

MINUTES

November 8, 2011

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Councilman Bell
Councilman Hart
Councilman Spencer
Councilman Stewart
Councilman Womack

Absent: Greg O'Neal, City Attorney

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with the prayer by Representative David Alexander and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bryan Dalton.

Under requests, addresses or presentations, the Kiwanis Club, represented by Brenda Long and Jeannie Bates, requested the city to co-sponsor their annual High-On-The-Hog BBQ event in the City Park, as we've done for many years. This event will take place April 13-22, 2012 and their request is to use the City Park buildings, parking areas, support of Winchester City services, and provide at least one city worker to help at the festival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (letter attached to minutes). They further requested an upgrade of at least ten more electrical service outlets to be provided to make room for additional BBQ teams to be able to compete in the festival, and stated there were some other safety issues in the park that need maintenance. Council Spencer made a motion to continue to co-sponsor the 2012 High On The Hog BBQ event, seconded by Councilman Hart, and all voted in favor of said motion. After a discussion, the Council requested Utilities Manager Roger Caldwell to look into the cost of the improvements required to provide the additional electrical service and the other safety issues that may need to be taken care of, and to bring his recommendations before the Council at the December meeting.

Under unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the October 11, 2011 regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilman Hart, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved the first reading of Ordinance #937, an ordinance to amend Title 8, Chapter 2 of the Winchester Municipal Code (Beer Ord. #890) by adding paragraph B to Section 8-207, pertaining to the certification of clerks through the TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) program. Motion for approval was made by

Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Stewart, and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

Ayes: Councilman Stewart
Councilman Bell
Councilman Hart
Councilman Spencer
Councilman Womack

Nays: None

Next, the Council approved Resolution #826, a resolution to apply for grant funds through the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Enhancement Program to implement Phase V of the Winchester Downtown Revitalization Project. This grant will be to improve pedestrian and motorized transportation to include construction walkways throughout the community to provide significant linkages to government offices, recreational facilities, retail stores, and residential neighborhoods. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, City Administrator Beth Rhoton informed the Council that the City is required under the Federal Workers Comp Act to have a Panel of Physicians. The City actually established this panel on November 14, 1995, but some of those physicians have recently changed. Mrs. Rhoton spoke with Dr. James Stensby, who is currently serving on this panel, and to Dr. Stephen Somerschild and Karen Maze, MSN, NP-C working under the supervision of Dr. Walker, and they have agreed to be on this panel. Mrs. Rhoton requested their appointments to the Panel of Physicians. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Bell, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Fire Chief Gary Greeson requested approval of specs for a new equipment van for the Fire Department to replace the 1989 equipment van and permission to seek bids. He stated that the specs are for two different bids, one bid will be for the chassis and the other bid will be for the van body. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Bell, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Councilman Spencer made a motion to appoint Duncan Weddington to the Historical Committee. This motion was seconded by Councilman Womack and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Councilman Hart made a motion to appoint Shannon Rogers to the Winchester Beer Board, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Harrell thanked Ms. Rogers for her willingness to serve on the Beer Board.

Next, Mayor Harrell recommended the appointment of James Daniel "Danny" Smith, a retired educator, to the Utilities Board (to

fill the seat vacated by Sonny Elliott). Councilman Spencer made the motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Hart, and all voted in favor.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton requested the Council to approve a \$250.00 Christmas bonus for full time and permanent part time city employees. Councilman Stewart made the motion to approve the Christmas bonuses, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and the motion passed unanimously.

In the last order of new business, City Administrator Rhoton informed the Council that we have been working with an industry outside our jurisdiction that is interested in coming here. While working with them, it was brought to our attention that a USDA loan is available but any monies received through that loan would have to flow through an Industrial Board as well as through a Public Utility and that we could work with Winchester Utilities. She stated that the industry did get certified and, in order to help with this process, we looked at going in with the Franklin County Industrial Board, but it wasn't an option for this loan as we will not qualify. Mrs. Rhoton stated that the City of Winchester does have an Industrial Board that was enacted in 1974 but has been inactive for some time although we have kept all the Industrial Board's certifications good with the Secretary of the State's office. Mrs. Rhoton requested approval to activate the City's Industrial Board again for this industry and for any process we may need to go through. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Hart, and the motion passed unanimously.

Under Council and Departmental reports, communications, and updates: Councilman Hart thanked Police Chief Dennis Young for his help with the Beer Board and the Franklin County Coalition Prevention group, and thanked the merchants that participated in the Coalition's recent meeting. Councilman Spencer reported that the Historical Committee is working with the WDPC and they have started placing historical plaques around the square which identify the locations of the buildings; Councilman Womack reminded everyone that the Christmas holidays would soon be here and urged everyone to spend their money in our community.

Under Administrator communications, City Administrator Beth Rhoton stated that Richardson Waste Company has chosen not do business in the City of Winchester anymore due to the downturn of the economy. This has caused a problem for some downtown businesses, especially one particular restaurant that is having a problem with a location for a dumpster. This is due to the fact that the alley is so small that it isn't feasible for large trucks to enter, and Richardson's had the only truck small enough to get through the small alley where the dumpster is

located. Mrs. Rhoton relieved the problem temporarily by allowing a dumpster to be placed in a city parking lot until the problem can be resolved at a future time. She stated that she will have some possible suggestions to help solve that problem located in our downtown area at the next Council work session.

Under his communications, Mayor Harrell welcomed Representative David Alexander and thanked him for his attendance. Mayor Harrell stated that he had a prepared statement (attached to minutes) that he wanted to read as follows: "In mid-summer the City of Winchester discovered discrepancies in accounting. Immediately following the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Tennessee Office of Comptroller were contacted and an investigation was requested. The charges facing Mrs. Faye Morrow, former Finance Director for Winchester, are a direct result of the investigation. The charges include (1) count of theft over \$60,000, (2) counts of official misconduct, (1) count of forgery and (1) count of tampering with governmental records. The City is cooperating fully with all agencies and will proceed with all possible avenues, civil and criminal, to receive full restitution."

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

City of Winchester's website is:

www.winchester-tn.com

and

International Dogwood Festival website is:

www.winchesterdogwoodfestival.com

Terry Harrell, Mayor
City of Winchester

Attest:

Beth Rhoton, City Administrator

Minutes taken by: Judy Baker

Minutes typed by: Judy Baker

Date of Meeting: November 8, 2011