

November 6, 2024

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting November 6, 2024 at City Hall.

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

Also, in attendance were Wanda Cody, City Treasurer; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates; Carmen Ensinger, Scott County Times; Steve Doolin, City Police Chief; John Simmons, Supt of Public Works; Collin Kuchy; Don Campbell; Stevie VanDeVelde, Civic group.

Mayor McIntire led those attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to pay the bills as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the regular meeting minutes of October 2, 2024.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular October 2, 2024 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the special meeting minutes of October 9, 2024.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of special meeting October 9, 2024 meeting. Roll call resulted in 4 yeas and 2 abstain. Motion carried.

Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates, presented change order for Laverdiere Construction as costs were 5% over original bid. These costs will be covered under the retainage.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve change order for Laverdiere Construction in amount of \$131,267.18. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

Presented pay request #6 for Laverdiere Construction and Benton and Associates for \$470,508.52.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve pay request #6 for \$470,508.52. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

The retainage will remain on hold till all on the punch list is complete.

Will set a meeting with the finance committee to go over the change order for the library remaining money,

Unsewered grant for the North Main project still has not been posted. Still watching to be able to apply.

Still no news on the downtown grant.

Stevie VanDeVelde, Civic Group, wished to thank the city for their assistance in providing tables, blocking the square and waiving the fees for the food trucks for the Harvest fest. It was wonderful weather and had a great turnout for food, games, pumpkin painting and music.

Next event is Hometown Christmas on December 7, 2024. Events will start with the Kiwanis Pancake and sausage breakfast at 7 am at Sibert Hall. Santa will arrive at 1 pm and be in his house till 3 pm. Normal events such as vendors will be from 9 am to 3 pm and FFA will also be selling greenery.

The parade will be at 6:30 pm and will be the normal route. Ask the city to have the square blocked off and all cars removed from the square by 5 pm that evening.

Decorating will be November 23rd at 8 am and ask that the leaves be cleaned up prior to this time and a space blocked off for the Santa house that week prior. Will be decorating the memory trees and the old decorations that Justin Daws had restored.

February 1st will kick off Love Local and will promote support local theme thru the month.

The group would like to ask the city to donate to the mural project. This is a vibrant tribute to the agricultural community we live in. The money goes to support the materials and labor.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve donation to Winchester Civic Group for \$1000.00 for the mural project. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer, passed out financial reports.

Advised that the water main project loan at Petefish and Skiles has been paid off with the USDA grant/loan. There have been 6 additional accounts opened in support of this. Monthly water revenue will be deposited into the water revenue account and then at the end of the month will be divided up in the remaining account.

Jeff Pittman, Alderman, spoke with Sandy Creek Construction about fixing the council room window issues. Will have to remove the plywood and replace with weatherproof boards Estimate is for \$2300.00. Will check on amount for an awning and get additional estimates.

Ron Bell, Alderman, wanted to inquire about the number of liquor licenses that the city has issued/available. Per Attorney Coonrod we have 4 Class A – 3 in use; 3 Class B – 1 in use; 2 Class C – 0 in use; 2 Class D – 0 in use; 3 Class E – 3 in use.

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works, monthly report:

Work orders – 11; Funerals – 2; Locate tickets – 20; Gas leaks – 1; Gas meters changed out – 2; Water meters changed out – 4; Monthly brush pick up – 2 days; Monthly odorant reading; Total locate tickets from Laverdiere Construction; Helped relocate or replaced several water services;

Fixed several gas meter sets for leaks; Cleaned out several feet of ditches on W Cross St; Helped install new culvert pipes on W Cross St; Laverdiere oiled and chipped several streets that were tilled up; Meter reading.

Wanting to clean up the ditches and fence lines out by the cometary. Lance Smith has an attachment he can use to take cut brush and remove smaller trees. Estimate is \$1840.00. This will also include back behind Dollar General. Once completed will be easier to maintain.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Ron Bell second to approve Lance Smith to remove trees and clean ditches \$1840.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Would like to have the alley by Rural Cyclery changed to one way going west. Attorney Coonrod passed out Ordinance 983 which will make the street one way. This will help in traffic direction once new convenience store has been built.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Tina Brown second to approve Ordinance 983. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

There are 3 trees on N Main that Simmons has deemed dangerous due to the location blocking a drivers view when stopped on E Jefferson. Wanting to be able to have removed. Estimate for the 3 trees is \$2500.00

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Terry Gregory second to remove 3 trees on S Main St for \$2500.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Would like to go ahead and follow thru with seeing if the school is still interested in purchasing the storage building down by the baseball field. Will need to find someone to give an appraisal.

Influent meter has been ordered for the water plant. Is 20 weeks out. Total cost is \$1100.00

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, passed out monthly report.

Animal complaint – 6; Arrests – 1; Assist outside agency(police) – 6; Assist motorist – 5; Assist repo agency – 1; Building alarm – 2; Child exchange – 1; Clear roadway obstructions – 2; DCFS – 1; Domestic disturbance – 3; Golf cart inspection – 1; Harassment – 1; Investigations – 1; Noise complaint – 1; Solicitor complaint – 1; Speak to officer – 24; Suspicious vehicle – 2; Traffic control – 2; Traffic stops/citations – 1; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 5; Training/drill – 1; Vehicle complaint- 2; Well-Being Checks – 3.

Reported Officer Amanda Smith can work on her own now for regular 40 hours a week. She has to complete a 2-week course before January to be able to work over 40 hours.

Hunter Drake will be graduating December 6, 2024.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, advised that city received the annual fee notification for JREDC for \$1200.00.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman second to approve JREDC annual fee \$1200.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Letter was received from the Morgan-Scott CEO program requesting the city for the yearly sponsor fee for program in amount of \$1000.00

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Melinda Hembrough second to approve CEO program fee \$1000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Received email from Jamie Barber, who lives next to the empty lot on E Cherry St, requesting payment for mowing the lot for the past 2 years. He had thought in the past about purchasing the lot and that was when it was tied up with other owners. Since he has changed his mind and no longer would like to purchase the lot. In the past few years, he has caught many animals such as racoons, cats, rats etc. in live traps and relocated. Since the house has been torn down, he has been maintaining the locate to cut down on the animals. He is now requesting to be reimbursed for his time, maintenance cost and fuel used. Estimated cost is \$2000.00. Council discussed the email and decided to have Attorney Coonrod to send letter to Mr. Barber advising that the city would not be paying the amount requested as it was after the fact and not contracted to maintain the property. Employees had gone to the property to mow it, however, it was already mowed prior to them arriving.

McIntire wanted to discuss the new convenience store being built on the old IGA lot. The owners of the property purchased the lot over 10 years ago after the former owners, Linda and Steve Wilson, closed the store. They removed the asbestos and tore down the old building. They have currently installed the new tank, which took over 2 years to get. This tank will meet all the new EPA guidelines that will go in effect for 2025. They will be providing the plans for review soon. They did state that the new building will not block the new mural on the side of Rural Cyclery.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, advised can move forward with the sale of the E Cherry property. Will post in paper to call city hall and pick up packet for bids. Will take bids till noon on December 4, 2024 and will open on the 5th. Will have an ordinance to sell property at next meeting.

Municipal Court Update:

1. Debra and Mike Anslyn – Maple St been repeat case. Posted on door and sent thru mail. Cited \$200.00
2. Debra Watkins – Cited \$1500.00 did not clean-up. Cited again \$750.00. Lien on property total fines \$2250.00
3. Gus Nault – lien on property. Mike Brown paid as buying property

Presented ordinance 984. This is to enroll city in local debt program. This will allow the city to file with the state if we have back bills, fines or liens on property. If the person is eligible for a state refund, then the money will come to the city to pay off debt.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Bill Jacquot second to approve Ordinance 984. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Municipal Court Update:

No Public Comments

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Ron Bell second to move to closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

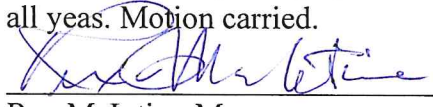
MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Tina Brown second to move out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Terry Gregory second to approve renewal of RMA insurance. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

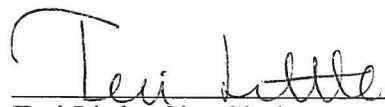
MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory second to approve raise for Officer Amanda Smith effective October 6,2024. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Jeff Pittman second to approve seasonal salary adjustment as directed for city employees effective November 27, 2024. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved Tina Brown second to adjourn 10:57 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk