

September 1, 2021

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting September 1, 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; John Simmons, City Supt of Public Works; Toby Hammond; Kent Coultas; Molly Taylor.

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 and addition of IEPA principal payment. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the August 4, 2021 meeting.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular August 4, 2021 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the August 5, 2021 special meeting.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved, and Bill Jacquot seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the special August 5, 2021 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Bill Jacquot introduced Kent Coultas. The Illinois Basketball Coaches Association inducted Coultas into the IBCA Hall of Fame on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at Redbird Arena in Normal, IL. The event saluted both the 2020(postponed due to COVID) and the 2021 classes. Inducted into the Hall of Fame Class of 2021 as a friend of basketball was Kent Coultas.

Kent recently completed his 40<sup>th</sup> year of keeping the basketball scorebook for Winchester High School and more recently the West Central Co-op. He has kept the scorebook for the Winchester Invitational Tournament for 30 years. He is the historian for the WIT nearing 100 years.

Coultas was applauded for his dedication. Lawrence Coultas added that his rapport is excellent with all local and visiting coaches and players and always goes above and beyond.

Kent Coultas presented the Cougar Booster advertising packages available for the year. The Cougar Boosters raise money thru out the year to help the school in upgrades such as new fencing for the baseball field and the new bleachers for the football field. Money raised goes directly back to the school.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved; Terry Gregory seconded to approve the all-inclusive West Central Cougar Package for \$800.00 Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Toby Hammond was present to address the bills he received for his dog running loose. He thought it was high and questioned why the city charged so much. The vet bill was from 4 Paws veterinary clinic. The dog had been running loose for a few days. Hammond stated that he had been looking for him and was unable to locate him. Leigh Winner, Animal Control officer, caught the dog and had him evaluated and treated by the vet. The city does not set the prices charged by the vet. It is common practice to have the animal seen by a vet if the control officer deems necessary.

Greg Hillis was unable to attend the meeting, however, Mayor Rex McIntire gave a report of the library expansion bids that were opened on Thursday August 26<sup>th</sup>. Two bids were received. First was from Trotter General Contracting from Macomb for \$515,000 and second Vandevanter Engineering from Macomb for \$610,000. This is extremely higher than the amount that is set for the project. John Paul Coonrod stated that there are more grants thru the USDA that can be applied for. He will submit new application for up to \$232,000 and odds look good.

R.J Paslay was unable to be at the meeting but Bill Jacquot spoke with him prior and they have a total of 4 more playground pieces on order. One is from the initial purchase that is still on back order. These will be installed once received.

**Caleb Handy, Police Chief** passed out his monthly report. His report is as follows: Animal complaints – 1; Arrests – 2; Assist EMS – 9; Assist outside agency (police) - 7; Assist Motorist – 2; Attempt to Locate (Warrants) – 1; Building Alarm – 2; DCFS – 1; Domestic disturbance – 5; Dumped Trash – 1; Gas Station Drive Off – 1; Informal station adj. (juvenile) – 1; Juvenile - 5; Ordinance violations – 3; Order of Protection – 1; Paper Service – 2; Prowler – 1; Scam Alert – 2; Speak to officer – 23; Stalking/Harassment – 1; Suicidal Subject – 3; Suspicious Person – 6; Suspicious vehicle – 7; Theft – 3; Traffic accident – 2; Traffic Control – 2; Traffic Stops- Citations – 3; Traffic stops – verbal warning – 7; Trespassing – 1; Well-being checks – 5. Mileage for the month is 1653 miles.

Officer Handy advised with the increase in suicidal subject calls he is checking into what it would take to have a mental health advocate on call to assist with suicidal persons to ensure proper management is used. He is speaking with a person he works with at the prison. He will advise once he has more information.

He also has created and presented a Master Ammunition Inventory, Officer Equipment Inventory, Master Equipment Inventory and a monthly vehicle inspection list. These are to ensure the department keeps a more detailed list of all equipment and to help improve the wear and tear on the police vehicles.

Present at the meeting was Molly Taylor. She is opening a new business out behind the EMS building by her husbands seed company. It is going to be a rural health office that will offer many services including IDOT physicals. She states that they hope to open mid-October. The Taylor's are requesting to be allowed to claim the TIF 2-year tax abatement that is offered to new homes and new built business. This is a separate business on same property as the existing



business. The new building taxes would not be billed until next tax season. Mayor McIntire stated that they will need to investigate this further as this is a new situation that the city has not experienced. Mayor McIntire and John Paul Coonrod will get together and come up with policy and will let the Taylor's know how they will proceed.

**Wanda Cody, City treasurer** Profit/Loss statements were passed out for the month to be reviewed. Robyn will be calling about scheduling the Audit.

**Bill Jacquot, City Alderman** opened one sealed bid from Rick Willis for the cemetery restoration project. The bid for \$11,950.26 was rejected as too high.

It was decided to rebid the project and extend the deadline and contact prior bidders to see why they did not submit this year.

**John Simmons, Supt of Public Works** report as follows: Monthly meter reading – 3 to 4 days; Monthly brush pick up – 2 to 3 days; Locate tickets – 23; Work Orders – 27; Funerals – 6; Concrete poured – 15 yards; Water leaks – 1; Replaced gas services – 3; Zoning permits – 1; Ordinance violation notices – 10; Roto milled several areas, clean up N Main, Cornerstone and part of Commercial Douglas; Cold patching several streets; Fixed damage stop sign at park; Closed up the pool for the year; Sold cemetery plots – 2; Put up speed limit sign; Emptied water shed(\$544.75)(\$327.75); Mowing & spraying; Lots of work on backhoe; Monthly odorant readings.

Simmons proposed to reduce the speed limit for city limits from 30 to 20 MPH again this month. This would include all streets but the 2 main roads North Main and Cherry. Need ordinance to change this. There also needs to be something done about parking on the streets. Need to look into maybe limiting to only one side of the street.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Ron Bell seconded to approve the purchase of 6 sets of new barricade sets and 6 flashing lights for a total of \$1149.99. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Simmons would like to send Derik Evans and Jim Dobson to Pipeline Safety Conference on October 27-28<sup>th</sup>. This would be an overnight stay at Holiday Inn for \$99.00+tax.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve to send Jim Dobson and Derik Evans to Pipeline Safety Conference for \$120.00 per night. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

A report on where the city was on condemning the Rita Howland House and the House on Cherry was requested by Simmons. These 2 locations have been in disarray for sometime and need to be taken care of. Jeff Pittman is in contact with the Howland family and has hopes of getting it taken care of soon. John Paul Coonrod will send a letter to the bank that owns the Cherry St home to see what can be done thru them as well.

Simmons would like to put a sidewalk on N Main in front of Monument Park. This would be 5ft wide and allow handicap accessibility to the war memorial in the park as well. He is going to get measurements for the next meeting.

**Mayor Rex McIntire** advised Shannon Killday has been chosen to replace Carol Sipes on the Library Board. Carol Sipes is moving to Rochester.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve Shannon Killday to replace Carol Sipes on the Library Board. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

A new bill from Day Pitney was received and the city owes a total of \$142.23 to pay balance.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Terry Gregory seconded to approve payment to Day Pitney for balance owed as of 08/25/2021 of \$142.33. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

The Outreach Center has submitted an estimate from Pike County Glass. They are requesting the 25% TIF Façade reimbursement payment. The total was \$1946.59.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve payment to Community Outreach Center for \$486.65 upon completion. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire advised the council if they had noticed that the wooden stain glass pieces that the civic group had completed has been installed by Illinois Rural Electric. He wants to investigate avenues in maybe getting the building painted to help achieve a better look for the buildings. John Paul Coonrod will contact the persons that own the Hynes building to see if the city is able to paint the façade. McIntire offered to contact the owner of Brants to maybe take the letters off the front of the building to also improve the look of the square.

Mayor McIntire discussed having Benton and Associates survey and present a diagram for residential and commercial lots for the Coultas property. This would be a cost of \$2500.00. Dollar General wants to have their own survey crew do their lot. City can have Benton's also survey that lot for \$500.00 There are 4 good residential lots. If approved they would survey after the crops are out and then they would present to the council.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve having Benton and Associates survey and present options for residential lots on North Main. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Hedging Agreement with Utility Gas Management has been received for natural gas price. This was given to John Paul Coonrod to look over.

**Lawrence Coultas, City Alderman** passed out a proposed water rate increase that had been discussed by the committee. There has not been a rate increase for some time. There were 2 options discussed and with input from the council Coultas will create a new spreadsheet with the recommendations to present at the next council meeting.

**Ron Bell, City Alderman** stated that Trevor Cawthon has completed his training for his second license and this will qualify him for a \$1.00 raise for his second certificate. This will not be in force until his certificate is received.

Mayor McIntire stated that 2 bids were received for sewer plant roof repairs.



Bid number one is from Sandy Creek Construction – complete repair to Main building and installing 29-gauge Century Drain Steel with a 40-year paint warranty is total of \$3750.00. Building #2 for same work would be a total of \$1500.00

Bid number two was from Anslyn Home Improvement – complete repair to main building with shingles would be \$1800.00 for main building and \$1200.00 for building #2 with a \$350.00 dumpster fee for a total of \$3350.00 for metal roof would add additional \$1500.00.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Ron Bell seconded to approve awarding the bid to Anslyn Construction for the Sewer Plant Roof repairs for a total of \$4850.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**John Paul Coonrod; City Attorney** gave update on Municipal Court cases. Two cases have been carried over.

Denny Savage has mowed and cleaned up on Cross and will discharge as updated on High St.

10 new cases to be served

1. Audrey Lindsey – 351 W Cross – holding off as in nursing home.
2. Gary Lewis – 131 Railroad - filth, junk, weeds and rodents
3. Jody Clanton – inoperable vehicle
4. Ian Callahan – inoperable vehicle
5. Jared Hazelwood – N Commercial -Living and parking in front yard.
6. Mike Elliott – inoperable vehicle
7. Kiley Sanders – S Mechanic St – filthy premises, weeds, trash and junk.
8. Holly McKinley – 22 N Broadway – inoperable vehicle
9. Mike Brockhouse – 21 S Moore – junk, trash and weeds.
10. Whitney Dejaynes – 33 N Maple – inoperable vehicle (will double check on this one)
11. George Lindsey – Market and Arch – Inoperable vehicle

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved, and Ron Bell second to approve 9 Municipal Court Cases. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-9-01 was presented for approval. This is for the Safe Routes to School Grant. This is an 80/20 grant for \$250,000.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve resolutions 2021-9-01 application for Safe Routes to School Grant. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod presented Ordinance 923. This ordinance is for adopting a whistleblower protections policy. He recommends the appointment of Chief of Police of the City of Winchester be designated the “Auditing Official” for all purposes under Section 4.1 if the Public Officers Prohibited Activities Act.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Ordinance 923-Designation of Auditing Official-Caleb Handy. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved, and Jeff Pittman second to approve ratifying of the hiring and compensation of Carrie Burke from last months meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

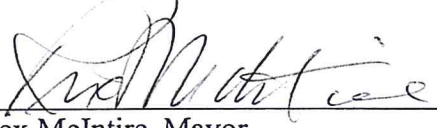
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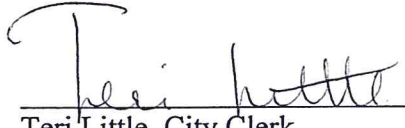
**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Terry Gregory seconded to move to closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved, and Terry Gregory seconded to move out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moves, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve raise for animal control officer, Leigh Winner, from \$200.00 a month to \$350.00 Effective September 1, 2021. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and one abstain. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved, and Sandy Long second to move to adjourn 11:30 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

  
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Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
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Teri Little, City Clerk