

August 6, 2025

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting August 6, 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, 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; RJ Pasley and Don Campbell.

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

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Jack Daniels 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 July 2, 2025.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular July 2, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and Bill Jacquot abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the special meeting minutes of July 15, 2025.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the special July 15, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and Melinda Hembrough abstained. Motion carried.

**Greg Hillis, Benton Engineering**, was not present and had no updates to report on current or pending projects. Mayor McIntire had discussed the OSLAD grant with him and will try and get a meeting next week to go over plans.

Paul Sansone is looking into other grants.

Members of the council did have a few concerns about the ball fields as who would be responsible for upkeep, concessions and other things related to the fields. This all will be addressed further into the project.

**Teri Little, Library report**, Mayor McIntire asked Teri to get the plans and estimate for the landscaping plans for the library and also a detailed list of the subscriptions and fees that are paid out monthly/yearly. This will give a better idea of that is being paid.

**Wanda Cody, Treasurer**, presented monthly financial reports.

There are 2 CD's ready for renewal. One is at UCB for 6 months will renew at 4.1% and one at Petefish and Skiles for 5 months at 4.15%.

She recommends allowing to roll over. Council agrees.

**Steve Doolin, Police Chief**, presented monthly report.

Advised that the police truck has had 2 flat tires in 2 weeks. One seems to be a razor blade was left behind a tire at the station. Chief Doolin purchased 8 cameras for \$239.99 in Amazon to be able to have surveillance at the station at all times.

Chief Doolin will take the truck in to have 4 new tires put on the truck at FS.

**Jeff Pittman, Alderman**, advised panels and wood for roof purchased. There are still 2 dogs being held that have not been claimed.

Animal control officer Jim Sherwin has lost his truck due to fire. Will need to get new transportation.

**Teri Little, City Clerk**, has a few employees asking about direct deposit. Would be no cost to the city. Council decided to not go with direct deposit at this time.

Received notification that it is time for contract renewal for company that handles our SAM renewal. Last time we chose the 5-year contract which saves money. This program ran smoothly for the past 5 years. This is essential to the city being able to apply and receive grant money. The five-year contract is \$2600.00.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to approve extending the contract for SAM renewal for additional 5 years at \$2600.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**John Simmons, City Superintendent**, presented monthly report.

Monthly odorant report; Monthly sniff test; brush pick up, several days; Graves – 3; Work orders – 11; Locates – 21; Painted over 30 rusty gas meters & piping; Painted of 30 fire hydrants; Cold patch several streets; County dura-patched 3 days; Repaired water valve on N Main St, concrete poured back in; Ran new water service for Cowhick's, N Main, poured concrete in; Cut off old and ran new gas service to Peaks' insurance; Trimmed lots of trees and brush in alleys and streets; Put up flags for the 4<sup>th</sup>; rented concrete saw for several areas to cut; New front tires for gator; fixed gas leak, new meter as 2 places; Lots of mowing; Gas meeting in Waverly, sent Blake and Joseph on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Swept several streets; Ordered lots of water parts using grant money; Lots of spraying; Monthly meter readings; Blake taking gas testing; Powel taking down dead trees and trimming up several.

City is in dire need of new barricades. So many people and events borrow the ones we have and they are very worn and in bad shape. Have checked into Schulte Supply and can get 6 – 10 ft plastic barricades for \$1100.00.

**MOTION:** Jack Daniels moved and Gerald Evans seconded to approve purchase of 6 – 10ft barricades from Schulte Supply for \$1100.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Ridgeline Telecom-Frontier is wanting to run fiber thru town. The city needs to adopt an ordinance. In the past when IRTC ran fiber the city would have 60 locates a day and this is just not possible. By adding another fiber line in the right of way this hinders repair work when too many lines are in right of way.

Spoke with John Lyons and need to have an ordinance and have listed to have right of way permit, must send in proposal and be approved by the city and Benton Engineering for each section and each block.

Needing to have a tree removed from the right of way on corner of Pearl and High St in Paul Sansone yard. This is a large tree that has roots that have grown into the sewer line since it sets right on top. Advising to have removed as this has caused sewage back up to several houses on the High St. Danny Powell gave bid of \$800.00 to remove tree and stump.

There is also a tree/bush on the corner of Jack Daniels lot on Spring St that faces Cherry St that needs to be trimmed as blocking view.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Gerald Evans seconded to approve removal of tree on corner of Pearl and High St for \$800.00 by Danny Powell. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Needing to get estimates for striping and nets for pickle ball and basketball courts at the park.

Needing to do a water main replacement for section of main in front of Illinois Rural Electric. In trying to tap main to run water to the new gas station had to clamp a few times as the pipe is cracking and unable to tap. Cannot shut it off due to 1 inch line. Need to install a valve at 3-way stop for shut off for emergency repair.

Lavediere will help install the valve.

**Rex McIntire, Mayor,** has been asked about signs directing traffic to the school. John will look into it.

Would like to look into getting the trap and release program started again. Teri Little will talk with Katie Howard about the program she had been running.

Next year is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the United States and would like to look into having a celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The Lincoln statue donations have reached \$12,009.05. Have been speaking with Anne Mosely who works with the Looking for Lincoln organization and looking for used statues.

Have received the yearly West Central Cougar Booster advertising package renewal. For returning sponsors the full package is \$700.00 for the year.

**MOTION:** Gerald Evans moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve yearly West Central Cougar advertising \$700.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

The new year for the Morgan-Scott CEO program has started and the yearly sponsor fee is being requested from the city. This program is very good for the young people as it creates many

opportunities for them to create their own business and learn many valuable lessons along the way.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve yearly donation for Morgan-Scott CEO Program for \$1000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney,** advised that Bryan Shinall has been mowing the parks and library for Jasper Miller. Mr. Miller would like to sign over the contract to Bryan Shinall for the rest of the contract period.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve contract take over from Jasper Miller to Bryan Shinall for mowing contract to parks and library. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Needing to come up with a policy for sidewalk repair/replacement. Needing to decide on whom would be liable for expense. Can be handled several ways but need to determine which would be most beneficial for all concerned. Can come up with list of ones that are needing repaired/replaced. Will have an ordinance next month to look over. Can maybe utilize TIF funds if in the district.

Municipal Court update:

Case 1 – Ian Callahan- all that is left for him is to scrap a car. Let him have till next hearing date.

Case 2 – Gary Kline – 2 inoperable vehicles. He explained to judge is working on getting fixed and running.

Stocker got rid of a couple cars and canoes. Down to a couple boats. Dismissed the case as is working on issues.

Have four new cases and 3 have already been cleaned up.

1. 203 E Cherry St
2. 228 N Main St
3. 229 N Walnut St
4. E Cross St Denny Savage for weeds, trash and debris.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve Municipal Court Citation for Dennis Savage E Cross St. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

#### **No Public Comments**

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Jack Daniels seconded to move to closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to move into open session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve \$1820.00 and transfer costs for vehicle, if needed. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas with Melinda Hembrough voting no. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve \$1.00 raise for Librarians Jeanette Wallace and Reba Witwer retro to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve open closed meeting minutes as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Jeff Pittman second to adjourn 11:20 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

  
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Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
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Teri Little, City Clerk