

October 4, 2017

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting October 4, 2017 at City Hall. Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order, with the following council members present: Freddie Andrews, Ron Bell, Lawrence Coultas, Randy Fisher, Steve Hoots, Bill Jacquot and City Clerk, Brenda Robinson.

Also in attendance were: Barb Hoots, Deputy City Clerk; Amy Brown, City Treasurer; George Lindsey, Police Chief; John Simmons, Supt. of Public Works; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Carmen Ensinger, *Scott County Times*; Donna Lawrence and Toby Hammond.

**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to pay bills as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to approve and dispense with the reading the minutes from the previous meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Mayor McIntire** wanted to reflect on the tragedy in Las Vegas; it was a horrible thing. He asked for a moment of silence.

**McIntire** said Chuck Frost could not make the meeting but wanted the mayor to update the council on what was going on with the Civic Group. They are planning a haunted house at the Old School Museum on October 26, 27 & 28. Christmas on the Square will be December 6. They plan to decorate the vacant buildings as well. McIntire said there are not many vacant buildings now, which is good.

### THERE WAS NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

**John Simmons, Supt of Public Works** said he had contacted two (2) different companies about boring (three bores) utilities under Coultas Road. Killion Construction, Jerseyville, bid \$4,600 and would be cheaper if finished in one (1) day. Petersburg Plumbing bid \$5,985. They will be using poly pipes. Simmons said boring was better for the roads.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to accept the low bid of \$4,600 from Killion Construction, Jerseyville, to complete three (3) bores on Coultas Road. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Simmons** may get bids on Cherry Street to bore under it for the water leaks; saw cutting would be \$18,000 and would have to close the street. Right now the leak has slowed down.

**Simmons** said Windsor Homes has Site 1 and 2 up and going. The city is buying materials for the project, but will be reimbursed. This way the city's tools will work with the materials.

**Simmons** got bids on renting Christmas lights. If you go with a 5-year lease the cost would be \$175 per light. A 1-year lease would be \$280 each. For twelve (12) lights, cost will be \$2,100. The lights should be installed before Thanksgiving and taken down after the holidays. It was decided to go with eight (8) lights just around the outside of the square. Each year we could have different lights put up. **Simmons** said the old lights were heavy and in bad shape.

**MOTION:** Steve Hoots moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to lease eight (8) Christmas lights with a 5-year lease for \$1,400. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Simmons** said he would like to send Mark Howard to a mandatory ICC meeting in Effingham, October 18 & 19. He would have a 2-night stay. The room will be \$90 a night or total price is \$199.80 for both nights.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Randy Fisher seconded to send Mark Howard to the mandatory ICC meeting October 18 & 19, in Effingham with two (2) night lodging (\$199.80), plus \$90 registration fee. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Ron Bell** asked about Randy Ford's truck and **Simmons** said the fuel pump was out of it, so is being fixed.

**Simmons** said he would like to send Mark Howard to a natural gas training in Pawnee. Ameren Hands on Training is one of the best natural gas trainings. The training is October 24 & 25 and he will drive back and forth, so no room is needed. The cost is \$175 per person.

**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to send Mark Howard to the Ameren Hands on Training in Pawnee, October 24 & 25. Registration fee is \$175. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Mayor McIntire** said everything had been turned in for the squad car and the self-assessment; pictures of the handicap parking and signs have been sent in. We need to pay for the car first and then send in the invoice and copy of cancelled check to be reimbursed. The car is available at Miles Chevrolet in Decatur and they will deliver it. Barb is to double check on this.

**McIntire** urged more council members to attend the IML Conference. There is so much information to be learned. The keynote speaker this year was Mike Ditka.

**McIntire** gave an update on the Dobson property on South Main. Mr. Nester withdrew his bid and purchased property elsewhere within the city. There were no other bids. Once the ad has run three (3) times, we will be able to sell the lot without running another ad. **Attorney Coonrod** said it had only ran once out of the three (3) weeks requested, and he called and told them they need to run it again for three (3) more weeks at no cost to the city. Therefore, after two (2) more weeks we can go ahead and sell it.

**McIntire** gave an update on the Windsor homes. He has had several compliments on the houses. An open house will be Wednesday, November 8. They hope to have the first tenants moved in by December 1. They are screening the applicants now. All units will have gas furnaces with electric appliances. A gas line will be ran, so in the future if someone wants a gas stove they can get one hooked up without having to run the gas line.

**McIntire** reported on the USDA grant. The mayor and John Simmons met with Ken Johnson, Horticultural Educator from UI Extension about landscaping in Douglas Park. He hopes to have this completed by the next meeting. The infrastructure will not begin until next spring. The mayor was informed that Jim Riggs fell on the sidewalk in front of the high school and bugged himself up pretty good. **Attorney Coonrod** is trying to find grants to replace sidewalks around town.

**Mayor McIntire** met a gentleman from Havana, IL at the IML Conference. He said Havana had a population of about 3,200 people. He mentioned they had had the TIF for several years and it is ready to expire in 5-years. They average about \$500,000 a year in their TIF. Mayor commented that all improvements in the TIF District will help the city.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney** brought up the speed limit changes. Old Route 36 speed limit is 45-MPH from just north of Buck & Jo's Too to Route 106. Coonrod has been in touch with the Bureau of Local Roads and Street and informed them on wanting to extend the speed limit further both ways. He sent a sketch of what the city wanted and they did some studies. They could not recommend the change at this time. They are fine with harmonizing the speed limit signs on East Cherry Street from the EMS building to the current sign.

**Coonrod** passed out the proposed City of Winchester Tax Levy for review with passage at the next council meeting. He said for the past six (6) years the tax levy has been increased just under 5% each year. When this was put into place the general fund was in a precarious state and needed this. Another factor was that property values were declining. Currently the property values have gone up and continue to rise. Coonrod checked with the Assessor's office about the total amount of property values within the city. He found out at the IML Conference that the state would be withholding 10% from our share of the state income taxes. He did not feel it was necessary to increase the levy to 5% this year, but suggested keeping it at 4.5%.

**Coonrod** stated he found out at the IML Conference, the Comptroller's office had started a program that they were going to be collecting fines. Once a city levies a fine for an ordinance violation, they may be given the responsibility of collecting the money, which will be cheaper for the city. The Comptroller's office will deduct the fine from any money owed to the debtor by the state.

**Coonrod** presented a proposal from the Zoning Board amending permitted types of materials used in Parking Areas for non-commercial entities.

**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to refer the ordinance back to the Zoning Board on appropriate wording on the parking lots. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Coonrod** presented a proposal from the Zoning Board to waive the fee for modular homes in special use applications in SR-1 districts.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to refer the proposed change back to the Zoning Board. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Coonrod** presented a proposal from the Zoning Board to expand the Highway Business District and to amend the Highway Business District section of the code. This ordinance would increase business and also be in conformity with present use.

**MOTION:** Ron Bell moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to pass Ordinance 855 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40, Division VI and the Zoning Districts Map of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

#### **ALDERMAN REPORTS:**

**Bill Jacquot** reported the cemetery committee met earlier. They had received a letter from a family wanting to put an above ground crypt in the cemetery on north side of highway. They have purchased four (4) spaces. Jacquot recommended the request be denied. He stated “the bottom line is, we don’t think it’s appropriate, it extends beyond the tombstone line and obstructs the mowing equipment.”

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Randy Fisher seconded to deny the request for an above ground crypt in all city cemeteries. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Amy Brown, City Treasurer** passed out her monthly report. There were no questions for Brown.

**Brenda Robinson, City Clerk** asked about planning the Holiday Gathering. I know it is early, but we need to get a place spoken for. She suggested looking at Hamilton’s as we have in the past. It was agreed to look at Thursday, December 14. She will call tomorrow and let everyone know. In the past we have had prime rib and fried chicken for the ones that do not like prime rib.

**Robinson** said there was some interest in a business wanting to advertise on the city website. After talking with Jared Evans with Unola, it was decided to charge \$30 a month for the square on the homepage.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to approve the \$30 fee monthly for the full box on the website. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Robinson** brought up the parking on Lewis Street. Toby Hammond was there to contest this. He claims he has been parking there for about ten (10) years and the previous owners did the same. Mayor McIntire told him two (2) months ago he could not park on the sidewalk. John Paul Coonrod is going to look into the matter and bring it back next month.

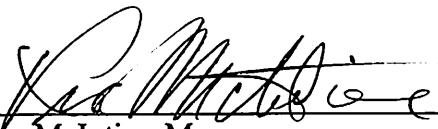
**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Ron Bell seconded to go into closed session to discuss hiring an Animal Control Officer and possible purchasing of real estate property by the city. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Went into closed session.

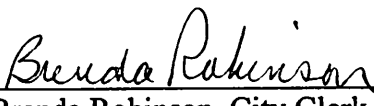
**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to go out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Came out of closed session at 9:58 p.m.

**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to hire Leigh Winner as the Animal Control Officer at \$200 a month, plus mileage out of town. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Steve Hoots seconded to submit a bid on the Shive property at 122 S. Main and authorize Mayor McIntire to submit the bid. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

  
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Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
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Brenda Robinson, City Clerk