

MINUTES

March 14, 2006

The City Council of Winchester met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.

Present and participating were: Mayor Richard Stewart, presiding; Beth Rhoton, City Administrator; Greg O'Neal, City Attorney; Judy Baker, Secretary; various Department Heads; and the following Council members:

Present: Councilman Franklin  
Councilman Harrell  
Councilman Scharber  
Councilman Snead  
Councilman Womack

Absent: None

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order with a prayer by Councilman Snead and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Harrell.

Under requests, addresses or presentations, Kurt Johnson presented a request on behalf of Trinity Episcopal Church asking that the street going down the side of Billie's Flowers and the church be closed and deeded to the church. Trinity Church purchased the property where Billie's Flowers is located and will be tearing down that building and doesn't want street traffic traveling down the side of the church so building additions or parking could be made. Mr. Lynn Chestnut, spokesman for SunTrust Bank, spoke in opposition of closing the street as he stated it could impact traffic turning into the SunTrust motor branch. Councilman Harrell made a motion to allow the City Administrator to conduct a study on this issue and to get a count on the traffic on that street. This motion was seconded by Councilman Scharber, and all voted in favor of said motion.

First under unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the February 14, 2006, council meeting was dispensed and approved as written on a motion by Councilman Harrell, seconded by Councilman Franklin, and all voted in favor.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton presented the following bids for fan and vent installation at the Swimplex:

Ingle Construction Co.	\$ 8,042.32
J. W. Gamble & Son	\$16,104.20

Mrs. Rhoton reminded the Council that this item had been on the November agenda with only one bid received, then the contractor backed out of doing the job. Councilman Harrell moved to accept the low bi, if it meets specifications after a careful review of both bids are done, with a second by Councilman Scharber and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Road Commissioners Joe David McBee and Chuck Tipps requested approval of Resolution #766, a resolution urging the State

Department of Transportation to make Mansford Road and Awalt Road a state route and assume responsibility for maintaining such roads. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

Ayes: Councilman Franklin  
Councilman Harrell  
Councilman Scharber  
Councilman Snead  
Councilman Womack

Nays: None

Next, the Council approved Resolution #767, a resolution requesting Senator Jerry Cooper and Representative George Fraley to introduce and secure passage of an amendment of Article II, Section 2.10 to authorize donations and contribution in accordance with TCA 6-54-111 and other State laws. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Harrell, and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

Ayes: Councilman Franklin  
Councilman Harrell  
Councilman Scharber  
Councilman Snead  
Councilman Womack

Nays: None

Next, City Administrator Rhoton presented the following bids received for asphalt resurfacing for the Public Works Department:

Rogers Group	\$40.84 per ton
Smithway Asphalt	\$47.88 per ton

This item was put out to bid months ago but not accepted at that time in the hopes that oil prices would go down. As prices haven't gone down, Mrs. Rhoton recommended that we go ahead and start our road surfacing program and do as much as we can with the budgeted money. Councilman Harrell made a motion to approve low bid by the Rogers Group and to do as much as we can with the money budgeted for this program. Councilman Snead seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton presented the Council with a comparison list of employee benefits between the City and Winchester Utilities. This list showed the Utility Company had much better benefits for their employees than the City of Winchester. Mrs. Rhoton requested making the City's benefits equal in all areas to those of Winchester Utilities. After a discussion, Councilman Snead made a motion to charge the City Administrator with the job of making a comprehensive plan that will include an employee survey of their priorities and include comparisons from MTAS and to, if not match it, move in the direction of Winchester Utilities in three budget years and bring this plan back to the Council for approval. This motion was seconded by Councilman Harrell and all voted in favor.

Next, Police Chief Dennis Young requested approval of a three year lease with Bumpas Harley Davidson of Murfreesboro for the three motorcycles in the Police Department at a cost of \$200.00 per month per motorcycle (copy of lease attached). Motion for approval was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Franklin, and all voted in favor.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton informed the Council the date of the public auction for the sale of the parcel of lake front property located next to our impound lot at 806 North Jefferson Street will be at 10:00 a.m. on May 6, 2006 with a minimum bid of the appraised value of \$35,000.00.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton stated she had received some complaints about parking on the square from the Downtown Merchants Committee and recommended the Council consider putting funds in the upcoming budget to hire a retired person part-time to write tickets.

Next, City Attorney Greg O'Neal, informed the Council about a lawsuit and possible settlement concerning property in the Crownover Industrial Park that once belonged to Carla Bean and Faye Cleek (see attached). Mr. O'Neal stated that Attorney Joe Ford was handling this case for the City as Mr. O'Neal was a witness in the case. The ladies failed to meet the restrictions specified to own property in the industrial park and the city retained the property through Chancery Court. The ladies filed a lawsuit and are asking to settle this case for \$16,354.97, which includes the price they paid for the property and the city taxes paid on the property during their ownership. Councilman Harrell made a motion to offer Ms. Cleek and Ms. Bean the original purchase price and a reasonable attorney fee, seconded by Councilman Franklin, and all voted in favor.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton informed the Council of large incoming expenses for musical acts, stages, signage, merchandise, and other expenses for the Dogwood Festival. According to our charter, expenses over \$5,000.00 require council approval and Mrs. Rhoton requested their authorization to write checks to pay for these expenses. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Snead, seconded by Councilman Womack, and all voted in favor.

Next, Councilman Scharber and Fire Chief Don Cofer presented a report from the ISO stating the need to repair, replace and/or purchase equipment in the Fire Department and the possibility of having a second fire station near the Bible Crossing Road area in order to retain a Class 4 rating or to bring it up to a Class 3 (see attachment). Councilman Scharber made a motion that we will do what it takes to keep a Class 4 this budget year and go from there with a five year plan for

the other items listed in the report. Councilman Womack seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton reported that negotiations were ongoing with Mr. P. E. Bramlett and the city concerning Hundred Oaks Street and that some progress was being made. The Council agreed she should continue moving forward with the negotiations.

In the last order of business, Mayor Stewart stated that an appointment was needed for the Franklin County Consolidated Housing Authority as Mr. Hoyte Earle turned in his resignation. Councilman Harrell moved to appoint Bill Cowan, seconded by Councilman Womack, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Under council, department heads and committee communications, updates and reports were given on the various committees, departments, and happenings in the City.

With no further business to be brought before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Harrell, and all voted in favor of said motion.

City of Winchester's website is:  
[www.winchester-tn.com](http://www.winchester-tn.com)

and

International Dogwood Festival website is:  
[www.winchesterdogwoodfestival.com](http://www.winchesterdogwoodfestival.com)

---

Richard Stewart, Mayor  
City of Winchester

Attest:

---

Beth J. Rhoton, City Administrator

Minutes taken by: Judy Baker

Date of Meeting: March 14, 2006