

October 1, 2025

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting October 1, 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; Stevie VanDeVelde, Winchester Civic Group.

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

Before meeting starts Mayor would like to advise that the post office lobby is now open. Also, wanted to draw attention to the 2 new buildings in town and how quickly they are developing. Peak Insurance new office is quickly being completed. The new convenience store is moving along but did experience a couple set backs and have moved opening to March 2026.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

**MOTION:** Jack Daniels 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 September 3, 2025.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular September 3, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Greg Hillis, Benton Engineering**, was not present and had no updates to report on current or pending projects.

**Stevie VanDeVelde, Winchester Civic Group**, wanted to give updates. Will be having Harvest Fest on October 26 from 11 to 3. Would request that the square be blocked off partial square and leaving the Main Street open. Will have Leo's Pizza truck, and a couple other food vendors. There will be face painting, pumpkin painting, live music by Levi Tucker and adding a vintage market this year. Would like to have the city bring 4 picnic tables from the pavilion to the square for seating.

Quilters are having a fundraiser and will be boosting advertising for the tickets soon.

Hometown Christmas will be December 6<sup>th</sup>. Will be decorating November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Requesting that leaves be cleaned up prior to be able to set trees and lights. Also, last year had an issue when placing stakes for lights. Requesting that they city mark where the power lines run.

Events for the day will include: Kiwanis pancake and sausage breakfast at Sibert Hall, cookies and candy walk at First Christian Church, Christmas tree display at Old School house museum, train display at Depot, Santa from 1 to 3, Library will have art show, First Baptist Church soup supper 4 to 6, light parade at 6:30 and following on the square lighting and reading of memory trees and Howard brothers Christmas songs.

Looking at different events to bring attention to the town and fundraising for the community. Still looking into getting 4 permanent tables for the square.

Asking about status of the old Hynes building. Has checked into the T-Mobile Hometown grant. This offers up to \$50,000 quarterly. This quarter opens October 1<sup>st</sup> and close December and has to be used by end of December.

Attorney John Paul Coonrod advised that working on getting control of the building. Had posted sign and notice 30 days last Monday advising of condition of property notice. Cannot do anything until have ownership of building. Next steps are to file lien on property and then to condemn.

Mayor advised if can get ownership and can reinforce building on both sides would like to build a small park area and public restrooms. Will look into filing for the grant when can utilize the funds.

**Steve Doolin, Police Chief**, no updates for this month.

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

Will add final audit approval for next month's meeting Please have all questions to Wanda by November 5<sup>th</sup>. Will check and see if Robyn is available to attend next months meeting to advise on any questions or concerns of the audit.

Have a CD that will need to be renewed on October 28, 2025. No rates available yet will run by Rex once they are posted.

USDA library grant is now closed. Trotter Construction is paid and library grant account paid back all but \$3770.00 to the city.

**Bryan Taylor, Fire Chief**, was present to give an update on the fire department. He has completed an inventory to date and needing a few items. Needing 2 new helmets, ten pair of gloves, six flashlights, seven pair of extraction gloves, six hoods, need seven name badges, seven helmet medallions. The estimate for the needed items is about \$3550.00.

Previously requested to purchase reporting software but discovered it was easier to do third party reporting thru the State Fire Marshall. This is a free site.

Have three new members to the squad. They are at the point for 6 months sit down at next meeting and are doing very well.

Advised of officers: Sam Ford; Captain, Collin VanDeVelde; Lieutenant, Phil Pratt; Assistant Chief, Chad Moore; 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief, Bryan Taylor; Fire Chief.

Have had 22 fires to date. Have 20 full time staff and have averaged 9 guys per call. Have had a few mutual calls with South Jacksonville.

New Fire Marshall rep has advised we are not up to level that needs to be but gave steps to get where we need to be.

Currently have one engine down. Stacy Mitchell and others have been trying to figure out what the issues are

**Teri Little, City Clerk**, requested to block off the square on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 for annual trunk or treat event. Last year had over 400 children in attendance. This was approved.

Was advised by a few concerned citizens requesting something be done about street parking on N High St. In one area it is normally down to one lane as people parking on both sides of street across from each other. Was advised a person had seen the roadway was almost too narrow for the Wrights Tree Service to pass down street.

**Bill Jacquot, Alderman**, presented this year's pool report. This year's loss was the most in the past 4 years. Chemicals were \$10,000.00 more than previous years. Payroll was reduced by \$4667.93. Will look into rates for next year. Pool is needing a new pump for next season. Also looking into getting LED lights for the pool thru Ameran program.

**Jeff Pittman, Alderman**, update on the dog kennels. They are needing additional materials in the amount of \$741.52 to finish roof. This is completed. Parker Kirkpatrick came out and did the work to add the roof and donated his time, Ron Howard has a chain link dog fence that he wishes to donate to the city as long as city removes.

**MOTION:** Jeff Pittman moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve additional materials for \$741.52. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

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

Work orders – 18; Funeral graves – 5; Locate tickets – 31; Zoning permits – 2; Monthly odorant reading; Monthly sniff test; Monthly brush pick up; Sealing joints at pool 3 ½ weeks; Poured concrete at 2 South Main St areas; Monthly meter readings; Put up pickle ball nets; Blake completed gas training and can be on call now; Street patching; Relocated gas service at Mike Dahman's rental house; Striping on N Main and S Elm school; Take VAC machine to Rochester for servicing; Gas pressure chart broken, reading at reg station daily; Striping completed at pickleball court; Benton's camera sewer on S Main St.

Need to remove the tree on the corner of Jack Daniels home and the state highway as this is hindering visual entering the highway. Quote received by Danny Powell to remove tree and stump \$1000.00. This is a bit high due to location of tree and having to block a lane on highway for removal.

**MOTION:** Jeff Pittman moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve tree removal on corner of highway by Jack Daniels home by Danny Powell \$1000.00. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and Jack Daniels abstaining. Motion carried.

Needing a new gas pressure monitor. This is needed to monitor gas pressure 7 days a week. It is checked morning and night to ensure proper pressure on the gas mains. New system will notify 24/7 with an antenna to call if this raises or drops. It is \$3500.00 to install and then a monthly fee \$35.00 thru USDI.

**MOTION:** Jack Daniels moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve gas pressure monitor upgrade \$3500.00 to install and \$35.00 monthly fee thru USDI. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

New grinder at sewer plant is not fitting correctly. Found competitor much cheaper with 5-year warranty. Current company will match the price. They installed it today and now throwing breaker. Unable to figure out why so will have to send somewhere else.

Stacy Mitchell has requested that the one-way direction for the alley from Main St by Rural Cyclery be extended to Mechanic St. by his home. This alley is too narrow for 2-way direction and people are driving in his yard. John Paul will draw up new Ordinance for November meeting to address this.

Update on the sewer system on S Walnut St to Hill St. This is just a system that cannot be fixed due to how it was originally set up. This was not set up by the city.

Benton Engineering used the camera on the S Main sewer needing repaired. There are two areas that maybe able to repair instead of replacing.

New pool pump is need for the 2026 Pool season. The new pump will cost \$7495.00

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve purchase of new pool pump for \$7495.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Rex McIntire, Mayor,** reported that the pickle ball courts are striped and nets are up. Still looking into the fences. This will be another 6 weeks out. Rick Crew's wife has stated that her brother would like to give lessons on the courts when not in use.

The city has received the annual investment invoice for the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development annual investment for \$1200.00

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve 2025 annual investment JRED \$1200.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas carried.

Want to look into getting the sidewalks done on Main St and at the UCB Bank.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney,** municipal court update:

There were 4 cases:

1. Inoperable vehicle – fined and cited again
2. 2 inoperable vehicles – 1 fixed so granted extension
3. Denny Savage – Cross St dismissed
4. Denny Savage – High St fined \$500.00

Distributed Ordinance 998. This is to amend work commitment requirements for new police officers trained at the city expense. New amendment would require any newly hired police officer, for whom the city has paid fees for training, shall incur a work commitment to the city. Such employee shall be obligated to continue employment with the city for a period of 2 years following their basic training certification.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Ordinance 998. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**No Public Comments**

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman second to move to closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Bill Jacquot second to move to open session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Personnel committee would like to recommend hiring Hayden Jefferson as fulltime employee. Starting October 2, 2025 at \$18.00 per hour under 6-month supervision.

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough second to approve the hire of Hayden Jefferson as full time employee at \$18.00 per hour starting on October 2, 2025. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Bill Jacquot second to adjourn 10:25 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

  
Rex McIntire, Mayor

11-05-25

  
Teri Little, City Clerk

11-5-2025