

December 4, 2024

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting December 4, 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; George Lindsey.

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

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot 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 November 6, 2024.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Tina Brown seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular November 6, 2024 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates, updated on current projects. The N Main unsewered project is still closed and once open will submit application. The water main project is completed. No news on the downtown beautification project yet.

Met with the finance committee on November 19, 2024 for remaining money from the library grant. Submitting change order for approval for \$85,000.00. This will include gutter guards, security lights, concrete work, tuck pointing, dehumidifiers and landscaping.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to approve change order for Trotter Construction for Library Grant in amount of \$85,000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer, passed out financial reports.

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works, monthly report:

Work orders – 20; Funerals – 4; Locate tickets – 8; Monthly brush pick up -2 days; HP main inspection – 1 day; Chris King completed all gas testing; Poured concrete in several locations/sidewalks; New battery in Odorizer; New water service on W Cherry St/ Ed Miller; Grinder back in at sewer plant; Lance Smith cleaned up brush; New pump installed at water plant; Lost high pressure pump at water plant; installed rebuilt pump at water plant; Put up one way sign at Rural Cyclery; Monthly odorant reading; Emptied water shed; Switch over to new

main service line/Brad Brown; Fix 2 water leaks at grade school; Gas leak calls – 1; Put flags up for Veterans day; Called Cat to work on backhoe twice.

Had been speaking with Amanda and would like to start putting on the monthly bills that each resident has a 10-day grace period after the 25th due date to pay bill in full. If bill not paid will be disconnected. No further notices will be sent or placed on doors. Will be a bit flexible with unavoidable issues.

Had issues with the backhoe. Had Caterpillar come down and think the issue was the gas. Put treatment in and new filters and hoping this is the fix for the issue.

Need to look into raising the water rates. Passed out paper from Illinois Rural Water Association. Council agreed to look into rates. Will set up meetings after the holidays to discuss the water and gas rates.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, discussed the perks of being part of the Jacksonville Enterprise Zone. Back in 2016 when Marshalls caught fire, they were able to rebuild without paying sales tax since we were part of the zone. Also, we are able to get additional points when applying for grants.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney passed out ordinance 985 to add a new business area to the Jacksonville Enterprise Zone.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Melinda Hembrough second to approve Ordinance 985. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Decided to have the city workers clean the library basement instead of contracting it out since the USDA grant would not cover this. They will get it done on down time.

Need to have something done with the old Hynes building. Bricks from the front are starting to fall and there basically is nothing holding the building up any longer. Need to locate owners. Building needs condemned. Will have Benton and Associates look into way to be able to take building down. Have to be careful will adjoining buildings.

Wanting to get the lots ready for sale on the North Main Property. Discussion on whether to wait to see if get grant for sewer or go ahead and sell with septic systems.

Employees are requesting that the holiday Juneteenth is replaced and with Christmas Eve. Council discussed and since the employees made a point to have Juneteenth off it will remain as the holiday and not Christmas eve.

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, passed out monthly report.

Animal complaint – 13; Assist EMS – 5; Assist outside agency(police) – 6; Assist fire department/fire – 2; Assist motorist – 3; Attempt to locate – 1; Clear roadway obstructions – 1; Domestic disturbance – 5; Extra patrol requests – 1; Found property returned – 1; Investigations – 1; Noise complaint – 1; Road hazard – 1; Speak to officer – 38; Suicidal subject/mental health – 2; Traffic control – 4; Traffic stops/citations – 1; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 7; Well-Being Checks – 2.

Met with Scotty County Sherriff and agreement for the cities dispatch services was agreed upon for the next 2 years of dispatch contract for \$26,750.00 a year. This is the same price that we are paying this year.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Tina Brown second to approve Scott County Dispatch Agreement \$26,750.00/2 years. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Has an application for part time officer from Eli Evans and will use him as needed.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, advised no bids have been received for the East Cherry St property. Will take bids and present to council as received.

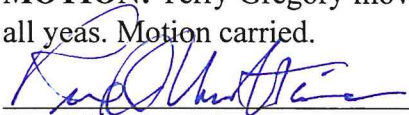
Jeff Pittman, Alderman; received bid for total repair and awning for council room from Sandy Creek Construction \$3250.00. Also, was advised that they will honor the same bid for the Country Company building if they were to fix theirs as well. Info was given to Nate Davis, owner.

No Public Comments

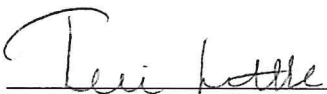
MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman second to move to closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved Tina Brown second to adjourn 9:20 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk