

February 4, 2026

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting February 4, 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; Don Campbell, Merrilyn Fedder.

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

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot 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 January 7, 2026.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular January 7, 2026 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the special meeting minutes of December 22, 2025.

MOTION: Jack Daniels moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the special meeting minutes of December 22, 2025 meeting. Roll call resulted in 4 yeas with Melinda Hembrough and Terry Gregory abstaining. Motion carried.

Greg Hillis, Benton Engineering, advised the swimming pool pump is 9 years old and needs replaced. It will cost as much to rebuild than buy new. Will need a IDPA permit to change pump. Benton's can do the permit and can take up to 3 months to get. Need to go ahead and order pump as can take 4-6 weeks to get pump. Will cost \$10,000 to \$12,000 installed. Doyle Plumbing and Heating is prequalified to install.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve purchase of pool pump for \$12,000.00 and \$2500.00 for Benton's to get permit. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Tabled the idea of having new LED lights installed at the pool as all current lights are working and meet criteria.

Attended this month's library board meeting. Trotter still has work on the exterior lights to complete.

Would like to schedule a finance committee meeting for February 11, 2026 at 11 am.

Hillis advised that there is a new grant coming up that he feels will fit the downtown updates that the city wishes to do with the streets around the square. This is a 75-25% grant. It is about a year out but need to apply by 03-31-2026. Can use the previous paperwork for prior grants and just update costs. Will check on whether it is for remove and replace or overlay.

No new updates on any future projects.

Merrilyn Fedder, Library board member, wanted to recognize Jeanette Wallace as she is a great grant writer and received several for the library.

The library has received a grant from the Tracy Family Foundation. This will pay Kaitlyn Coulter \$833.33 for 6 months to be the Children's Program Coordinator for the library. She already handles story time and move and groove for free. Last week she had 15 littles attend story time. She will be having other programs to support the children at the library.

The furnace quit during the cold snap so had Little's come in and needed to install a new one. It was \$5300.00 and would like the amount to come from Milliken CD interest.

Would like to get some talking books. Will also be using the Alfred Ryder Grant to purchase a changing table for the bathroom as this is state required.

Looking at allowing teachers to waive the annual fee of \$35.00. Would also like to digitize history at some point and purchase some large print books.

Wanda has also been working with Jeanette and also attended the board meeting to answer any financial questions that they had on how the library money is utilized.

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, presented monthly report.

Animal complaint – 3; Arrests – 3; Assist EMS – 8; Assist outside agency (Police) – 7; Assist fire department – 1; Assist motorist – 2; Building alarm – 5; Child exchange – 1; Found property returned – 2; Gas leak – 2; Investigations – 1; Property exchange – 2; Speak to an officer – 21; Stalking – 1; Suicidal subject/mental health – 4; Suspicious vehicle – 1; Traffic accidents – 2; Traffic control – 6; Traffic stops – citations – 6; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 19; Transient – 1; Vehicle complaint - 1; Well-being checks – 2.

Wanting verification on what calls the dog catcher actually handles and what the police are to handle. If the police are to do animal calls, they will need equipment to be able to catch and transport animals. Per prior meeting minutes the dog catcher is to pick up all dogs that are dumped and also considered aggressive.

Jeff Pittman, Alderman, advised that he, Terry and Melinda met at City Hall to look into changing the front area. The girls are requesting that the counter be taken out and 2 desks purchased to use. The counter area is just not efficient for the work they do daily. Several different suggestions were made such as moving the copier to the front and desks to the back

area or adding desks to the open space as you enter. The request from the girls was considered and the council decided to go forward in removing the counter and purchasing 2 new desks. The city guys will remove the counter and will have the floor underneath fixed.

Wanda Cody, Treasurer, presented monthly financial reports.

Millikin CD will come due 02-09-2026. Interest rates are 3.45% at Petefish and Skiles, 3.80% at UCB, 3.96% at Farmers State bank and 3.99% for 91 days. Will go with the 7 months for 3.96% at Farmers state Bank. Estimated interest is \$7585.00 will use to pay for library furnace and rest into the library account for the amount left on grant project.

TIF CD comes due 02-16-2026 will renew for 7 months 3.96% at Farmers State Bank.

John Simmons, City Superintendent, monthly report submitted

Work orders – 14; Funeral graves – 1; Locate tickets – 9; Monthly brush pick up; Meter readings; Monthly odorant reading; 2-3 plowing snow; Gas testing; Cleaned streets; Put in new pressure monitor at Reg Station; End of the year DOT forms; Spent several days putting broken concrete blocks around lagoons to stop wash outs; Had Doyle clean out sewer main damage from Ameren; Several broken customer water lines; Gas leak calls -3; Lot of salting streets; Lots of very cold days.

Received bids on sidewalk work.

Ballard's UCB bank drive up to parking lot (with city doing the demo) \$11,800.00. Peak insurance from Douglas to around corner on Cherry St \$20,000.00.

Franklin Concrete Construction-on Main St in front of new convenience store. This includes demo of old sidewalk and replacement with curb work where needed \$31,200.00.

City mower is about on its last leg and needing new one since still mow quite a bit of grass.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, advised that cannot bid mowing contracts till next year. Both contracts are thru 2026.

The new AM/PM convenience store owners are eligible for the tax abatement that the city offers. Is not eligible for the TIF façade as is new building and not eligible.

Bluffs has requested use of our dog facility as they have no where to house dogs. It was decided to table this until we have a license.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, working on the service connection fee ordinance and will have next month.

There have been 3 liquor license applications received. There are 2 available.

1. AM/PM Convenience Store
2. Roadside Grill
3. BP Station

All 3 were given consideration and verification and general background checks. Prior to decision informal checks were clear. With ongoing concern with prior violations further investigation was done on the BP station application. It was stated store was sold and requested bank records proving the sale from prior owner to new owner. Requested bill of sale as only a couple copies of a few checks front and back and nothing to prove an actual sale and not just change of names.

The two licenses were granted to AM/PM convenience store and the Roadside Grill.

No Public Comments.

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

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Jack Daniels second to open session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Jack Daniels second to adjourn 10:05 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk