

December 6, 2017

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting December 6, 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 Clerk Pro-tem Barb Hoots. City Clerk Brenda Robinson was absent.

Also in attendance were Amy Brown, City Treasurer; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; George Lindsey, Police Chief; Leland Evans, Assistant Supt. of Public Works; Paul Rueter, Fire Chief; Carmen Ensinger; *Scott County Times*; Chuck Frost, Winchester Civic Group; and Sheila Daniels.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to appoint Barb Hoots, Clerk Pro-tem. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Steve Hoots seconded to pay bills as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting on November 1, 2017. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) abstention. Freddie Andrews abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the special meeting minutes of November 15, 2017. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Rex McIntire, Mayor introduced the **Honorable Fire Chief, Paul Rueter** as the first to speak on the agenda. Fire Chief Paul Rueter approached the council by first thanking them for giving him the time to speak. Chief Rueter informed them that he had been on the fire department since 1986 and has been fire chief since 2009 and he was going to get off and mentioned "it has been a ride". He stated he started with Fred Montgomery as his partner and that the fire department is what it is today, not because of him, but because of his predecessor and friend, Fred. Since being on the fire department, there has been a lot of changes. Rueter mentioned that when he first started, they didn't have extrication or fire rescue, but do now, thanks to Fred. He also commented that the department didn't know about gas LP training, but the firemen all took training using a gas tank and anhydrous tank locally. Chief Rueter said that training was put to test when there was a natural gas pipeline explosion that the fire department had to respond to. In addition the department has learned about grain bin rescue, fire extinguishing training, and has had to deal with tornadoes and floods and the recovery of bodies. Chief Rueter commented that Montgomery's passion for the department became his and Fred Andrews, whom became his partner. They both wanted to complete what Fred Montgomery had started. Paul thanked the community, surrounding council, city employees, police/sheriff departments and EMS for making the present department possible. Fire Chief Paul Rueter presented his resignation.

Chuck Frost, Winchester Civic Group, gave the council an update on the Gala they recently held at the Old School Museum on November 25th. He said there were 55 in attendance and was very successful. John Paul Coonrod and Mark Ford were recognized at the event for getting the group started and their continued help with the organization. The 3rd Hometown Christmas in Winchester was held on December 2nd and he said it was an amazing success this year!

Frost said starting in January, the Civic Group will be focusing on surrounding areas for the mapping project to get information gathered and bring back to council in May with their present findings. The Civic Group has asked several organization to help contribute to the mapping project, including the city, which will cost \$2,073.

Chuck Frost commented that there was a good attendance from the community for the Bicentennial flag raising ceremony that was held on Monday, December 4th. Frost mentioned he would like to see something done with doctor's office building and told the council the Coop grocery store is progressing.

Public Comments – None

George Lindsey, Police Chief, presented his monthly report. He informed the council that he was taking the squad car to Advanced Communications tomorrow to get the equipment installed; there had been a delay in getting the equipment.

Leland Evans, Assistant Supt. of Public Works, presented the monthly report to the council in the absence of Supt. John Simmons who had surgery Friday, December 1st. Leland said John got home Sunday and is getting along good. Leland brought up the water leak and the need to run a new line for a customer. They will tap onto the line off of Park Street; their original water line ran behind their house to Commercial Street.

Mayor McIntire said there would be a Christmas Lighting Contest in Winchester again this year and judging would be the weekend of December 15th. Individuals would need to call in to City Hall to enter in the contest; he has lined up judges for the contest.

Mayor McIntire informed the council that he had a lady from Greene County come to him after reading the article on the front page of the Jacksonville Journal Courier regarding the cat issue. She had concerns about the animals. McIntire commented that Leigh Winner was doing a good job since she had taken over as animal control officer in November.

Mayor McIntire presented a letter that he had received from the Scott County Historical Society requesting donation for help with their heating bills at the Winchester Depot. He also mentioned that the Winchester Sports Boosters sent a letter wanting to know if the city wanted to advertise in the Winchester Invitational Tournament Program in January; the city has ran an ad for \$50 in the past.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Ron Bell seconded to donate \$500 for gas bill to Scott County Historical Society for heating the Winchester Depot. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Steve Hoots moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to purchase \$50 ad for the Winchester Invitational Tournament Program. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire informed the council that he had contacted Eddie Carpenter regarding the Shive property. Mr. Carpenter did receive the letter of the original quote, but did not have any news to give. The letter the city presented has a deadline of December 16th to accept or reject their bid.

Mayor McIntire told the council that all utilities are hooked up for the Windsor Homes and five (5) homes have been rented as of now. He has no update regarding the USDA Grant. Next month or February, he would like to advertise for applicants to work on the project. Once the equipment is installed in the squad car, the USDA Squad Car Grant can be completed.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, presented to the council a proposal by the Zoning Board in the form of an ordinance which would expand the types of materials permitted in the construction of new parking lots within the city. The proposal would allow the use of approved dustless surfaces (trap rock, concrete, asphaltic concrete, asphalt roto-millings, brick and any other comparable materials) in the construction of parking lots used exclusively for non-commercial purposes and in the construction of parking lots used primarily in furtherance of a commercial purpose, but located on a non-arterial street (being Cherry Street or Main Street).

MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Steve seconded to accept Ordinance 858 Amending Section 40-7-3(c) of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, Attorney, presented to the council a proposal by the Zoning Board in the form of an ordinance which would allow the construction of modular homes in SR-1 Single Family Residential Districts within the city as a Permitted Use, removing the need for a Special Use Permit to be issued for such projects.

MOTION: Freddie Andrews moved and Randy Fisher seconded to reject ordinance amending sections 40-4-10 and 40-4-11 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, Attorney, presented to the council an ordinance increasing natural gas rates by \$0.28 per every 1000 cubic feet.

MOTION: Freddie Andrews moved and Randy Fisher seconded to accept Ordinance #859 amending Chapter 38, Article IV, Paragraph 7(A) of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, informed the council that talks with the Illinois Department of Transportation has resulted in confirmation by IDOT that the speed limit signs would be repositioned so as to harmonize speed limit zone boundaries. Also, a 45 mph speed limit zone will be added between current 30 mph and 55 mph zones.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney, presented an ordinance adopting a policy prohibiting sexual harassment. The ordinance was read to the council and Mayor McIntire informed them that a meeting would be set up with all employees to go over it.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved and Randy Fisher seconded to adopt Ordinance 860, A Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Freddie Andrews, Alderman – The Fire Committee met and discussed the purchase of twenty (20) new pagers for the fire department. He said they were having some issues with the current pagers and they were about 15 years old. Freddie stated that he had gotten two (2) quotes and best reasonably priced would have to be ordered by December 15th to get a 5 year warranty versus the normal 2 year warranty. These would be water proof, dust proof and have digital display. The two bids were from Global Technical Systems, Inc. of Jacksonville - \$7,110 and Novacom of Herrin - \$8,140. Freddie said there was pipeline grant money that had to be divided between seven (7) entities and that the fire department would receive \$2,850 to put towards the pagers.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Steve Hoots seconded to purchase 20 Unication G1 Voice Pagers for \$7,110 from GTSI. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) abstention. Freddie Andrews abstained. Motion carried.

Ron Bell, Alderman - The grinder was delivered, but was damaged so was sent back per Randy Ford, Water Plant Supt. Randy did inform Ron that the blower for the lagoons is not working and will need to be replaced. A quotation for a Gardner Denver Sutobilt 4MR-LHC blower including freight, was received from Municipal Equipment Company, Inc. in the amount of \$2300.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to purchase replacement blower in the amount of \$2,300. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Randy Fisher, Alderman – Randy updated the council on the improvements in the children's area at the Library. Shelving and new carpet have been installed. The Library also received a \$5,000 grant from the Tracy Family Foundation.


MOTION: Randy Fisher moved and Freddie Andrews seconded to approve seasonal adjustment salaries as follows: All full time employees will receive 16 hours of pay: Librarians will receive 16 hours of pay, one (1) temporary employee (Charlie Shelts) will receive \$50; Part-time police officers who have worked 120 hours, excluding on-call time will receive \$100. Eric Tuey, Contractual Animal Control - \$50 and Leigh Winner, Contractual Animal Control - \$50; Phil Pratt, Contractual Custodian - \$100. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) abstention. Steve Hoots abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire – With the resignation of Fire Chief Paul Rueter, Mayor McIntire told council he would like to appoint Freddie Andrews as Winchester Fire Chief, as the volunteer fire department voted Freddie in as fire chief. He explained to them in order for Freddie to be fire chief, he would have to resign as alderman. Attorney John Paul Coonrod stated there is a state statute that says there are certain duties you cannot combine, and alderman and fire chief is one of them. They consider that there might be the possibility of a conflict of interest in one person holding both positions. Freddie Andrews presented a resignation letter as Alderman, Ward 3 to Mayor McIntire.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to accept resignation of Freddie Andrews, Alderman Ward 3. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) abstention. Freddie Andrews abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved and Steve Hoots seconded to appoint Fred Andrews as Fire Chief. Roll call resulted in five (5) yeas and one (1) abstention. Freddie Andrews abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION: Steve Hoots moved and Ron Bell seconded to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Barb Hoots, Clerk Pro-tem