

MINUTES

January 13, 2009

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was preceded by a budget work session held at 5:00 p.m. at the Annex. Due to holding a work session before the council meeting, Mayor Harrell did not have the Department Heads present their quarterly reports during the meeting, instead the reports were placed in the agenda packets for the Council to review at their convenience.

Present and participating were: Mayor Terry Harrell, presiding; Beth Rhoton, City Administrator; Faye Morrow, Administrative Director; Judy Baker, Secretary; various Department Heads; and the following Council members:

Present: Councilman Glasner
Councilman Elliott
Councilman Scharber
Councilman Womack
Councilman Snead

Absent: Greg O'Neal, City Attorney;

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Fire Chief Gary Greeson and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief Dennis Young.

First under unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the December 9, 2008, regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Elliott, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved the second reading of Sidewalk & Streets Ordinance #903, an ordinance amending Title 16, Section 102 of the Winchester Municipal Code. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Glasner, seconded by Councilman Elliott and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

Ayes: Councilman Elliott
Councilman Glasner
Councilman Scharber
Councilman Snead
Councilman Womack

Nays: None

Next, Councilman Womack made a motion to increase the speed limits on Bible Crossing Road and on Cowan Highway 64W beginning at Food Lion and continuing down to WCDT from 30 to 40 miles per hour, seconded by Councilman Glasner. The motion then passed by the following roll call vote of three ayes to two nays.

Ayes: Councilman Glasner
Councilman Scharber
Councilman Womack

Nays: Councilman Elliott

Councilman Snead

Next, Councilman Scharber reported that the County Commissioners will meet this week and make a decision about selling the Franklin County Finance Building as surplus. Councilman Scharber will bring the price and his recommendations about purchasing this property for the Police Department to the Council at the February meeting.

In the last order of unfinished business, Councilman Elliott reported that he and Recreation Committee Chairman T Simmons had decided not to pursue purchasing more of the Hawkersmith property for the City Park at this time due to the economic downturn and budget squeeze. He stated that this issue may be revisited at a later date. When asked by Mayor Harrell if the Recreation Committee had considered moving the Little League to the City Park, he said this could be brought up for discussion in the next Recreation Committee meeting.

First under new business, City Administrator Rhoton and Airport Manager Josh Abramson presented the first reading of Ordinance #904, amending Zoning Ord. #506, to establish an airport overlay district to provide for the regulating and restricting of the height of structures and objects of natural growth and otherwise regulating the use of property in the vicinity of the Winchester Municipal Airport. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Elliott, seconded by Councilman Scharber and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

Ayes: Councilman Elliott
Councilman Glasner
Councilman Scharber
Councilman Snead
Councilman Womack

Nays: None

Next, Codes Enforcement Officer Pat Sanders presented his report for an alternative method of charging fees for building permits, as requested by Councilman Glasner. He used a square foot factor indicated by the International Congress Code, based on a national average which is probably a little high for this area, that could be adjusted downward if deemed necessary. His report indicates the possibility of increasing revenue by switching to this alternative method. Mr. Sanders stated that charging fees by square footage would require that actual prints of the structure be presented and kept on file. Presently, building permit fees are based on construction value and he said that figure is often understated. After a discussion, Councilman Glasner made the following motion: one rate of fees for issuing building permits charged on cost per square footage, and this rate will apply regardless of residential zoning districts; to use the factor from the International Congress Code website and allow Mr. Sanders to adjust figures ten percent (10%) below their list; double the

original price of the building permit for falsification of square footage stated on the permit; changing over to this alternative method of charging per square footage is to go into effect in thirty (30) days. This motion was seconded by Councilman Snead and all voted in favor of said motion. Mr. Sanders was complimented on this report.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton stated that the city is working with the state concerning placing a school zone on North High Street after receiving complaints about recent accidents involving speeding and an increase in traffic. This street is in close proximity to Clark Memorial School which is located on North Jefferson Street. She reported that she, Chief Young, Public Works Director Goodwin, and officials from the Tennessee Department of Transportation have been to the area and TDOT needed more traffic study to review, such as how many children cross the street at that location, before giving us ideas concerning crosswalks, lighting and signage. As this is a state route, the city is limited as to what we can do and TDOT has to be involved due to liability issues. Mr. Mike Cunningham, a resident on North High Street, spoke to the Council about his concerns for the safety of children walking in that area which is very close to the school. He presented photos taken by Davis Sons of three accidents - one photo was of a vehicle that went through Mr. Cunningham's yard and then hit Mr. Sons' house. Mayor Harrell stated that the city is working on this issue in coordination with the State and should have a resolution soon.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton informed the Council that the Personnel Policy rules and regulations needed to be updated on a regular basis. A rough draft of the Personnel Policy was included in their packets with changes or additions to the policy shaded in gray. She would like to improve benefits for employees, such as increasing holidays, and that changes to vacation time and other benefits were needed to be more competitive with other entities and to help stop losing employees to those entities. Mrs. Rhoton asked the Council to review the policy and bring any questions or recommendations to her and the personnel policy will be placed on a later agenda for approval.

In the last order of new business, City Administrator Rhoton presented an annual request by the Kiwanis Club for the City's help with the 2009 High-On-The-Hog BBQ event. This request, which is the same as the last few years, is for the city to provide the Park buildings, parking areas and utilities, support of city services, and to provide one worker to help at the festival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Under mayoral communications, Mayor Harrell stated that the Council and Department Heads met for a work session on the budget and that the City's budget is on track so far and he anticipates coming in on budget at the end of the fiscal year. He thanked Mrs. Rhoton for her leadership keeping the budget in good shape and the Department Heads for also keeping within the budget.

Mayor Harrell recognized the Fire Department's two new employees, David Cowan and Kyle Stewart. They replaced Marvin Greeson who went to AEDC and Dan Ferguson, who transferred to the Police Department.

Under communications, reports and updates, Councilman Glasner welcomed Councilman Elliott to the Community Development Committee. He stated that the committee will begin looking at junk yards now that they've finished work on the sidewalk ordinance. Councilman Snead invited everyone to participate in the annual Martin Luther King Walk beginning at Townsend on January 19th and stopping at City Hall Courtroom, where refreshments will be served. The International Dogwood Festival has been named a top 20 event in the Southeast United States. Councilman Womack asked that everyone shop at home and keep our tax dollars in the city. Mrs. Rhoton stated that the Fire Department is in process of getting a new Fire Department and that the building will go out for bid in the near future. Work on the downtown area continues.

With no further business to be brought before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilman Snead, seconded by Councilman Womack 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 J. Rhoton, City Administrator

Minutes taken by: Judy Baker

Date of Meeting: January 13, 2009