

July 29, 2026

WINCHESTER SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held special meeting July 29, 2026 at City Hall.

Mayor McIntire called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. with the following council in attendance: Jeff Pittman, Bill Jacquot, Terry Gregory, Melinda Hembrough, Jack Daniels, Gerald Evans and City Clerk Teri Little.

Also, in attendance were Wanda Cody, City Treasurer; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Amanda Smith, City Police Officer; Hunter Drake, City Police Officer; Bob Smith, County Deputy; Susie Haggard; Erika Scott; Andi Fundel; Peggy Shelts; Libby Nobis; Todd Marver, Jacksonville Journal Courier.

This meeting is being held to discuss current city police applications and interviews.

There was a good size group of people attending the meeting. It was advised that the add that ran the previous week did not state applications for police chief so will be running it again with correct wording until Monday August 3rd. The personnel committee did have a few interviews already and waiting on another applicant to make it back from vacation to conduct their interview.

Susie Haggard advised she did take her post down from Facebook after phone call with the mayor. She was very concerned with Chief Doolin leaving. She stated she made apologizes to anyone it affected.

Mayor McIntire advised that Chief Doolin's resignation was a shock to all. Advised he was not run off. For two to three weeks every avenue was taken to try and keep him on as Chief. Steve has since taken another job outside the police force.

He will be missed as he did an amazing job for the City of Winchester.

Once a new police chief is hired the city will be looking to hire an additional officer to replace the opening that came about when Officer Tim Murphy left several months ago. This will enable the city to have full-time coverage.

Scott County Deputy Bob Smith was present to advise the city that as Sheriff Elect he has a vested interest in whom the city hires as he would like both departments to work well together. He also wanted to put any rumors to rest that have been floating around.

1. Never stated that dispatch would leave Scott County. It will remain where it is.

2. Never has asked anyone or mentioned anyone to be his second in command when Sheriff.
3. Will not be firing anyone on dispatch.
4. Has been accused of not backing up city officers.

It is not safe these days for any officer to respond to a call alone. Hatred for police has grown higher in the past years even in small towns. Should be no less than 2 officers on duty. He will be covering any shifts for county that are not filled. He will be a working sheriff.

He was approached and asked about consolidation of the city police and county becoming one. This came from the commissioners and he never suggested as such, He stated he was open to discussion but would like to have both city and county to work together.

Smith states that they have a good crew working at dispatch and the county and have no plans in making changes.

Mayor McIntire advised he agreed with what Smith stated.

Peggy Shelts brought up rumors she had heard that deputies are never in Bluffs and not seen over there. Smith advised they are there and other towns that are in the county as well.

Officer Amanda Smith wanted to discuss issues and city attorney John Paul Coonrod advised since this pertained to personnel that it should be held in closed session. Council agreed.

The public was thanked for their input and dismissed.

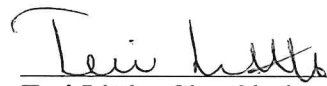
MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jack Daniels second to move into closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Jack Daniels second to move into open session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Melinda Hembrough moved and Jeff Pittman second to adjourn at 10:15 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk