March 6, 2019

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting March 6, 2019 at City Hall.

Mayor Rex McIntire called the meeting to order, with the following council members present: Ron Bell, Lawrence Coultas, Cathy Debold, Terry Gregory, Bill Jacquot, Jeff Pittman and City Clerk, Brenda Robinson.

Also in attendance: Amy Brown, City Treasurer; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; *Scott County Times*, Carmen Ensinger; Don Campbell, Steve Montgomery, Andy Nash, Katie Gregory, a member of the Park Committee; Merrilyn Fedder, Andrea Fundel, Kevin Evans, Library Board members; Harlan Smith; Steve Grubb, SMG Water Commission; and Adam Fox, Benton & Associates.

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

**MOTION**: Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Katie Gregory** passed out a sheet about bottle caps for benches. The school will save the bottle caps, etc for six (6) four-foot (4) benches of different colors. The Civic Group will purchase the benches for $1,230 and will pick them up. They would place them in Monument Park and inside the pool area.

**Ms. Gregory** thenpresented a worksheet of work planned for the Community Park Work Day, April 27, from 9:30 – noon.

Proposed tasks: Spread mulch around play ground area; Pull weeds, pickup sticks, leaves trash, etc; Sand and paint outdoor picnic tables; Clean out big pavilion; Paint and repair wooden trash can covers.

Items requested from the City: Mulch; Outdoor Paint for picnic tables; Repair & sand picnic tables prior to event (possibly have IDOC inmates complete this)

Items provided by the Parks & Rec Committee: Bottled water; snacks; rags; sandpaper & sanders; paint brushes; power washer/hoses; rakes and bags for yard waste.

**Mayor McIntire** thanked The Civic Group for their help on all the projects.

**May 18** is the date for the cookout in Monument Park. (Need to check with Terry Aossey for sure).

**Mayor McIntire** said John Simmons was not here since he had some teeth pulled and not feeling well. Friday he is having surgery on his neck and would be off for a while.

**Kevin Evans, President of Civic Group** said the Parks & Rec Committee are doing a great job. The first Farmers Market will be May 2. June 6 will be the first Music in the Park. The Paint the Town Group plans to update the square.

There will be another Pickers Vintage Market on May 4 & 5 on the square. It was a big hit last year and more have signed up to come.

**Kevin Evans, President of Library Board** said the library has been busy but parking is limited. Mayor McIntire said he had talked to Melinda Hembrough about purchasing the ground west of the library. She is not interested in selling at this time. The only other alternative is to remove the curb alone N. Main. If there is not adequate parking the library will not be eligible for grants. The library is a Carnegie Library and on the Historical Registry. If the library would move from the location the building would go back to the Grout Family.

**Steve Montgomery and Andy Nash** addressed the council about the mowing contracts. He passed out material about their work. Nash has been mowing 26 years and Montgomery 24 years. They have bid the cemetery several times but have never received the job. It is policy for the city to accept the lowest responsible bidder. Montgomery has a performance bond, criteria, competency, work load equipment including equipment model, liability insurance. They also have workman’s comp, which everyone should have. Montgomery said it was the council’s fiduciary duty to get the best job for the money. Montgomery said it says in contract they can spray but must discuss with John Simmons first. Montgomery said you must have a spraying license before custom spraying. If someone was caught spaying without a license it would be a $5,000 fine for the city and $5,000 for the person spraying.

Montgomery said he had called city office and left messages & never got a response and messages were not forwarded.

**Lawrence Coultas** said the increased fuel cost is the responsibility of the contractor and the city would not absorb it.

Adam Fox handed out cost estimates from Benton’s & Associates for the interconnect with SMG water cooperative. The city employees could so some of the work. Tapping the mains would cost approximately $28,500 with non-construction costs at $9,100 for a total cost of $37,600. The connection would be on Coultas Rd & Lashmett Lane. They will have to bore under Coultas Rd. SMG has 4-inch water mains with 90PSI and the city has 30PSI. A 6-foot round vault will have to be installed. There are some more legal issues to be worked out but look almost ready to go.

**Brenda Robinson, City Clerk** received a bid to replace the cable lines within city hall, from Central Illinois Communication Services, for the fiber optic internet & phone lines. The quote is $3,404.15. The office is experiencing some phone outage. This bid will replace lines in all areas of city hall.

**MOTION**: Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory seconded to accept the estimate for $3,404.15 from Central Illinois Communication Services to replace all phone & internet lines in city hall. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Amy Brown, City Treasurer** passed out her monthly report. Attorney Coonrod is working on paper work for the city grants. He should have it complete in a few day. Next month a permanent transfer will be made to the general fund to the library fund.

**Mayor McIntire** passed out John Simmons monthly report as follows: Work orders – 26; Funerals – 1; Changed water meters – 8; Gas meter; Julie locates tickets -4; Monthly brush pickup; Meter readings; Monthly sniff test for Oderant; USDI from Olney, Rebuilt oderant pump; Spread salt several times; ICC Audit; 7 days below freezing.

**McIntire** said the gas main needs to be lowered and will cost around $40,000. There is a sink hole on Maple St in front of Karen Cooper’s yard. The enterprise zone proposal has been submitted.

**McIntire** read a letter about after prom. The city has given $50 in previous years.

**MOTION**: Ron Bell moved and Cathy Debold seconded to donate $50 to the after prom party. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

There is nothing new on the pool grant. There will be a pool board meeting March 18, 6:30 pm at city hall.

Trevor Cawthon and James Dobson will be sent to chemical training for the pool. Closest testing is in Indiana. Going to try and find some place closer. Trevor has his C license but cannot operate the water system alone.

**Mayor McIntire** said the city should be receiving about $30,000 from the USDA rural grant soon. He suggested hiring the same crew back to finish the concrete work. As soon as the weather breaks Ameren will come and put the wiring & conduit in.

**John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney** presented a property tax rebate resolution for Taylor Seed Company.

**MOTION**: Ron Bell moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Resolution 2019-03-01. A Resolution Authorizing Rebate of Property Taxes Following Development of Property Located within the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 28,T. 14., R. 12 W. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and 1 abstention. Lawrence Coultas abstained. Motion carried.

**Coonrod** presented An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21, Article 2, Section 10 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. This ordinance is to make sure all bars in the city have proper Dramshop Insurance.

**MOTION**: Cathy Debold moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve Ordinance 886 – Amending Chapter 21, Article 2, Section 10 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Coonrod** presented an Ordinance to allow any elected officer to attest the Mayor’s signature if the city clerk is unavailable.

**MOTION**: Bill Jacquot moved and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve Ordinance 887 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 57of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Coonrod** asked for council approval to go to the Spring IML Conference in Bloomington on April 11. The cost of the conference is $175. Mileage will be paid.

**MOTION**: Bill Jacquot moved and Terry Gregory seconded to approve John Paul Coonrod to attend the IML Conference in Bloomington on April 11. The cost of the conference is $175 and will pay mileage as well. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Coonrod** asked for permission for the Odd Fellow to have their annual burgoo in Douglas Park on April 6. It was approved.

**ALDERMAN REPORTS:**

**Bill Jacquot** read a handout about mowing the cemetery and city parks & library for 2019 - 2020. Steve Montgomery asked if they had workman’s comp & liability insurance. Jacquot did not know. Jacquot stated that Robyn Gourley was not going to be a contractor with Rick Willis due to his IMRF. **Mayor McIntire** asked the committee if they felt confident that Willis could do a good job at the cemetery.

**MOTION:** Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve Rick Willis as contractor for mowing the cemetery for 2019 & 2020 years with condition if he sprays he must have a spraying license. They will be paid $34,575 per year on the contract. Roll call resulted in 5 yeas and 1 nay. Lawrence Coultas voted nay. Motion carried.

**MOTION**: Bill Jacquot moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to accept LB Lawn & Landscape (Lance Barnett) to mow the city parks and library for $5,200 per year for 2019 & 2020. If he does any spraying he must have a spraying license. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Advertise for mowing and baling of the lagoons and cemetery (after ad is updated) including the 4th addition. Applicants must come to city hall for a bid sheet and it must be returned by 4 p.m. on April 3. Letters will be sent to the two successful bidders from last year.

**Mayor McIntire** said Marshall’s has a 2007 pickup truck (for city crew) with 68,000 miles on it. Asking $11,900 but if take as it they will take $1,000 off. Discuss it next month.

**Ron Bell** said the wells and left station are having some electrical problems. They will get bids for next month. Bell stated the roads to the wells need attention. Might put some oversized rock down first as a base.

**Lawrence Coultas** had some personnel issues for closed session.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Don Campbell** said the flags at the cemetery are a mess and looks disgraceful. Mayor McIntire asked if he had thought about donating to the flag fund. Robinson said the other day Angela said they did not have any extra flags. They would look into the matter.

The public was excused.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved and Jeff Pittman seconded to go into closed session to discuss hiring and full time personnel. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Closed session began at 10:35p.m.

**MOTION**: Lawrence Coultas moved and Bill Jacquot seconded to come out of closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Closed session ended at 11:15p.m.

**MOTION**: Lawrence Coultas moved and Ron Bell seconded to increase Shelby Shelts’s pay by $1.00 immediately & retroactive back to end of her 6-months probation. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Lawrence Coultas moved and Ron Bell seconded to increase Leland Evans pay to $20 per hour effective immediately. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION**: Lawrence Coultas moved and Cathy Debold seconded to hire Derek Evans as a full time permanent employee starting March 25 at $14 per hour. He will be on a 6 month probation pending on passing a drug test. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**MOTION**: Lawrence Coultas moved and Cathy Debold seconded to hire Austin Axley at $14 per hour as a full time permanent employee start date March 25 with 6 month probation and subject to passing a drug test. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

**Mayor McIntire** reported on the stabbing behind the Pitt Stop. It is being treated as a case of self defense.

**MOTION**: Bill Jacquot moved and Cathy Debold seconded to adjourn. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

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Rex McIntire, Mayor Brenda Robinson, City Clerk