

January 8, 2025

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting January 8, 2025 at City Hall.

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

Also, in attendance were Wanda Cody, City Treasurer; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates; Carmen Ensinger, Scott County Times; John Simmons, Supt of Public Works; Jacky Kuchy, Winchester Civic Group.

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 December 4, 2024.

**MOTION:** Tina Brown moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular December 4, 2024 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates,** presented contractor payment application #7 for \$135,090.75. This will be to close out the water main project. Project is complete and any additional clean up or seeding will be completed this fall. There was an issue with the sprinkler system at the Farmers State Bank. Seems that when water was shut off the sprinkler system kept running and may have burned up the motor. They will check into it and see what issues are and get fixed.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve payment application #7 for \$135,090.75. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

There are still some funds left, \$160,699.98, and they are checking into whether this will be taken back by the state or can be used for additional supplies that were previously approved for the project.

The invoices for Benton and Associates were presented to also close out their portion of the water main project.

\$17,640.00     Engineering fees

\$14,700.00     Close out fees

\$45,255.80     RPR fees

\$77,595.80 Total

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve payment to Benton and Associates for water main fees \$77,595.80. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

**Steve Doolin, Police Chief,** passed out yearly report.

Animal complaint – 50; Arrests – 11; Assist EMS –32; Assist outside agency(police) – 66; Assist fire department/fire – 9; Assist motorist – 41; Assist repo agency – 2; Attempt to locate – 3; Battery/assault – 2; Burglary – 2; Building alarm – 19; Child endangerment – 1; Child exchange – 6; Clear roadway obstructions –22; Court – 1; DCFS – 8; Domestic disturbance – 28; Dumped trash – 1; Extra patrol requests – 5; Fight – 6; Found property returned – 12; Fraud – 4; Gas leak – 5; Golf cart inspections – 3; Harassment – 12; Interviews – 20; Investigations – 18; Juvenile – 18; Noise complaint – 10; Ordinance violation – 5; Order of protection – 7; Paper service -21; Property Damage – 2; Property exchange – 9; Prowler – 1; Road hazard – 1; Search warrant – 1; Sex offender register – 4; Solicitor complaint – 8; Speak to officer – 414; Suicidal subject/mental health – 30; Suspicious person – 21; Suspicious vehicle – 24; Theft – 5; Traffic accidents -12; Traffic control – 41; Traffic stops/citations – 13; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 51 Training/drills - 4; Transient – 10; Trespassing – 11; Vandalism – 1; Vehicle complaint -13; Weather spotting – 8; Well-Being Checks – 28.

Had an emergency invoice for GTSI for \$31.53 was for replacement 2-way radio antenna for the Tahoe that was believed to have been eaten by the car wash.

Office Hunter Drake graduated from the Academy on December 6<sup>th</sup>. As discussed in past meetings, he is due pay increase upon graduation. Office Drake is currently working on his own.

**MOTION:** Jeff Pittman moved and Melinda Hembrough second to approve raise for Hunter Drake to \$23.00 per hour effective 12/8/2024. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Requesting permission to hire Eli Evans as part time officer. Eli is fully trained, experienced and reside in Winchester. He will be good fit for the department.

**MOTION:** Jeff Pittman moved and Ron Bell second to approve hiring Eli Evans as part time patrol officer. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Needing an additional body camera for part time officers to use. Waiting on quote for additional camera but going off of prior purchase estimating around \$3500.00 spread out over 5-year plan.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved and Tina Brown second to approve purchase of body camera for part time officers up to \$4000.00 for 5-year contract. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Jacky Kuchy, Winchester Civic Group,** organizing a new campaign for February called “Love Locally” there will be different activities thru out the month. Also, discussing maybe sending out a survey to see what local people would like to see from the group.

**Wanda Cody, City Treasurer,** passed out financial reports.

**Teri Little, City Clerk,** wanted permission from the council to be able to close the lock box at United Community Bank. Only has a couple CD's and would make more convenient for when renewal is needed. It was agreed to close but had to ensure CDs would be kept in secure area.

**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.

**MOTION:** Jeff Pittman moved and Ron Bell second to approve Sandy Creek Construction bid for new awning and repairs for \$3250.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**John Simmons, Supt of Public Works,** monthly report:

Work orders – 22; Funerals – 3; Locate tickets – 7; Monthly odorant report; Ordinance violations – 4; Gas leaks – 4 2 at school; Meter readings – 1 day; Brush pick up – 2 days; Installed one new gas line service; Library basement cleanup; Put shelving units together at library; 3 trees removed North Main; Inspected Hynes building – Reg Benton; Clean streets; Cat, backhoe repairs; Washed all equipment; Lowered flags – Jimmy Carter.

2024 report totals:

Water leaks – 12; New services on City side – 152 (17 were because of lead or sewer separation issues); Grave openings – 51; New gas meters installed – 11; Abandon disconnect services – 4; Repairs – 5; New services – 2; Replaced emergency valves – 4.

Advised that the Hach Service Partnership quote was \$941.00 a year. This is a required for the water service.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved and Melinda Hembrough second to approve Hatch Ind Service Partnership agreement \$941.00 a year. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

The pump that was rebuilt a few months earlier was needed to be used so now need to rebuild another one to have on hand.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Ron Bell second to approve rebuilding water pump \$7,347.98 Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Had the GUA audit passed only issue was needed to look into having an answer machine or on phone so if someone was not in the office and able to answer phones during business hours that would have a message advising a member what to do in case of gas emergency.

**Rex McIntire, Mayor,** advised the council that interviews were held for the city collector job and the personnel committee recommended to hire Lori Lehmkuhl as city collector to start January 10, 2025.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Jeff Pittman second to approve hiring Lori Lehmkuhl as City Collector at \$18.00 per hour. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Advised the Fred Andrews is stepping down as Fire Chief and they are in process of finding a replacement. The fire department just had several retire and looking for new volunteers.

Update on post office, they are working on inside and hope to be open soon. No definite date at this time.

Herschel White has retired as of 12/31/2024 after 24 years of service. He will be working a couple days a week as part time.

Flags were lowered to half mass to honor President Jimmy Carter.

The business at 26 S Hill, formally The Firehouse, has been purchased by LaRae and Jason Timmerman. The new name will be The Chug and Chow. They will be applying for the available liquor license.

Had a meeting about the Union handbook and contract and agreed to have it start with the fiscal year to be able to be in sync with normal time of merit increases on May 2025.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney**, advised that had spoken to Judge Mike Roseberry, Municipal Court hearing officer, contract was discussed and 3 plans were discussed.

1. \$300.00 a month for 12 months = \$3600.00
2. \$350.00 a month for 6 months = \$2100.00
3. \$200.00 a month for 12 months = \$2100.00

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman second to approve Municipal Court Hearing Officer, Mike Roseberry, for \$200.00 for 12 months. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Municipal citations that are needing to be presented.

1. Ryan Frost – 311 Cherry St has been cleaned no need to send
2. Amber Quinn – 11 N Commercial – trash, junk
3. Amanda Jefferson – 28 N Commercial – junk, trash, inoperable vehicle.
4. Crystal Elliott – 115 School St – junk, trash, inoperable vehicle.
5. Brandi Dunmire – 307 W Cross St – junk and trash

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Bill Jacquot second to approve 4 municipal court citations. Roll call resulted in 4 yeas Ron Bell voting no. Motion carried.

### No Public Comments

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Tina Brown second to adjourn 9:27 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

  
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Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
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Teri Little, City Clerk