call if you need any help with the paperwork or have questions about the grant.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Terry Gregory seconded to have Mayor McIntire enter into a service agreement with Benton & Associates for the USDA Grant at a cost of \$4,200. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

McIntire read a letter from Post Prom asking for a donation. In the past we had donated \$50. Lawrence Coultas suggested we also donate one (1) season pool pass this year.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to donate \$50 for Post Prom Party and an individual season pool pass. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

McIntire opened a sealed bid for the Dobson property on 203 South Main St. The bid was from Eric Bell, property adjoins his, for \$3,000. After some discussion it was decide to accept the bid, since no one else had bid on it.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to accept the bid of \$3,000 from Eric Bell for the property at 203 South Main. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and 1 abstention. Ron Bell abstained. Motion carried.

McIntire opened the sealed bids for mowing Monument Park, Douglas Park and Winchester Library for 1 year as follows:

- Barb Prather - \$7,200
- Black & White Mowing Service - \$8,000
- Sunset Lawncare (certificate of insurance included) - \$5,940
- Andy Nash Lawn Service - \$7,695
- Larry Davidson, Jacksonville - \$35,000
- Smooth Lawns, Alsey - \$9,500
- Roger Shafer - \$6,900

Keaton McAllister, Pittsfield (certificate of insurance included) - \$5,500
Honeydew Service - \$13,400
Fox Lawn Service - \$5,800
Lance Barnett (insurance) - \$6,160
Jeff Lemkuhl (Douglas Park only) - \$1,550

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to accept the low bid of \$5,500 from Keaton McAllister, for one (1) year, mowing Monument Park, Douglas Park and Winchester Library. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

The bids for surplus equipment were opened and recorded as follows:

#3 – 2001 Vermeer trencher – Lance Smith bid \$5,100
#7 – Masport push mower – Lance Smith bid \$50
#13 - Shindaiwa chain saw – Lance Smith bid \$25
#5 – Billy Goat Leaf Vacuum – Sunset Lawn Care bid- \$500
#4 – 2001 pickup truck – Brian Schafer bid \$655
#3 – 2001 Vermeer trencher – Phil Pratt bid \$1,255
#8 – Masport push mower – Phil Pratt bid \$65.55
#7 – Masport push mower – Roger Pratt bid \$80
#1 – 2014 John Deere riding mower – Lance Barnett bid \$5,000
#2 – 2007 John Deere riding mower – Lance Barnett bid \$4,000
#5 – Billy Goat Leaf Vacuum – Lance Barnett bid \$300
#6 – Masport push mower – Lance Barnett bid \$50
#7 – Masport push mower – Lance Barnett bid \$100
#8 – Masport push mower – Lance Barnett bid \$100
#9 - Poulan push mower – Lance Barnett bid \$20
#5 – Billy Goat Leaf Vacuum – Clint Fox bid \$250
#6 – Masport push mower – Clint Fox bid \$35
#7 – Masport push mower – Clint Fox bid \$75
#8 – Masport push mower – Clint Fox bid \$60
#11 – Shindaiwa chain saw – Clint Fox bid \$35
#12 – Shindaiwa chain saw – Clint Fox bid \$35
#13 – Shindaiwa chain saw – Clint Fox bid \$35

The purchasing committee will meet at 9 am on March 13 to go over the bids and accept or reject them. Attorney Coonrod will present an ordinance selling surplus equipment at a special meeting March 23 for council approval.

Coonrod passed out brochures on the Great Scott Community Market. He thought things were on track.

Coonrod said there was an Illinois Municipal League Spring Conference in Bloomington, April 6 he would like to attend. The cost of the conference is \$175 for the day. He request mileage as well.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Terry Gregory seconded to send City Attorney John Paul Coonrod to the Illinois Municipal League Spring Conference, April 6 in Bloomington. Cost of the one-day conference is \$175 and he will be paid mileage. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod passed out an Ordinance pertaining to the new cost of tap and water service connections.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Randy Fisher seconded to adopt Ordinance 864 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 38, Article IV, Section 3 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 an ordinance pertaining to new animal control fees. First offense will be \$20 now.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to adopt Ordinance 865 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 14 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Leigh Winner, Animal Control Officer said she was in favor of the new ordinance. The old ordinance charged \$2 per day and now will charge \$20. Winner said there were several repeat offenders. There are cats running at large. If there are more than 10 cats this is called a colony then can impound them. Any cat impounded for 7 days must pass a feline leukemia test then can go to other shelters or to Pittsfield to be euthanized. Need to put something in the paper about the ordinance and feral cats.

Winner stated that Becky Lashmett helps out a lot. She knows all the dogs in town and responds to save the city money. She does not charge mileage and she reports animal cruelty. The city could not do without her. Out of town dogs come to town & takes food away from city dogs. It was suggested the city donate money monthly to the Scott County Dog Rescue. Lawrence Coultas suggested making a yearly donation and revisit it in a year.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to make a yearly donation of \$400 to the Scott County Dog Rescue and revisit it next year. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Brenda Robinson, City Clerk said Phil Pratt would like to purchase a vacuum for the fire hall not to exceed \$100. This will come out of the fire department budget.

MOTION: Jeff Pittman moved and Terry Gregory seconded to purchase a vacuum for the fire hall not to exceed \$100, from the fire department funds. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lawrence Coultas works as a school administrator. He would like to see more police presence at our schools. He would like to work with the school district. He read the following to the council.

Due to increased awareness of serious criminal activities in our nation's schools, it would behoove us to ascertain the existence of a reciprocal reporting and cooperation agreement between the Winchester Police Department and the Winchester School District. If such an agreement exists it needs to be reviewed. Should such an agreement not exist the city needs to be proactive and cooperate with the school district to establish such an agreement. Such an agreement enables both entities to maintain on-going communication and mutually supportive partnership.

Many schools are turning to the utilization of school resource officers to enhance school safety. Due to lack of resources it may not be feasible for smaller schools to entertain the idea of a full-time SRO. Therefore, I feel it is imperative that the city of Winchester make our city police officers available to be a presence in the local schools. That presence should not be restricted to emergency situations that occur at the schools. The presence of our city police should be welcomed at all times, and we as a city council should encourage our officers to visit schools whenever and as much as possible.

The presence of a police officer in a school provides many students an opportunity to interact with law enforcement in a non-confrontational and positive manner. Students, school staff and parents have greater peace of mind when police officers make a concentrated effort to visit schools.

I would ask my fellow aldermen and mayor to join me in taking the lead in establishing a working agreement with the Winchester School District.

Mayor McIntire and the building and grounds committee walked through the Shive house and found several items that could be sold. An open house will be held March 23 from noon – 6:30 for people to bid on the items. The bids will be opened March 26. Bid sheets will be available along with a numbered list. Make up flyers to pass around town instead of advertising in the paper. All items need to be removed by March 28. A special meeting is not needed.

Amy Brown, City Treasurer passed out her monthly report. McIntire said an infrastructure fee would help with the water costs.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to go into close session to review closed session minutes; financing & leasing Coultas property; Discuss access to Records & Discussion of Current Operating Procedures of the Clerk Office and Personnel. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to come out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Randy Fisher seconded to have soil testing done on the recently purchased Coultas property from Prairieland FS done by Ken Devlin. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Jeff Pittman moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to adjourn. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Brenda Robinson, City Clerk