

December 1, 2021

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Winchester City Council held their monthly meeting December 1, 2021 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, Sandy Long, Jeff Pittman, and City Clerk Teri Little

Also, in attendance were Wanda Cody, City Treasurer; Caleb Handy, Police Chief; John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney; Greg Hillis and Adam Fox, 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 November 3, 2021 meeting.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Bill Jacquot seconded to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular November 3, 2021 meeting. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor McIntire wanted to address a few items prior to getting started. He has spoken with FS and they are hoping to get a closing date on the Drake house soon. Paperwork has been sent to IDOT on pursuing the speed limit change to 45 mph for the new Dollar General Store. The marked police car had a transmission leak that is being repaired by Dan Schafer and should be back in a day or two. He thanked Jeff Pittman for his 11 years of business with the Pitt Stop. All equipment has been sold. Big thank you's to Clem Anders for all his time taking care of the flowers in Monument Park and Larry Evans for all the trash he collects on his daily walks. The city truly appreciates all the efforts. A picture of the progress on Library renovations was shown and hopes are that the foundation would be poured by end of the week. Also, a thank you was given to Melinda Hembrough for being so understanding with all the construction.

Greg Hillis, Benton & Associates advised that there will be 2 pay requests to approve for the January meeting as they did not get them added to the agenda in time.

Meeting with John went well as he had detailed reports of all water mains that are in need of replacement. Hillis would like to have a meeting with the water committee and the next week or two to get together costs.

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 available. There is \$50 million available to be distributed. Amount can range from \$250,000 to \$3 Million. It is a 100% grant for the bondable infrastructure projects. Council agreed to Benton and Associates apply for the grant. Benton's

fee is in the \$3500.00 range to file the application. The council will approve fee payment in January meeting.

Adam Fox, Benton & Associates was present to go over the contract for operations at the water plant. Per John Paul Coonrod this contract is similar to the last contract we had between the city and Benton and Associates. This will be for water only and is a 1-year contract starting 11/12/2021 for a fee of \$1,150.00 a month. The monthly fee covers visits and training until Jim Dobson becomes certified. This contract can be cancelled at any time.

Caleb Handy, Police Chief passed out his monthly report. His report is as follows: Animal Complaints – 3; Arrests – 3; Assist EMS – 2; Assist Outside Agency (police) - 5; Burglary - 4; Building Alarm – 2; Clear Roadway (Obstructions); DCFS – 1; Domestic Disturbance – 3; Fight - 2; Found Property – 1; Interviews – 1; Paper Service – 3; Property Damage – 2; Property Exchange – 3; Prowler – 4; Pursuit – 1; Speak to Officer – 20; Suspicious Person – 2; Traffic Control – 1; Traffic Stops – Verbal Warning – 5; Vandalism – 1; Vehicle Complaint – 1; Well-being Checks – 1. Mileage for the month is 1372 miles.

Chief Handy advised that officers are now working 4, 10-hour shifts.

The police truck is still waiting on equipment.

Mayor McIntire wanted to address the parking on Main, Jefferson and High St. It is starting to become a hazard when they are parking too close the stop signs and across from each other. It was discussed that there is an ordinance that requires a person has to park at least 30 feet from a stop sign or crosswalk. If it is decided to change the distance to 50 feet a new ordinance would be required. Chief Handy will provide notice to ones that are not abiding by the ordinance.

Another issue being addressed is the trouble with calls to dispatch. There have been a few complaints of officers not getting calls that have come to the dispatch office. Also, one call was not answered by an on-call officer. Chief Handy has addressed that with the officer and the person that had made the call. Mayor McIntire suggested that they keep track of instances where calls are not handled correctly and Chief Handy will talk with Sheriff Eddinger and see if additional training maybe needed for the dispatchers.

Advised that Chase Burk will Graduate the academy on 12/3/2021.

Chief Handy requested that Chase Burk be hired as full-time police officer once he has graduated the academy.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Bill Jacquot second to hire Chase Burk as full-time officer (contingent on graduating the academy) at \$16.00 with a probation period of 6 months. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

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

Mayor McIntire requested a separate file be set up to track all monetary transactions for the Coultas property.

Lawrence Coultas, City Alderman presented loan quotes from United Community Bank of Winchester (UCB) and First National Bank for the meter reading system that was approved from Utility Pipe. UCB provided the lowest fixed rate of 2.64% and First National Bank provided a 2.75% fixed rate. Lawrence recommends that we borrow the full \$400,000 for 10 years which is a fixed rate of 2.74% thru UCB. Mayor McIntire wanted to say a thank you to Jeff Duncan, UCB and Keith Devlin from First National Bank for providing the quotes and working with the city to keep the loan local.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Jeff Pittman seconded to approve loan quote for AMI metering system for \$400,000 at 2.74% thru United Community Bank Winchester for monthly payments. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney has looked over the contract from Utility Pipe for the AMI meter system and he approves. The contract will be effective upon signing.

Coonrod presented Resolution 2021-12-01 which provides approval for the city to proceed with borrowing the \$400,000 from UCB Bank of Winchester.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Ron Bell second to approve resolution 2021-12-01 to borrow \$400,000 from UCB of Winchester. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Simmons, Supt of Public Works report as follows: Locate tickets – 20; Work orders – 18; Funerals/grave digs – 3; Replaced gas meters – 1; Poured concrete curves – 1 yard; Monthly brush picked up; Monthly meter reading; Monthly odorant report; Monthly sniff test gas; Zoning Permits – 1; Hauling dirt for contractor at the library; Cell Tower completed at lagoons; Insulated well completed; Put up and take down flags for Veteran's Day; Brush cleaning on Lewis St by bridge; Replaced water service on W Pleasant St, to fix water break; Lot of leaves cleaned up; Water Leaks- 2.

A meeting with the purchasing committee will be set to go over purchasing a new backhoe.

John Paul Coonrod will speak with John Simmons to verify direction of the gas line to see if utility easement will be required for new gas line to Dollar General.

Jeff Pittman, Building Supervisor advised that the roof is no longer leaking so can proceed in cleaning up the sound proof room. The ceiling tiles will be removed and replaced and the carpet will be steam cleaned.

Mayor Rex McIntire advised that he spoke with Rick Willis and he expressed a thank you for the fuel adjustment this summer and that it did help. McIntire wants to revisit the contracts to maybe increase for next year.

The city received a request to advertise in the Winchester Invitational Tournament program.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved, and Lawrence Coultas seconded to purchase 1/8-page ad for \$50.00. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

John Paul Coonrod, City Attorney passed out ordinance for Municipal Tax Levy. This was passed out last month to review.

MOTION: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Sandy Long seconded to approve Ordinance 926 for the Municipal Tax Levy. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

Coonrod gave update on Municipal Court cases. There were 2 cases for Winchester and 1 for Manchester. Manchester will pay 1/3 of the court costs.

Case 1 was continued and fined and cleaned up that day

Case 2 was a Manchester Case

Case 3 N High St 3 vehicle. 2 were removed quickly with one remaining. Did not show and was fined, however, was previously notified person had been ill so fine maybe vacated and given chance to get removed.

Advised will shut down Municipal Court till spring. Can always call a quick court date if needed.

Speed limit ordinance was presented. This affects 3 streets. East Lewis St, W Park Ave/Elm St and Mechanic St will be lowered from 30 to 20 mph.


MOTION: Sandy Long moved, and Lawrence Coultas seconded to approve Ordinance 927. Roll call resulted 4 yeas and 1 No. Motion carried.

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: Lawrence Coultas moved, and Ron Bell second to move to approve Seasonal Christmas Bonus amounts per closed session. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION: Ron Bell moved, and Jeff Pittman second to move to adjourn 10:00 pm. Roll call resulted in all yeas. Motion carried.



Rex McIntire, Mayor



Teri Little, City Clerk