

January 7, 2026

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting January 7, 2026 at City Hall.

Mayor McIntire called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following council in attendance: Jeff Pittman, Melinda Hembrough, Terry Gregory, 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; Ben Cox, The Source; Harold Smith, WLDS; Sam Ford, Fire Department, Bryan Taylor, Fire Chief, Collin VanDeVelde, Fire Department, Mackenzie Evans, State Fire Marshall office, Janet & RJ Pasley, Gabe Barber, Eric and Ryder Peterson, Heather Smith, Meagan, Cole, Emri and Emmitt Hurrelbrink, Pam Campbell, Darrell, Abby, Kyler, Amelia and Hunter Thompson. George Lindsey, City Police, Amanda Smith, City Police, Ayson Smith, Steve Doolin, City police Chief, Hayden Jefferson, Amanda Jefferson and other family members of Kyler's.

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

The City Council room as standing room only for the first time. Everyone was there for one person. Kyler Thompson, 11-year-old, son of Darrell and Abby Thompson. He was being honored as a hero for saving his siblings life from a devastating house fire on December 14, 2025. The Fire Chief, Bryan Taylor, commended him for know exactly what to do when he heard his sister scream. He carried her outside and started the truck for her to stay warm and then ran back in to get his older brother and family dogs. He then ran barefoot to the neighbors in zero-degree temperatures and snow with no shoes or coat to get help. Mackenzie Evans from the Illinois State Fire Marshall presented him with lifesaving award on behalf of the State Fire Marshall. Everyone is calling him a hero but he was very modest and said he just did what he had to do. Several news sources covered the event such as Ben Cox, The Source, Carmean Ensinger, River County News, Harold Smith, WLDS and Cassie Schone from KHQA.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot 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 December 3, 2025.

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

**Greg Hillis, Benton Engineering**, not present but did advise that looking deeper into the pool pump issue, there is one more payment to Trotter for library one we receive.

**Jeanette Wallace, Head Librarian**, advised will be receiving the Carnegie grant for \$10,000 this month. It is to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> year of the Carnegie library.

Looking into getting a grant from the Tracy Family Foundation for \$10,000. This will enable the library to hire Kaitlyn Coulter to handle existing kids' programs, summer reading and create other events for kids.

Having a Genealogy program on 02/12/2026 at 6 pm. This will show people how to research family history.

Children's programs are ongoing such as move and groove, story hour and Lego club. Will be having summer reading again this year.

Have the Book Ender book club 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of every month at 6 pm.

Also have a historical fiction book club every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10 am.

School had a family reading night event at the library and was well attended,

Curious George made an appearance.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer, will be sitting down with Jeanette to go over finances and will attend the monthly board meeting in February for questions from the board.

There is another grant coming up soon to apply for to benefit the library and will keep eye on that

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

Animal complaint – 2; Arrests – 4; Assist EMS – 7; Assist outside agency (Police) – 11; Assist fire department – 3; Assist motorist – 4; Building alarm – 5; Child exchange – 1; Domestic disturbance – 2; Extra patrol requests – 1; Found property returned – 3; Harassment – 1; Investigations – 2; Property exchange – 1; Road hazard – 1; Sex offender register – 1; Solicitor complaint – 1; Speak to an officer – 21; Suspicious person – 2; Suspicious vehicle – 2; Traffic control – 4; Traffic stops – citations – 6; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 18; Weather spotting – 1; Well-being checks – 5.

Purchased 2 decibel meters to give residents that complain of load noise and vehicles to verify when and what the noise levels are.

The truck check oil light is coming on and is 2000 miles from oil change and showing 2 quart low. Will check with Marshalls on warranty.

Lansaw serviced and checked the tornado siren and recommends new batteries. For installation and batteries will be total of \$799.72.

**MOTION:** Jack Daniels moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve batteries for weather siren for \$799.72. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

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

Millikin CD will come due to renew in February

Cemetery CD is due to renew 01/14/2026. Rates for 5-month at Petefish and Skiles for 3.75%. UCB has a 6 month at 3.95%. Farmers bank was 7 or 9-month at 3.7%.

Council agreed to go with 6-month at 3.95% at UCB

TIF fund is doing well.

Going to use the \$3617.31 from the civic group parks and recreation group and apply to the supplies for the pickleball court.

**John Simmons, City Superintendent**, absent but monthly report submitted

Work orders – 21; Funeral graves – 2; Locate tickets -16; Gas leak calls -2; Water leaks -2; Monthly odorant reading; Monthly sniff test; Monthly brush pick up; Days of salt or snow plowing – 4; Blake and josh gas testing several days; Replaced gas meter – 1; Washed and cleaned truck and plows; Fixed 2 water curve valves; Put new gas meter on at new gas station; Locate sewer manholes at Frost subdivision,

Total graves for 2025 – 32 lowest in a long time

Total water leaks for 2025 – lowest in years

2025 had 211 jobs to do listed and finished 153 of them.

John will be checking into LED lighting for the pool area.

**Rex McIntire, Mayor**, advised that the girls up front are wishing to do away with the counter and have regular desks. The way it is now it is making it very awkward for a lot of computer work, One, of the girls has started to have to go have adjustments due to the way the area is set up now and the other has just had hip surgery. John stated that the guys are able to do the labor and remove the counters and we have a couple nice desks that can be used, Will look into what options there are.

Would like to bid out the sidewalk work for the new convenience store, Peak insurance building and Main St to Rt 106. Can be done as individual bids or all together.

Wanting to get a committee together to help locate a Lincoln statue. Funds received so far are at \$13,659.00.

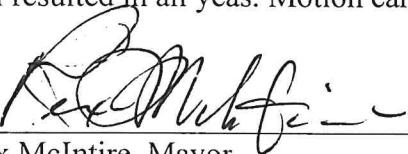
**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney**, presented Resolution 202-01-01. This is for the tax abatement for the new convenience store. The resolution will authorize rebate of property taxes following development of property located 5 S Main Street

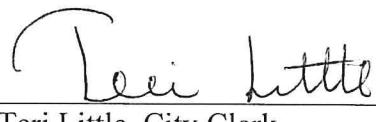
**MOTION:** Melinda Hembrough moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Resolution 2026-01-01, Authorizes rebate of property taxes following development of property located 5 South Main St. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Advised of liquor licenses. There are 2 pending at the moment, AM/PM Convenience Store and The Roadside Grill. One license was revoked and not renewed from the BP station.

**No Public Comments**

**MOTION:** Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough second to adjourn 8:55 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

  
Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
Teri Little, City Clerk