

January 5, 2022

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting January 5, 2022 at City Hall.

Mayor McIntire called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following council in attendance: Lawrence Coultas, Ron Bell, Bill Jacquot, Terry Gregory, Sandy Long, Jeff Pittman, and City Clerk Teri Little

Also, in attendance were Wanda Cody, City Treasurer; Caleb Handy, Police Chief; John Simmons, Supt of Public Works; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Greg Hillis, Benton & Associates; Ben Cox, WLDS; Carmen Ensinger, Scott County Times.

Sandy Long led those attending meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to pay the bills as presented. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire asked for any corrections for the minutes December 1, 2021 meeting.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular December 1, 2021 meeting. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and one abstain. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire advised that he executed the new loan at United Community Bank for \$400,000 at 2.74% fixed rate for 10 years with monthly payments starting 01-2-2022. This is for the new meter system.

Mayor McIntire wanted to pay tribute to those lost this year. He read off the list of members that were laid to rest in the Winchester Cemetery this past year.

Mayor McIntire spoke with Ron Regan from UGM and still waiting on legal cases to be finalized. Natural gas costs for November were \$46,454.00 and December \$76,051.00. It has been lower since we have had a warm couple months in November and December.

Greg Hillis, Benton & Associates presented two applications to pay Trotter General Contractors for the library construction. Application #1 was for November 2021 for the amount of \$27,174.37 and Application #2 for December 2021 for amount of \$103,888.12.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved, and Terry Gregory seconded to approve Payment of Application #1 to Trotter General Contractors for amount of \$27,174.37. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved, and Terry Gregory seconded to approve Payment of Application #2 to Trotter General Contractors for amount of \$103,888.12. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

The unsewered grant is still not available to apply for but they are watching and will apply once posted.

The Downtown Beautification grant application is due 01-10-2022 and they have a good jump start on the application. The City can put money towards the Grant that can earn additional points. It does not state how many points it will earn but all count towards being awarded the grant. The project total is \$1.5 million dollar project. This will include road, water and sewer.

The council agreed to earmark \$25,000 towards the grant. This is resolution 2022-01-01.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve Resolution 2022-01-01. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Caleb Handy, Police Chief passed out his monthly report. His report is as follows: Arrests – 1; Assist EMS – 6; Assist Outside Agency (police) - 7; Assist Fire Department – 1; Assist Motorist – 1; Burglary - 1; Building Alarm – 2; Child Exchange – 2; Clear Roadway (Obstructions) – 2; Domestic Disturbance – 6; Found Property – 2; Interviews – 1; Juvenile – 1; Paper Service – 2; Property Exchange – 1; Speak to Officer – 18; Suicidal Subject – 1; Suspicious Person – 6; Suspicious Vehicle – 2; Theft - 1; Traffic Accidents – 1; Traffic Stops – Citations – 4; Traffic Stops – Verbal Warning – 10; Traffic stops – Written Warning – 3; Vandalism – 1; Well-being Checks – 4. Mileage for the month is 2008 miles.

Chief Handy wanted to state mileage was up this month due to having another full-time police officer on patrol.

The prowler incident was addressed and both Chief Handy and Rex have spoken with the person that had the original complaint. It is advised that members of the community may install a motion/security light or cameras if they are worried about their property. The Police patrol but are unable to be everywhere all the time. It's very unlikely that a patrolman would happen upon a prowler. They are patrolling that area more and hopes that dissuades the problem.

The police truck is in use. It still has no cage but is good to have as the unmarked car is in the shop at the time for repairs.

Wanda Cody, City Treasurer passed out the profit/loss statement for the month and the expenses.

She advised that all the 941 tax reports for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 are completed.

Robin spent Wednesday with Amanda and Carrie finishing the set up for payroll in QuickBooks and it went well.

John Paul Coonrod will call Greg to see when we will receive the IDNR funds for the swimming pool

Wanda will also get in contact with Marilyn Fedder on the State Library grants

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works report as follows: Locate tickets – 18; Work orders – 29; Funerals/grave digs – 8(48 for the year); Replaced gas meters – 0(29 for the year); Replaced water meter – 1(34 for the year); Poured concrete curves – 0(42.5 yards for the year); Monthly

brush picked up; Monthly meter reading; Monthly odorant report; Monthly sniff test gas; Zoning Permits – 2(13 for the year); Gas Leak Call – 7 for the year; Water Leaks- 2(16 for the year); New or replaced gas services total for the year – 9; Bulk water shed sales total for the year.

John advised that he will be sending Jim Dobson to IRWA conference 2 (15-17). He will be taking the water treatment test 1-11-2022. If for some reason he fails that test he can take it again at the conference.

The partnership renewal for the Chemical test equipment has expired. The system needs to be calibrated yearly. For a new 3-year contract it is \$1842.00.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve contract for Hawk Calibration equipment 3-year contract for amount of \$1842.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Jeff Pittman, Building Supervisor advised that he is still working on the Howland house. John Coonrod gave him paperwork to be completed by the family.

Mayor Rex McIntire advised that there is a person interested in purchasing the Hynes building on the square. The owners are located in Colorado.

Sonnie Hoover is putting together a presentation on the renovations they are planning on doing to the Depot. These improvements will help in use of the Depot for private and community events. She is hoping to present at the February meeting.

There have been a few concerns on the natural gas bills. It is advised if anyone has any issues or concerns to bring them to city hall and they can be explained. There were several clients on balance pay that were confused as to why they were behind. Lawrence, Rex, Amanda and Carrie have worked with them to explain the situation that occurred due to the 3% that was added earlier in the year due to the Vortex.

Addressing the Jesse Pittman property clean up. Metal prices are high at the moment. Jeff purchased a truck to help haul the items away. He will see how they do at getting it done. Will revisit later if may need assistance of the city workers for a fee.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney advised on condemning the Gauges house on Cherry St. Pleadings have been refiled and first court date is 01-18-2022.

No public comments.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Bill Jacquot second to move to closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved, and Lawrence Coultas second to move out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long second to move to approve hiring Committee recommendation to hire Joseph Hamilton upon contract signing for reimbursement of training. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

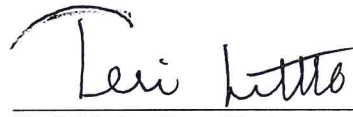
Wanda requested approval to remove Darlene Smith from all Library financial accounts and have Jeanette Wallace, new librarian, to the financial accounts.

MOTION: Terry Gregory moved, and Ron Bell second to move to approve removing Darlene Smith and adding Jeanette Wallace to all library financial accounts. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bill Jacquot moved, and Sandy Long second to move to adjourn 9:30 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk