

March 5, 2025

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting March 5, 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, Terry Gregory, Tina Brown, Melinda Hembrough, Bill Jacquot and City Clerk Teri Little.

Also, in attendance were Wanda Cody, City Treasurer; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Carmen Ensinger, Scott County Times; John Simmons, Supt of Public Works; Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates; Phil Pratt, Fire Department; Bryan Taylor, Fire Department; Jessica Brown; 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 February 13, 2025.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Tina Brown seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular February 13, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire advised that the post office construction should be complete in the next 3 weeks and ready for final inspection. Hopefully will be open again first of April.

Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates, referred to city attorney John Paul to advise on Downtown Beautification grant status. He advised that unfortunately the city did not get chosen for the grant.

The unsewered community grant should be coming available in May or June. The tribal letters need to be updated. Some requirements have changed and we will review once grant is opened up.

The library change order is still open as waiting on weather to improve to complete.

IDNR ASLAD grant is still open to apply for with the deadline being 09/30/2025.

USDA did advise that the city will be able to keep the funds that were not used in the water main project. Funds will need to be spent on items that were previously approved.

MFT got an early start and have already done the drive thru with John. John will get with the school and check about oil and chipping.

Phil Pratt and Bryan Taylor, Fire Department members, advised they met with Rex last week about fire chief with Chad Moore also attending.

They would like to see if the current ordinance can be changed to allow members on the fire department to live within 15 miles of the fire house and maybe lowering the required age from 21. They feel this may help in recruiting volunteers. Currently there are 20 members on the squad with 8 within 5 miles and 12 in the city. There were three members that retired from the squad in December.

They would like to start molding the younger members to be able to step up once the older members retire.

Any new volunteers would use old turnout gear for first year. In the first year they would have a review at 6 months then the squad would vote at the end of the year to have them remain.

The department is in need of new pagers. They are between \$385.00 to \$400.00 each.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Melinda Hembrough second to approve purchase of 10 new pagers up to \$4000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Advised that there are inspections being done on all volunteer fire departments and eventually will be here.

They would also like to add another officer to the list of officers.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer, passed out financial reports.

Advised that budget billing letters have been mailed which included the ordinance.

Audit is scheduled for June 23-27, 2025.

Jeff Pittman, Alderman; has been working with Animal Control officer Jim Sherwin. Gave Jim copy of the policy that includes fees that should be collected when housing dogs and pick up fee due to receive animal back. Wanted to revisit adding a few holding pens for city to house lost dogs picked up by animal control. Would pour concrete pads out at the edge of town and set up holding kennels. Would hold for 10 days and if not claimed or a rescue not able to take would then have to euthanize. Seems that the city is not collecting any fees at this time but getting bills from Scott County Dog Rescue from housing the animals. Mayor requested to look into this a little further.

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works, monthly report:

Work orders – 10; Funerals – 1; Locate tickets – 7; Monthly odorant report; Monthly sniff test; Monthly brush pick up; Salted streets several times; Water leaks – 2; Patched some potholes; Purchased hip boots; Jim, Joseph & Amanda to Effingham water CEU's, 3 days; Jim to Indiana for pool licensing, 3 days; Laverdiere came and finished E Hardin St.

There is a sewer main on S Main St on the east side that needs replaced. Used to be able to jet it out but not able to do this anymore. It is a section of about 300 feet that flows into a new section.

Where it is located the city is not able to replace it and will need to put out for bid. No permits are needed as this is repair.

Requesting to purchase a tiller to use at the cemetery to help till new graves and settled areas.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough second to approve purchase of a tiller up to \$1000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Replaced leaking gas valve on N Walnut St.

Grinder at sewer plant needs replaced. This is the one we just had repaired but a different section. They will work with us on replacement. A new one can cost anywhere from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

The heating and cooling unit for the panel box for the Villa Court lift station needs replaced. Will get estimates.

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, absent from meeting.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, advised that He, Denny Bangert and alderwoman Terry Gregory met and went over return draft of the union contract. There are a couple items to still work out. Will have a special meeting next week Wednesday at 6 pm to go over and finalize the draft.

Received a request to sponsor Orange Ribbon Livestock Event. This is a fundraiser for Braylee Littig who is fighting leukemia. Was agreed that would not sponsor due to not able to support all individual fundraisers.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, municipal court update:

4 cases dismissed

1 case fined \$200.00 for first offense.

No Public Comments

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Jeff Pittman second to adjourn 9:30 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk