

MINUTES

January 12, 2016

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session at City Hall on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Present and participating were: Mayor Terry Harrell presiding; Beth Rhoton, City Administrator; Judy Baker, City Recorder; Greg O'Neal, City Attorney; various Department Heads, audience members; news media; and the following Council members:

Present: Councilman Snead
Councilwoman Alexander
Councilwoman Bates
Councilman Spencer
Councilman Womack

Absent: None

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Fire Chief Gary Greeson and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Jeannie Bates.

Under addresses, presentations and/or requests, the Council heard quarterly reports from Airport Manager Zackary Colescott and from Winchester Utilities Manager Roger Caldwell. Their reports, along with quarterly reports from all Department Heads, are included in the city council minutes file.

Next, Finance Director Martha Carol Luttrell informed the Council that the facilities have been completed at the Soccer Complex at the City Park and have been approved by the Winchester Soccer Association. Mrs. Luttrell requested approval to pay the final invoice from Lawns Unlimited in the amount of \$4,750.00. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor.

In the first order of unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the December 8, 2015, regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilwoman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Alexander, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Last under unfinished business, City Administrator Rhoton presented the only bid received for the purchase of two small city owned and non-buildable parcels of property that are deeded together for a total of 0.265 acres located behind 417, 419, & 423 Laura Avenue. The lone bid came from Betty Jo Drummond in the amount of \$525.00. Mrs. Rhoton explained that the City is selling this property as it has no road footage, which makes it unbuildable, and the only value of the property would be to any adjoining home owners. This property was re-advertised and re-bid as the Council had rejected the first and only bid of \$105.00 from adjoining home owner Scott Byrom at the December 8,

2015, council meeting. Mrs. Rhoton further stated that, as requested by Councilman Spencer, all five adjoining homeowners were notified in writing to verify that they were all aware that this property was for sale. Councilman Spencer made a motion to approve the re-advertised bid placed by Betty Jo Drummond in the amount of \$525.00, seconded by Councilman Womack, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Finance Director Martha Carol Luttrell presented the only bid received for operating concession stands at the Softball and Babe Ruth fields at the City Park from Winchester Concessions, owned by Vickey Fleming, for a total amount of \$2,280.00. Motion to approve this bid was made by Councilwoman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton requested approve to surplus the following items from the Building and Codes Department and sell them through Govdeals.com:

HP Design Jet 1050C Plus Printer
10 Ink Cartridges
1 Roll 42" Photo Paper

Motion for approval was made by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Last under new business, City Administrator asked approval for some changes to the Personnel Policy and these changes will be attached to the minutes file, with the most notable change being the elimination of comp time. City Administrator Rhoton stated that the changes to the Personnel Policy were reviewed and discussed at the Council's January 5th work session. Councilman Spencer made a motion for approval and seconded by Councilwoman Alexander. After a discussion, Councilman Spencer amended his motion to add that the effective date of the personnel policy changes will take place February 1, 2016, in order to give employees the opportunity to use any comp time they had already accumulated. The motion passed with all voting in favor of said motion.

Under City Administrator, Council, and Departmental reports, communications, and updates: Mrs. Rhoton stated that our Local Government computer programs would be down at City Hall from January 13 to January 15 while new software is installed. While computers are down, hand written receipts will be given to customers making payments for property taxes, etc. Mrs. Rhoton also stated that construction on the downtown sidewalk project is starting on the north side of City Hall on 1st Avenue. This project contract is for 150 days but contractor anticipates to complete sooner.

Under City Council reports, communications, and updates: Councilwoman Alexander commended the Winchester Fire and Police

personnel for all the calls they answer and was overwhelmed at the number of calls each of these departments respond to each month. She commented on the letter that Chief Dennis Young had included in his report about the horrific accident of Christmas Eve that has already resulted in the deaths of two children and one adult and others are still in the hospital with serious injuries. Mrs. Alexander stated that we are all compassionate about the things the responders see and deal with as a result of responding to horrible events. Councilwoman Bates stated that the Winchester Beer Board has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 6: 00 p.m. in the Annex. She also stated that a new business, Liquidation Outlet, had just opened today in Winchester in the old Food Lion shopping center on South College Street. Councilman Womack commented that he had already visited Liquidation Outlet, and urged everyone to shop at the City's newest business and to trade at home first.

Under mayor communications, Mayor Harrell also thanked the Police and Fire Department employees for responding to calls that the public may not be aware of and how seeing and dealing with those things can affect them. Mayor Harrell also thanked the Public Works, Recreation and Utility employees who are out in inclement weather all year long, whether it be rain, cold, heat, storms, etc. Mayor Harrell stated that sometimes we take people for granted and we shouldn't and that we appreciate what Council, department heads and employees do and thanked the Finance Department for keeping us on track. He further thanked City Administrator Rhoton for the good leadership we've had with her throughout the years and looks forward to working with everyone in 2016.

With no further business or communications to be brought before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilwoman Alexander, seconded by Councilwoman Bates, and all voted in favor.

City of Winchester's website is:

www.winchester-tn.com

International Dogwood Festival website is:

www.winchesterdogwoodfestival.com

Terry Harrell, Mayor
City of Winchester

Attest:

Beth J. Rhoton, City Administrator

Minutes taken and typed by: Judy Baker

Date of Meeting: January 12, 2016

