

January 24, 2018

### Special Council Meeting

The Winchester City Council held a special council meeting, January 24, 2018 at city hall to discuss missing money. Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following council members present: Ron Bell, Lawrence Coultas, Randy Fisher, Bill Jacquot and Brenda Robinson, City Clerk. Steve Hoots was absent.

Also in attendance were Amy Brown, City Treasurer; George Lindsay, Police Chief; and John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Bob & Chris Renner; and Terrisa Lashmett & her daughter.

**Mayor McIntire** stated on January 18 a meeting was held with John Paul Coonrod, Brenda Robinson and himself. At this meeting, McIntire, Coonrod and Robinson presented Barb Hoots with evidence of missing funds originating from the watershed meter. Hoots did not give a satisfactory explanation for the accounting discrepancy. Given that Hoots' responsibilities as city collector and deputy clerk include the safeguarding of such funds, Hoots was placed on leave at that time. McIntire further detailed the city's efforts to consider other possible explanations for the discrepancy, including a systematic attempt to exclude other suspects.

**McIntire** explained to everyone in attendance what was going on. After explaining to everyone he asked if anyone had questions. Chris Renner asked if there were any other suspects and was told they had taken steps to consider and eliminate all suspects during the investigation, including Angela Doolin, who also works in the office.

Now there is talk about hiring someone else to help in the office as a full-time temporary employee.

**McIntire** suggested going into closed session.

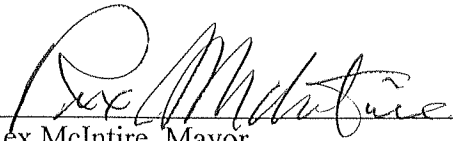
**Motion:** Ron Bell moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to adjourn to executive session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

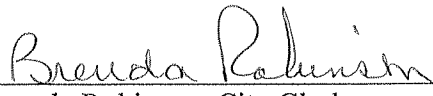
Guests were dismissed so we could go into closed session. Council went into executive session at 5:45 p.m.

**MOTION:** Randy Fisher moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to come out of executive session at 5:55 p.m. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried, came out of closed session.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Ron Bell seconded to hire a contract temp employee to help in the office at \$11, hours to be determined by City Clerk. City Clerk to make hiring decision. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Randy Fisher seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

  
Rex McIntire, Mayor

  
Brenda Robinson, City Clerk