

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting March 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; Greg Hillis, Benton Engineering; Don Campbell, Stevie VanDeVelde, Winchester Civic Group.

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

Mayor McIntire wanted to recognize the passing of Robert Benton, the founder of Benton Engineering. He started the business in 1970 and now has 5 locations. Winchester was one of his first customers. His son Reggie and the pastor of Lincoln Ave Baptist Church had many nice comments at the funeral.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer presented bills for approval.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot 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 February 4, 2026.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular February 4, 2026 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Greg Hillis, Benton Engineering, advised committee meeting was held and the library grant project is now complete. Will hold final payment to Trotters until all items are complete.

Will be closing out the water main project as John Simmons has completed all purchases for supplies that were still covered under the grant.

Permit has been submitted and once approved will purchase the pool pump. Doyle Plumbing is on the list as pre-qualified and will install pump.

Stevie VanDeVelde, Winchester Civic Group, April 4th will be having an Easter Egg hunt at 11am. On April 11th the Oddfellows will be having their Burgoo sales. Hoping to have local business set up sidewalk sales from 10-2. Will also be having Chalk the Walk for anyone who would like to use chalk to draw and decorate the park sidewalks. Methodist Men will also be setting up at the 3-way stop for pork chops sales on this day as well.

Civic group is going to start a fundraiser for the new tables and trashcans for the park. Wanting to get 6 tables and 5 trashcans. Anyone can donate towards these items, also can contribute \$2200.00 a table in memory or honor of someone or \$1100.00 for half a table with a plaque. Three tables will be for Stephen Douglas Park and 3 for Monument Park with one each that will be ADA. These will be set on concrete pads. There are 5 trashcans to go around the square to replace the old concrete ones to match the existing ones in the park. The total for all tables and trashcans will be roughly \$16,724.26.

Wanda Cody, Treasurer, presented monthly financial reports.

Interest rates are going down a bit.

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, presented monthly report.

Animal complaint – 2; Arrests – 2; Assist EMS – 4; Assist outside agency(police) – 6; Assist motorist – 3; Attempt to locate – 1; Building alarm – 5; Fight – 1; Found property returned – 1; Fraud – 1; Property exchange – 1; Sex offender register – 1; Speak to an officer – 22; Suicidal subject/mental health – 2; Suspicious vehicle – 1; Traffic control – 2; Traffic stop – citations – 6; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 19; Transient – 1; Well-being checks – 4.

Advised Officer Amanda Smith is just about finished with her additional training that was required for full time officers.

Advised Pike County has passed county wide ban on the synthetic cannabis that is being sold. This is not regulated by the state and can be very harmful. Currently the city does not allow this to be sold if you have a current liquor license.

Currently there is one location selling these items in Winchester.

Presented a copy of the Pike County ordinance to city attorney and county commissioner John Simmons and requested that the city and county look into this issue.

Terry Gregory, Alderwoman, per protocol will need to table pay questions till next month. Will need to set a personnel committee meeting. Monday March 9th at 11:00 am.

Teri Little, City Clerk, advised our current vendor, Vestis, that provides rugs for city hall is currently coming weekly and charging 97.00 a week for rugs. Would like to look into other options to reduce costs to the city. Will bring options next month to the council.

Will be calling for process for city wide clean up this spring as 2024 is the last time we had clean-up

John Simmons, City Superintendent, monthly report submitted

Work orders – 12; Funerals – 4; Locate tickets – 16; Monthly brush pick up; Monthly odorant reading; Monthly sniff test; John finished gas testing; Hayden Jefferson is almost finished with gas testing; Replaced 7 year old battery in mini hoe; Put out disconnect notices; Large sink hole on N Maple St repaired; Pot hole patching on N Commercial St; Randy Ford filled in at water plant for Jim Dobson and Joseph Hamilton as they were gone 4 days to water classes; Cleaned up areas of rock from snow storms; Helped Chuck Brown with field tile over H.P. gas main; Put

in test wire on H.P. gas main at Edwards Lane; Put in another 2" water service for FS, tape "pit" meter. \$4 - \$5,000 in to them.

Will be starting to write up clean-up citations this month.

Need to run gas main at Willow Drive for new house being built. This will be a 2-inch main and USDI will assist on install. Daws Funeral home is wanting to add a crematorium to the land by the funeral home. This will need to be a 3-inch main.

Wanting to discuss a contract between the city and rural water for fees. Mayor McIntire stated will get with him to get meeting together.

Wanting to see if any action has been made on the west end Welcome Sign. Nothing has been discussed as of yet.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, wanting to schedule a meeting with the sewer and gas committees to discuss raising fees.

Needing to have an ordinance and letters to advise that a customer still has to pay a minimum fee even if active or not. If customer does not want meters/service any longer than they need to be removed. City attorney John Paul Coonrod will work on an ordinance and letters for next month.

There was a very nice article in The Source about the Stephen Douglas statue and also about Lincoln. This drew a lot of attention to the wish for a Lincoln statue and the mayor has been contacted by many people that are Lincoln enthusiasts.

Resolution 2026-03-01 Discount Gas Supply Agreement with PIFA Inc is for upcoming discount program gas supply agreement. This is a hedging agreement. This is for pre purchase for winter of 2026. PIFA Inc floats bonds before price is set. This is a shell agreement to get bond agreement then will come to the city with a price and this gives the mayor permission to accept or deny the price they offer for the pre purchase.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Melinda Hembrough seconded to approve resolution 2026-03-01 Discount Gas Supply Agreement PIFA Inc. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney advised that the application for the community project funding for the improvement of the town square is 90% complete.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve application process Mary Miller Grant community project funding. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Presented Ordinance 1002 that sets is a service connection fee. This is a \$200.00 application fee for new, repair, replace or disconnect sewer under street or paved public way. A written application must accompany the \$200.00 application fee.

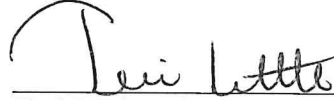
MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to approve Ordinance 1002 Service Connection Fee. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

No Public Comments.

MOTION: Jeff Pittman moved and Bill Jacquot second to adjourn 10:05 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk