

July 2, 2025

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting July 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, Melinda Hembrough, Gerald Evans, Jack Daniels and City Clerk Teri Little. Alderman Bill Jacquot 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; Sam Ford and Paul Sansone.

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

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

MOTION: Jack Daniels moved and Gerald Evans 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 June 4, 2025.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular June 4, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Paul Sansone, present on behalf of the Winchester Little League. Winchester is in need of better facilities for sports in town. This summer had many scheduling challenges for little league and the travel ball teams here in town. With only the softball field at the school to use for all little league games and any tournaments it is just not manageable any longer. He has a petition signed by many people supporting this idea. Winchester is also losing out on money that could be being spent here but is being taken to other towns since we do not have the facilities. An example was Central Valley Rage, travel ball team from here, had to move their weekend tourney to Bluffs as they were not able to utilize Winchester fields. There were hundreds of people attending, but at Bluffs instead of here. Would like to get with the city to see what can be done to make this happen.

Mayor McIntire advised this has been something he has wanted to see happen for some time. Winchester is eligible for the OSLAD grant, which is a grant that you can apply for once every 3 years. It was used to redo the swimming pool. City has property on the North end of town by the Dollar General building that he has wanted to see developed into some sort of sport complex. Would like to also tie into park with a walk/bike path as well.

Sansone advised that the little league has funds that they can contribute and also help fundraise and find additional grants.

Can look into DOT, Pepsi, Ameren, REA and Tracy Family Foundation.

Can start with one field and work from there and in future maybe add an additional field and maybe other sports facilities.

Paul Sansone and Sam Ford will get a group of people together to work with the city to further plans on this project.

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, presented monthly report.

Animal complaint – 7; Arrests – 2; Assist EMS – 17; Assist outside agency(police) – 14; Assist motorist – 3; Assist repo agency – 1; Attempt to locate – 3; Burglary – 1; Child endangerment – 1; Domestic disturbance – 3; Found property returned – 1; Interviews - 1; Investigations – 2; Noise complaint – 1; Property exchange – 4; Pursuit – 1; Road hazard - 1; Solicitor complaint – 1; Speak to officer – 32; Suicidal subject/mental health – 2; Suspicious person – 2; Suspicious vehicle – 1; Theft – 2; Traffic accidents – 3; Traffic control – 3; Traffic stops/citations – 20; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 43; Transient – 1; Trespassing – 2; Vehicle complaint – 1; Weather spotting – 1; Well-being checks - 5.

Officer Amanda Smith applied for a grant for the tasers and received the check for \$15,687.00.

Truck had to be towed. It shut down and would not restart. Jumped it but nothing worked except lights. Ended up being the battery. New one bought and installed \$470.00.

Wanda Cody, Treasurer, presented monthly financial reports.

Audit went well. They were only onsite for 3 days.

Moved \$25,000.00 out of the library grant to the general fund to pay back city for grant work.

Paid the city \$1000.00 from the cemetery fund to pay for the tiller purchased to work the ground.

Jeff Pittman, Alderman, update on the holding pens for city. Concrete has been poured, gravel done and ready to do the roof. The rescue in Roodhouse is not able to assist us at this time.

Asking permission to get a vest and car magnet stating animal control for dog catcher so people are aware of him when he is on calls. Permission granted.

Wanting to request purchase of spike strips for all the police vehicles. Recently had a high-speed chase come thru Winchester that originated in Greene County. The chase went thru Carrollton, Whitehall, Alsey, Winchester and finally crashing in Carrollton.

He feels would be beneficial to have these in cases like this. Advised to investigate cost for future meeting.

John Simmons, City Superintendent, presented monthly report.

Work orders – 9; Locate tickets – 23; Grave openings – 5; Zoning permits – 1; Monthly sniff test; Monthly odorant reading; Monthly meter reading; Monthly brush pick-up; Patching streets; Pour concrete W Jefferson & old water plant; Painting curbs; Dura patching streets; Mark USDI qualified Derik and Joseph for gas; Install handicap signs on square; Mowing water plant and wells; Some spraying; Municipal courts; IMVA meeting in Effingham.

Sewer plant generator is acting up. Cummings is coming to look at it. Hoping it is just the water pump.

Fencing for pickle ball and basketball courts is over \$80,000.00. Will hold off on this for the time being. Overlay has been completed on the pickle ball courts.

REA is asking about having a sidewalk put in front of the Christian Church and old gas station parking lot. Their employees' park in the lot and walk to the building and they would like to have a sidewalk. Willing to pay for part of it.

The company from Iowa came and repaired the playground equipment and looks very good.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, wanted to take a moment to thank Randy Long from REA for donating their old conference room tables to the city to use in the council room, they look very nice.

He has also passed out a letter he is including in this month's billing. It basically highlights the recent business' that have opened and to thank them and the existing business' for investing in our community. He is wanting to get the Lincoln statue purchased and displayed to draw more attention to the town and bring in more people. For small rural business to succeed we need to bring money to town. So please donate to the fund if able, to bring Lincoln to the square.

On June 27th a meeting was conducted to discuss rate increases for city water customers. This meeting was attended by the water committee members: Alderman Bill Jacquot, Jeff Pittman and Jack Daniels, City Utility Superintendent John Simmons, City water operator Jim Dobson and Mayor Rex McIntire.

The intent of the meeting was to increase water revenues with the least negative impact to the city customers.

1. The base will raise from \$16.50 for the initial 1000 gallons to \$18.50. This modest increase should not impact low volume customers too badly.
2. After the initial 1000-gallon base charge we will follow the city code section 38-3-79 which is to bill \$15.00 per 1000 gallon for the next 2000 gallons. Then \$12.50 per gallon for the next 1500 gallons. After the initial 4500 gallons the rate will be raised to \$11.50 per 1000 gallons for up to 50,000 gallons usage per month.
3. For the high-volume commercial businesses such as Prairieland FS and Logan AG the city will charge them as listed as above for the first 50,000 gallons then will reduce the rate to the current \$10.00 per 1000 gallons after the first 50,000 gallons to prevent a negative impact to them.
4. For the high-volume non-profit customers such as the Scott County Nursing home and the Scott County School District #100 it was decided to use the rates in the city code for the first 4500 gallons then charge them a flat rate of \$8.00 per 1000 gallons after the initial 4500 gallons.
5. Also decided was an increase to the Scott County Rural Water Company from \$4.75 per 1000 gallons to \$6.50 per 1000 gallons. Information received from Clark Cameron stated that our cost to produce 1000 gallons of water was \$5.39 per 1000 gallons. So obviously the rate needed to increase. It was also discovered that their price was \$8.70 per 1000 gallons.

6. These rates will go into effect beginning with August billing. An automatic rate increase of 3% across the board will occur on May 1st each year thereafter.

The city in the last several years made the effort to keep water rates as affordable as possible but with the rising costs we must raise rates in order to be able to supply our customers with the adequate clean drinking water needed. Our rates are still very competitive with surrounding communities.

Attorney Coonrod passed out Ordinance 993 that established the new water rates as discussed.

MOTION: Jack Daniels moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Ordinance 993 Water Rate Establishment. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire wanted to just say that people that have pets need to be responsible for their pets. No one wants to walk in animal waste or have to worry about walking down the street and being attacked by a dog. If you own a pet make sure you are picking up after them and keep them on a leash.

The city is in receipt of a TIF funds application from Debra Mustard. She has purchased the Assembly of God Church and needs work done on the outside. She is wanting to keep it as close to the historic look as possible. She has an estimate from Duane Crockett to work on the chimney, scrape all paint and repaint. The total is \$10,425.00. The application was accepted and will cover \$2606.00 after the work is completed as per the ordinance.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve Resolution 2025-07-01 For \$2606.00 for TIF roof/façade to Debra Mustard. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, update on the S Main condemnation. Has the petition drawn up and checking on lien holders and ownership search. If none found he will then file.

Passed out Ordinance 994. This is to update the verbiage for the utility bill grace period. It will now reflect that 10 days after due date the customer will be subject to disconnection. This is so we can be established in the local debt recovery act. The state comptroller checked everything and this is all that was needed to finalize.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve Ordinance 994 Utility bill grace period revision. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Last month the Annual Appropriations ordinance was passed out to go over to be approved for this month. This is for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. There were no objections or corrections.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Ordinance 995 Annual Appropriations Ordinance. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Municipal court update on 20 citations - were fined 2 at \$1500.00, 1 at \$750.00, 1 at \$500.00 and 1 at \$100.00. There were 8 dismissed as the party(s) complied and cleaned up. Three were continued. Five were not served.

We have two new citations to approve this month. Jose Garcia – 360 W Cherry St and Michael Anslyn – 126 S Maple.

MOTION: Jack Daniels moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve 2 Municipal Court Citations. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

No Public Comments

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough second to adjourn 9:59 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Cler