

MINUTES

December 13, 2011

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 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
Greg O'Neal, City Attorney

Absent: None

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop #185. The Mayor told the Boy Scouts that he appreciated their attendance and participation at the Council meeting tonight.

Under requests, addresses or presentations, City Administrator Rhoton presented a letter from Alan Allred of Cumberland Place Apartments requesting the City to allow them to change waste haulers and not use Waste Management in order to save money. Mrs. Rhoton denied his request as we are under a contract with Waste Management and he asked that she bring his request before the Council. The Council decided to take no action as this could open the door for more organizations and people to make the same request.

Under unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the November 8, 2011 regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council discussed the Kiwanis Club's request for electrical upgrades and maintenance of safety issues at the City Park. Mrs. Long and Mrs. Bates had presented this request at the November Council meeting and spoke again about needing the upgrades. Chris Zimmerman of Winchester Utilities said there were no major safety issues, only some small repairs to be made. Audience Member Jeff Hagg??? was interested to know if the campground made a profit and if it was directly related to the Kiwanis or totally separate from them. He was told that the campground is separate but the city opens the campground early to accommodate their campers. After a discussion, Councilman Stewart made a motion for the Mayor and Council to surrender their salaries for the rest of the year to help fund the park upgrades, but the motion died for a lack of second. The Council decided they would consider this item for the next budget year as money for park

upgrades is not in the current budget. Detailed specifications will also be needed for any areas of the park and campground that need upgrading in order to advertise for bids.

Next, the Council approved the second reading of Ordinance #937, an ordinance to amend Title 8, Chapter 2 of the Winchester Municipal Code relating to alcoholic beverages by adding paragraph B to Section 8-207 of Beer Ordinance #890, pertaining to the certification of clerks through the Training for Intervention Procedures "TIPS" program. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Womack, and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

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

Nays: None

In the first order of new business, Fire Chief Gary Greeson presented the following bids that were received for a chassis and equipment van body for the Fire Department. The bid deadline for these bids was December 2, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Stoops Freightliner-Quality Trailers, Inc.	\$125,214.00
Freightliner of Chattanooga	\$125,515.00
Neely Coble Company (Freightliner)	\$127,392.00

Mr. Greeson explained that the Purchasing Committee reviewed the bids and that he and the Committee recommended the low bid by Stoops Freightliner. Councilman Stewart stated that he would like to purchase from Freightliner of Chattanooga and City Administrator Rhoton told him that, according to the State Comptroller's office, there must be a legitimate reason not to accept the low bid. Councilman Stewart stated that he wanted to ensure jobs in the State of Tennessee and keep our State's economy growing and made a motion to accept the bid by Freightliner of Chattanooga, but his motion died for lack of a second. Councilman Stewart then made the motion to approve the low bid by Stoops Freightliner-Quality Trailers, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bell and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton requested the Council to allow her to surplus the Christmas trees she purchased for decorating the downtown square and sell them on govdeals.com. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved the first reading of Ordinance #938, an ordinance amending Zoning Ord. #506 to allow signs for public recreation uses in residential zoning districts. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilman Hart, 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 the first reading of Ordinance #939, an ordinance amending Zoning Ord. #506 to allow any awning style compatible with the character of the building and neighboring buildings within the downtown overlay district. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Spencer, 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 accepted the certified downtown master plan which had been adopted by the Winchester Planning Commission at their September 19, 2011 meeting. Motion for acceptance was made by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved Resolution #827, 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 Womack, seconded by Councilman Hart, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved Resolution #828, a resolution for the City of Winchester to close out the 2008 Winchester Housing CDBG Rehabilitation Project to rehabilitate low and moderate income, owner occupied houses on 2nd Avenue, SW. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Bell, and all voted in favor of said motion.

In the last order of new business, the Council approved Resolution #829, a resolution authorizing the issuance, sale, and payment of capital outlay notes not to exceed \$115,000 pursuant to the informal bid process for the financing of the new equipment van for the Fire Department. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Under Mayoral communications, Mayor Harrell told the Council

that it has been a pleasure to work with them. This year has been both productive and challenging and he looks forward to working with everyone in the coming year. The City has made great strides and he appreciated the Council's, City Administrator, city employees, and all the citizens support. Mayor Harrell also thanked Boy Scout Troop #185 for their support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Under Administrator communications, City Administrator Beth Rhoton stated that the 2010 audit was in the Council's agenda packets and that the 2011 audit will be on the January agenda. She thanked the Boy & Girl Scouts, Kiwanis Club, city employees, and all the volunteers who helped make our "Santa is Coming to Town" event a success. She thanked the Boy Scouts for doing the pinecone crafts for us and said that we couldn't have done the event without everyone's help.

Under Council and Departmental reports, communications, and updates: each Councilmen wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Councilman Stewart thanked the Winchester Fire Department and their volunteers for their response to a recent fire at his business; Councilman Spencer told the members of Boy Scout Troop #185 that he was appreciative and proud of them, and Mayor Harrell stated they were the future and could be setting in the Mayor and Council seats one day; Councilman Womack urged everyone to shop locally in order to keep tax dollars in our community as that helps to keep property taxes from increasing; City Attorney O'Neal said that he has been to several events in different cities and counties recently and received many comments about the beautiful renovations of our downtown square.

With no further business to be brought before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Spencer, 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: December 13, 2011