

April 2, 2025

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting April 2, 2025 at City Hall.

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

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; Jack Daniels; Tim and Lauri Mason; Bill Baughman; Francis Brown; Marilyn Fedder; Karol Brown; Mackenzie Gieseke; Bryan Taylor, Fire Chief.

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

Mayor McIntire wanted to take a moment to congratulate the newly elected alderman Jerry Evans, Melinda Hembrough and Jack Daniels. Also reelected Wanda Cody, City Treasurer and Teri Little, City Clerk. He also wanted to commend Ron Bell for his years on the council. He wanted to thank all that voted for his 4th term as Mayor.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Tina Brown 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 March 5, 2025.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular March 5, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the special meeting minutes March 12, 2025.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular March 5, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted in 3 yeas and 2 abstain. Motion carried.

Greg Hillis, Benton and Associates, gave updates on pending projects. The unsewered grant should be coming up soon to be able to apply.

The weather is starting to improve so the rest of the library improvements can get started. Trotter has installed the gutter guards on the building.

Water main project is complete and the punch list will be completed as soon as weather improves. Will be getting with John to go over utilizing the extra money still left from the project.

The sewer on S Main is about 300 to 400 feet and needs repaired. Will not be easy due to the location. There is no cost to preliminary review. Will be manhole to manhole so no need for permits.

Advised that they were in receipt of the plans for the convenience center that will be located on the old grocery store lot. In need of more information and sent back to owners with notes.

Bobbi Jo Smith, Winchester Civic Group, was present to advise that the parks and recreation committee of the civic group is disbanding eff 04/01/2025. The committee was formed in 2017. Over those years they have worked with the city to improve the parks and promoting all the leisure time amenities that the town has to offer. It has become expensive to supply the insurance and also hard to have the man power to sustain the group. The group currently has \$3671.93 that they are donating the city to be used for improvements in Monument Park. Currently some of the funds will go towards the new poles and nets for the pickle ball courts.

Bryan Taylor, Fire Chief, was present for the fire department. He was in contact with John Paul Coonrod and they devised the new Ordinance to adjust the age limit, number of volunteers and residence rules.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve Ordinance 986. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried

Chief Taylor has been in contact with other fire departments to see how they handle things in their houses. Trying to streamline and delegate work so not all on one person. Caleb VanDeVelde will be handling paperwork.

Rich Evans from the South Jacksonville Fire Department advised that they use the ESO system. This is a 3rd party vendor. The EMS uses this system. The system will help elevate all the hard copy paper files. All will be on the system and easy to bring up and review.

They have added 3 new members. The department handles an average of 40 calls a year.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Tina Brown seconded to approve ESO System for Fire Dept not to exceed \$2000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Marilyn Fedder, was on hand to advise that for the past 8 years there have been several ladies that handled planting the flowers in Douglas and Monument Park. There are 10 pots and take 50-60 plants. The normally get them at Sandy's Seedlings but they are no longer open. They advised that they are getting too old to handle the work and would like to pass the job on to someone or a group. Prior to the meeting they were speaking with Mackenzie Gieske and she offered to take over this project and utilize the TEEN Reach members to handle it.

Mackenzie Gieske, After School Program Director, the Teen Reach program that is funded by a grant thru the Health Department would like to utilize the park for the month of June for their summer programs. They would like to rent the pavilion Tuesday thru Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm for 4th grade and up. They will be offering different camps each week such as sports, art and survival.

She is happy to take over the flower planting as she is wanting to get the kids involved in the community and doing things for the town.

She will write up a contract for the use of the Pavillion and bathrooms for \$400.00. They have a grant thru IDES Act Now program. The grant is for 3 years and they have already seen a rise in attendance at school and grades have improved as well. Hoping to build on what they have learned this year and make the program even better next year.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, presented Ordinance 987. This is to add a new liquor license for the new owners of the bowling alley and also clean up others that are not being used. Ordinance will add a new A license, remove 2 B license, remove 2 D license and change to E license. So will have 4-A, 1-B, 2-C, and 3-E license.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Ordinance 987. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, monthly report:

Animal complaint – 8; Arrests – 3; Assist EMS – 6; Assist outside agency (police) – 9; Assist motorist – 7; Attempt to locate – 1; Building alarm – 2; Child exchange – 1; Clear roadway(obstructions) – 2; DCFS – 1; Domestic disturbance – 2; Found property returned – 2; Interviews – 5; Investigations – 2; Noise complaint – 1; Road hazard – 1; Solicitor complaint – 1; Speak to an officer – 28; Suicidal subject /mental health – 7; Suspicious person – 1; Suspicious vehicle – 2; Theft – 1; Traffic control – 2; Traffic stops – citations – 12; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 13; Trespassing – 1; Vehicle complaint – 1; Weather spotting – 2; Well-being checks – 3.

Steve advised that Tim Murphy will be graduating the academy at the end of April.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer, passed out financial reports. Advised end of April is end of fiscal year.

Terry Gregory, Alderman, advised that the personnel committee interviewed members that applied for the city crew. They are on agreement to recommend that the city hire Blake Galloway. Very personable young man. Can start as soon as possible. He will start at \$18.00 per hour and will be on 6-month probation.

MOTION: Tina Brown moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve recommendation to hire Blake Galloway for city crew. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Bill Jacquot, Alderman, advised that they would be hiring 1 manager and 2 assistant managers for the pool again this year. They will be having a meeting on May 5th to finalize everything for this pool season.

Would like to recommend Sarah Kilver to the pool board.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve appointment of Sarah Kilver to Pool Board. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works, monthly report:

Locate tickets – 11; Work orders – 18; Graves – 3; Monthly odorant report; Monthly sniff test; Monthly brush pick up; Ordered road salt for 25-26 season; Zoning perm its – 2; Read meters; Disconnects for late payments – 2 days; Some street patching, several days; Yearly cemetery clean up; Changed hydraulic hoses on backhoe; High pressure gas main inspection; Called several locate tickets; Cut off abandon gas service to 28 N Walnut, Miller Welding; Went over MFT maps; Pick up limbs in both parks several times; John and Derik to Effingham gas meeting; Rent concrete saw, remove concrete street, Walnut, Pearl gas leak; Trying to get parts for broken playground equipment; Rented tiller, work up and seeded graves at cemetery; Repaired gas leak at Walnut & Pearl, haven't filled in yet; Burn brush pile at lagoons; Yearly EIA report; Vandevanter installed cooler box for lift station at Villa Court; Marked out several grave sites for Daw's to put in head stones.

There is a tree on the water main easement on Witwer's property out in the country that needs to be removed. It is a huge tree that is about 20 feet wide. Danny Powell gave bid of \$800.00.

MOTION: Jeff Pittman moved and Tina Brown seconded to approve removal of tree on water main easement on Witwer property by Danny Powell \$800.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

There is also a tree on N Main St on Randy Coons property that is in the right of way that John has deemed dangerous. Danny Powell gave bid of \$1400.00 to remove tree and stump.

MOTION: Jeff Pittman moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve removal of dangerous tree on right of way North Main St. at Randy Coons home. property by Danny Powell \$1400.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Blower building at the lagoons needs a new roof. Received 2 bids.

1. \$3100.00 Stoney Gauges
2. \$2950.00 Leo Anslyn

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve bid from Leo Anslyn to replace roof for \$2950.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Need to replace pump 1 at the sewer plant. They use 4 pumps 2 low flow that run non stomp and 2 high flow that are seldom used. Quote for new low flow filter is \$8000.00.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve purchase of low flow water pump not to exceed \$12,000. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Still would like to hire some summer help.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, advised received a notice for upgrade to Locis system. Not sure if this is mandatory or not. Will have clerk get back with Locis and see what the requirements are and if we can just stick with the one, we have or if the upgrade is necessary.

Will be setting up a meeting to go over the water study and then will bring a plan to the council.

Advised that waiting on weather to improve to start on the pickle ball courts.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, advised that there was no municipal court.

Citations approved: 201 E Cherry trash and debris

20 High St- Denny Savage- no trash pick up for 2 months all piled up out back. Attracting dogs, cats and wildlife. Junk,

Trash, garbage.

Presented Ordinance 988 for Routine & Anticipated purchases for the 2025-2026 fiscal year

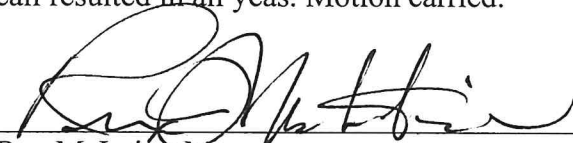
MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Tina Brown seconded to approve Ordinance 988 Routine & Anticipated Purchases. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

No Public Comments

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

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to move out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough second to adjourn 11:03 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk