

August 4, 2021

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting August 4, 2021 at City Hall.

Mayor McIntire called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following council in attendance: Lawrence Coultas, Ron Bell, Terry Gregory, Bill Jacquot, Sandy Long, Jeff Pittman, and City Clerk Teri Little

Also, in attendance were Wanda Cody, City Treasurer; Caleb Handy, Police Chief; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney (via Zoom); Greg Hillis, Benton & Associates; John Simmons, City Supt of Public Works; Marilyn Fedder, Darlene Smith, Joe Smith, Phil Pratt, Blake Roderick, Pike/Scott Farm Bureau.

Sandy Long led those attending meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to pay the bills as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the July 7, 2021 meeting.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular July 7, 2021 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Blake Roderick of the Pike/Scott Farm Bureau wanted to express their appreciation to the use of the community room and the town square for their 100-year celebration. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the memorabilia and thanks were given to Wanda and Paul Cody for setting up the display.

Darlene Smith, retiring librarian was present and Mayor McIntire expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation for her 27 years as librarian. She has been noted to be very professional, efficient and patience over the years and it will be hard to replace her.

Sandy Long, alderwoman, presented Darlene with an engraved clock in appreciation of all her years at the library. She will be extremely missed.

Marilyn Fedder, library board member wanted to address concerns raised by the council. She advised in the past that there was a person that acted as somewhat of a go between with the council and the board. The concerns raised pertained to the new librarian's starting pay. Fedder advised that the new librarian has a Masters degree and that is part of the reason for the pay scale. It was suggested that the salary decisions need to be brought to the council. Mayor McIntire stated that he was working on finding a person that can be a liaison between the two boards. The library board meets prior to the city council meeting monthly. Currently notes are being sent to Wanda Cody.

**Greg Hillis, Benton & Associates** presented final bill for Trotter. All items on the checklist for the pool have been completed. Final payment is \$39,966.72. Warranty is 1 year workmanship and 1 year material.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve the final payment to Trotter for the amount of \$39,966.72. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Hillis presented Benton and Associates bill for \$23,552.00 to close out their part of the pool contract.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Terry Gregory seconded to approve the payment to Benton & Associates for the amount of \$23,552.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Library update is pre bid contractors stated that having hard time getting metal for roof. Right now, there is a lot of construction material shortage.

Bids will open the August 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

John Paul Coonrod, city attorney stated that the application for the stop-gap grant was approved for the \$58,000 gap and the fee that will be billed by Benton and Associates for the library expansion.

**Caleb Handy, Police Chief** passed out his monthly report. His report is as follows: Animal complaints – 1; Arrests – 3; Assist EMS – 8; Assist outside agency (police) - 6; Assist Fire Department – 1; Attempt to Locate (Warrants) – 4; Burglary – 2; Building Alarm – 2; Domestic disturbance – 6; Extra patrol requests – 1; Fight – 1; Informal station adj. (juvenile) – 2; Interviews – 2; Juvenile - 2; Ordinance violations – 2; Paper Service – 1; Property damage – 1; Property exchange – 1; Speak to officer – 17; Suspicious Person – 3; Suspicious vehicle – 4; Theft – 1; Traffic accident – 1; Traffic stops – verbal warning – 4; Trespassing – 2; Well-being checks – 7. Mileage for the month is 1169 miles.

The new police truck is in and Mayor McIntire advised Marshall's to add running boards to the truck to help on wear and tear.

Officer Handy requested that the marked squad car be remarked when the truck is done as well. Price to have this done would be approximately \$450.00 that would include removing existing decals and adding new. This will match the one for the truck.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve remarking the existing police car and not to exceed \$500.00. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and 1 no. Motion carried.

Officer Handy presented the budget to the council for the police department for the fiscal year totaling \$59,587.59. A few adjustments had been made to allow for a few additional items so all Police Vehicles would be supplied with all necessary equipment he also requested to include \$1600.00 for the half cage for the squad car.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve the Budget requests for the police department total \$59,587.59 plus \$1600.00 for half cage. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Mayor McIntire advised that he had been approached by several people with complaints of speeding and dangerous driving. Also, the misuse of golf carts and utility vehicles that have not been certified to be on the streets. He advised Chief Handy that needed to start writing tickets and cracking down on the violators.

**Wanda Cody, City treasurer** advised that all data has been entered and balance from January thru April in QuickBooks. Profit/Loss statements were passed out for the month to be reviewed.

There is a new Pledge to Securities for account at First National Bank as the old one was expiring. This is handled by TIB Capital Markets. This covers our accounts for any amounts over the FDIC insured amount of \$250,000. This is per bank. Wanda will check with the other banks on their securities.

The cities estimated taxes for 2020 \$95,000 for TIF and \$258,087.17 for corporate taxes.

**Bill Jacquot, City Alderman** stated that the pool would close for the season on 08-15-2021. With students returning to school, it is hard to staff the pool any later. He advised that he requested that Lucy, pool manager, supply a year-end report and any suggestions for next year. It was mentioned that maybe next year they hire someone that would have a food sanitation license that could specifically run the concession stand and they would be able to offer more variety such as pizza and hot dogs.

Pool vacuum was going to be delivered about a week prior to closing, however, John Simmons requested they hold it till next season and we purchase then so the warranty will be new.

Memorials were suggested to the pool or the Alter Society in memory of Marilyn Scott. It was stated that we need to ensure that thank you cards are sent to those whom donate to the pool.

Cemetery Stone restoration report was 42 stones. Letters and bid applications were sent to 6 companies and requested they be returned by 8/27/2021 and work will be awarded on 09/01/2021 at the Council meeting. In the past 7 years price ranges were from \$5450.00 to \$6618.00.

**John Simmons, Supt of Public Works** report as follows: Locate tickets – 27; Work orders – 25; Funerals/grave digs – 3; Water leaks – 3; Gas leak calls – 0; Zoning applications – 3; Replaced water and gas services at 17 S Broadway (new line, meter and pit); Installed new water meters – 5; Installed new gas meters – 2; Poured 3 ¾ yards concrete; Cut brush away from gas meters; Monthly meter reading; Unexpected amount of time was spent at the pool; Painted curbs and parking lines; Tree trimming around town; Several ordinance violations given out; Cleaned North Main Street; Put flags up and down for 4<sup>th</sup> of July; Haul off scrap metal; Backhoe was repaired by Cecil; Repaired cold patching

Simmons has requested that certain ordinance violations be issued by the Police Department.

He also states that need to enforce stricter penalties on repeat offenders. They seem to do just the minimum needed then a few months right back to the same thing.

Roof needs replaced at sewer plant. Would like to get bids for 2 buildings. Will contact usual bidders and also can post to Facebook. Need a detailed bid. Need to get a spec sheet to send to bidders.

With the complaints of speeding being an issue Simmons proposed to reduce the speed limit for city limits from 30 to 20 MPH. This would include all streets but the 2 main roads Main and Cherry. It was stated that 30 MPH was entirely too fast for the side streets in town. Would need ordinance to change this. It was suggested that the council table this for the whole town till next month and see if there is a rise in tickets written by the police.

Need to have something added to the gas ordinance to prohibit anything obstructing a gas meter. Simmons states is caused many issues. A meter needs to be easily visible to fire departments in case of fire and also for meter readers to get monthly readings. They also cannot vent properly if obstructed. John will look further into the issue.

**Mayor Rex McIntire** advised Roger Pratt had been chosen to replace Rev Robin Lyons on the Library Board. Rev Lyons will be retiring and moving at some point to be with family.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve Roger Pratt to replace Rev Robin Lyons on the Library Board. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

A bill from Tipsord's that was tables from last month meeting was discussed and it was agreed that the council will approve another \$1000.00 be paid on the balance.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved, and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve payment to Tipsord's for \$1000.00 for additional Mulch for playground. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Another invoice was received from Day Pitney for a shade under \$1000.00. It was discussed again that it is beneficial to remain in the lawsuit.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Ron Bell seconded to approve a \$1000.00 payment to Day Pitney. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire addressed flier for the new car show that the school is putting on. This will be September 11, 2021 at the school. They will also be having a silent auction that will benefit the auto program.

Lance Smith was asked to do milling prior to the oil and chip project this year and it will be for one day. His fee is \$4500.00 for the day it will include Main St and Cornerstone Rd. Also, other problem areas that are needed. This will ensure the best result from the road updates that will be done.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Ron Bell seconded to approve Lance Smith to mill roads for total \$4500.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Ordinance 921 was submitted for approval. This is to reduce the speed limit on East Jefferson St/Coultas Rd. This has been a troubled area for speeding. This would be from the corner of Spring St/Jefferson St to the edge of Willow Drive/Coultas Rd. This reduces the speed limit from 30 MPH to 20 MPH.



**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Ron Bell seconded to approve ordinance 921. Roll call resulted in 4 yeas, 1 no and 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Yearly subscription for the CEO program was presented for approval. This program is an asset to the young people in town as it offers insight to running a business. The yearly fee is \$1000.00.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve yearly subscription for CEO program \$1000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Simmons is the Ordinance Officer for the city. His duties require him to do this job during regular work hours and on his own time (evenings and weekends). Mayor McIntire requested that the city start paying him \$200.00 a month as pay for being the Ordinance Officer

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve \$200.00 a month pay for the City Ordinance Officer. Roll call resulted in 4 yeas and 2 nos. Motion carried.

Dollar General has agreed to the price requested. Letter of intent from Tim O'Brien Dollar General LLC. This is for 2.05 acres at \$32,500.00. This includes \$1000.00 earnest money. This is subject to financing and construction cost approval. There is a non-compete, agriculture clause and no bar within 100 ft.

We have received the first check of \$500.00 from North Tower for ground rental for the cell tower.

**Jeff Pittman** advised that Gregory Electric needs to complete 2 more drop boxes and then the rest of the roof can be completed. To finish the electrical work, it would be around \$1300.00 to \$1600.00.

**MOTION:** Jeff Pittman moved, and Ron Bell second to approve electrical work to be completed by Gregory Electric not to exceed \$1600.00. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and 1 abstain. Motion carried.

The roof has been cleared of all debris and excess items so roof can be completed by Sandy Creek Construction.

Gutters need to be fixed and new troughs installed to be able for water to be removed from roof properly. The estimate from Sandy Creek Construction is \$750.00.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved, and Jeff Pittman second to approve Sandy Creek Construction to repair gutters for \$750.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**John Paul Coonrod; City Attorney** gave update on Municipal Court cases. 4 cases with 2 authorized.

1. Cherry St for inoperable vehicle, dismissed car has been moved
2. E Jefferson for weeds and debris, dismissed as home has been foreclosed
3. E Cross for debris, complaint denied and found guilty 10 days to correct or pay fine.
4. N Main for weeds and debris, dismissed moved

4 new cases to be served

1. Elenbeck Main St for weeds and debris
2. E Cross St Debris
3. N Main St
4. John Knott 121 Elm St- Violation weeds and debris.

Need to site citation and send one to property owner which is his sister.

**MOTION:** Sandy Long moved, and Jeff Pittman second to approve Municipal Citations be sent for 121 N Elm St for weeds and debris. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and 1 No. Motion carried.

Ordinance 922 was presented for approval. This is to allow the City Police Department to cite ordinance violations. This includes the following

Restraint of Dogs; Liquor; General Speed Restrictions; Equipment of Vehicles; Parking Rules; Inoperable Vehicles; Regulation and Suppression of open or outdoor fires.

**MOTION:** Jeff Pittman moved, and Terry Gregory second to approve Ordinance 922. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

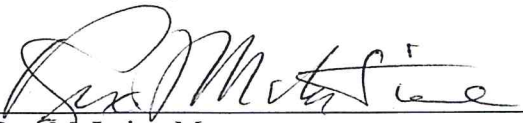
Coonrod discussed the Safe Routes to School Grant. This is 80% funded by IDOT. He would like to apply for this grant can be \$250,000 awarded to help pay for new sidewalks.

Lawrence Coultas announced that Carrie Burke had been hired as the new City Office Employee. He feels she will be an asset to the office.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Jeff Pittman second to approve hiring of Carrie Burke. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

No public comments.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Jeff Pittman second to move to adjourn 11:15 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

  
Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
Teri Little, City Clerk