

July 1, 2026

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting July 1, 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, River County News; Jim Scott; Stephanie Ballinger, Benton Engineering; Reg Ankrom, Symex.

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 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 June 3, 2026.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular June 3, 2026 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Stephanie Ballinger, Benton Engineering, presented the yearly IDOT resolution for the proposed road maintenance. IDOT is working at normal pace right now on approval. Can be 2 to 4 weeks with a 10-day minimum. Milling, shaping and compacting was done by Laverdiere in preparation for oil and chipping. This bill will come in at \$25,000.00 or less.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve resolution for yearly IDOT proposal for maintenance as presented \$150,610.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Jim Scott, resident, would like to propose a county wide clean up to make the county look better. He and his wife are new to the community and have been cleaning up around their home along Witwer road. He has a simple plan that he passed out to council. Maybe have twice a year once in spring and once in fall. Have volunteers sign up and either choose roads or assign. Can separate the items and have the recyclables taken in and funds donated to area charities. This would include anyone willing to participate such as property owners, renters, family, friends, everyone! This is a feel-good community project. Will meet with Scott County commissioners and see if this can get off the ground. Council agreed was a very good idea. More to come on this subject.

Reg Ankrom, Symex, was present to answer any questions about the electrical aggregation that was put into effect for the city of Winchester. In 2012 there was a referendum on the ballot to vote if the city was able to enter into an electrical aggregation on behalf of the residents in and opt out program. This will enable the residents to have lower rates than Ameren if they choose to stay in program. The city has not entered into an agreement for several years due to the Ameren rates being lower than what other carriers could offer. Symex had found Homefield Energy to supply electric at 10.49 per kilowatt and Ameren is currently 11.326 per kilowatt. Ameren normally changes rates in January and June. The Homefield rates are set at 10.49 from July 2026 to May 2027 and then will go to 10.896 in May to December. Any resident is able to opt out of the program at any time. They can opt back in within 2 months of opting out. It after 2 months will have to wait a year to opt back in. The letter received by residents has all info listed to explain. If a resident is already on a program, then this does not affect them such as Power Smart. This is only for residents within city limits. Bills will still come from Ameren as normal. To note there were no residents at meeting for any questions.

Steve Doolin, Police Chief, monthly report;

Animal complaints – 3; Arrests – 3; Assist EMS – 6; Assist outside agency(police) – 3; Assist motorist – 3; Assist repo agency – 1; Attempt to locate – 2; Battery/assault – 1; Building alarm – 2; Domestic disturbance – 3; Found property returned – 2; Gas leak – 1; Golf cart inspection – 1; Noise complaint – 1; Ordinance violation – 1; Paper service -2; Property exchange – 3; Road hazard – 1; Speak to an officer – 25; Suicidal subject/mental health – 4; Suspicious person – 3; Suspicious vehicle – 1; Theft – 1; Traffic accidents – 1; Traffic control – 2; Traffic stops – citations – 5; Traffic stops/verbal warnings – 11; Transient – 2; Trespassing – 2; Vehicle complaint – 1; Weather spotting – 2; Well-being checks – 3.

Wanda Cody, Treasurer, presented monthly financial reports.

Cemetery CD will mature and best rate is at UCB can go 6 months at 3.7%, 9 months at 3.65% or 12 months at 3.6%.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Jack Daniels seconded to approve renew CD for 12 months at 3.6% at UCB. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Advised auditors were here for 3 days and all went smoothly.

John Simmons, City Superintendent, monthly report submitted

Work orders – 11; Locates – 16; Funerals, graves – 3; Monthly brush pickup – 2 days; Monthly sniff test; Monthly odorant readings; Monthly meter reading – 2 days plus re-reads; Work on sidewalks S Main, new gas station; Running conduit under sidewalks for new pole lights; Tore out sidewalk as S Hill and Cherry St, Peak Insurance, installed conduit; Lots of mowing – Blake; John 1 day meeting in Effingham, gas; Patching streets; Joseph and Jim – pool; Purchased truck for water plant; City wide clean-up – 4 days, rented trailer, damage to trailer, placed tail gate and patch tire; Ordinance violations; Hired Danny Moore to haul millings for streets; Purchased 90 tons of milling from UCM; Weed trimming; Got a few curbs painted; Built storm drain on gas

station lot; Purchased and installed a manhole ring & lid for house. They will reimburse; Laverdiere Construction milled up S Mechanic and S Maple St. Smoothed out, rolled and added millings, will chip later – 2 days; Fix broken water pits; Trip to Collinsville to pick up tail gates for damaged trailer; Had to hire Doyle Plumbing to jet out plugged sewer on S Green St.

There is a dangerous tree on Broadway by Gary Waid house and it is in the right of way. Danny Powell provided a bid of \$1000.00 to remove tree and stump.

MOTION: Jack Daniels moved and Terry Gregory approved bid for Danny Powell dangerous tree removal \$1000.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

In need of a new dump truck. Current one is out of commission and may cost a lot to repair. Received 2 bids.

Morrow Brothers in Greenfield can have in 45 days with all specifications needed for \$115,000.00

Marshalls would be 4 months out and a slightly smaller truck for \$114,234.54

Also needing a 1 ton dually with plow and utility box bed to pull the Vac trailer. 2 bids on that one.

Morrow brothers – F350 \$78,203.00

Marshall's – 3500 \$84,704.48

These are some big expenses and will need to schedule a finance committee meeting to discuss.

Rex McIntire, Mayor, advised he has concerns on the electric scooters and E bikes. He saw a young boy on one of the foot scooters on the highway. Both can go at a fast rate of speed and kids do not wear helmets or watch traffic. Worried one of them is going to get seriously hurt or worse. Need to speak with the police department to see what can be done. The kids ride on the sidewalks even when pedestrians are present.

Discussed that there has been another offer on the Landmark Dividend Communication Tower at the lagoons. Still not worth selling. The monthly rate will soon go up to \$550.00. Company has not returned calls.

John Simmons is giving up the Code Enforcement officer position. Mayor McIntire would like to appoint Jeff Pittman as new Code Enforcement Officer. He would be paid \$166.66 per month and contract for 1 year.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve appointing Jeff Pittman as new code enforcement officer at \$166.66 for 12 months. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and Jeff Pittman abstain. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, passed out the Annual Appropriations ordinance for fiscal year 2026-2027 for approval.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Jack Daniels second to approve Ordinance 1008 for annual appropriations FY 2026 - 2027. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Municipal court update. No court was held. Presented 2 new municipal citations.

1. Gary Kline - Junk, trash, weeds and inoperable vehicle.
2. Dillion Brickey – 203 N Main St – Junk, trash, weeds

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved and Gerald Evans seconded to approve 2 municipal citations. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Liquor license application received from Tim Mason for the old Buck and Jo's building There is one available as the one that held the previous one has been abandoned. This has been approved. They hope to open mid-August.

Addressing the alley dispute. The town plat shows it is truly a public way. There are 5 ways to handle.

1. Do nothing
2. Vacate – city retains easement and the property is split to each property owner
3. Pave it and give notice
4. Not improve and send notice to members
5. Injunction to avoid blocking of alley.

No Public Comments.

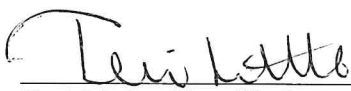
MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to move to closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Jeff Pittman moved and Terry Gregory second to adjourn 10:50 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk