

MINUTES

May 12, 2009

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Absent: None

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Bill Cowan and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Eric Bradford.

Under requests, addresses or presentations, Eric Bradford gave the quarterly report for Winchester Utilities, as a representative wasn't available to present their report at the April council meeting.

Next, Bill Cowan spoke on behalf of the Downtown Merchants Events Committee, regarding restrictions of Sidewalk Ordinance #903 concerning tables, chairs and benches. Also speaking were restaurant owners Zack Rowe and Blake Burleyson. The merchants are requesting that the Council readdress the sidewalk ordinance and allow the tables, chairs and benches to stay outside at night in order to bring a relaxed and inviting atmosphere to the downtown area. After listening to their comments, Mayor Harrell reminded everyone that the sidewalk ordinance came about as a result of a recommendation by one of our citizens committees. The Mayor stated that a decision could not be made at this meeting but the Council would take their requests under advisement and discuss this issue at a later time. He appreciated the merchants coming to the meeting and informing the Council of their opinions.

First under unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the April 14, 2009 regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Glasner, seconded by Councilman Elliott, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Last, under unfinished business, City Administrator Rhoton stated that the recently submitted \$36,000.00 federal grant for the Police Department had been pulled due to Franklin County also wanting to apply for the grant. Under federal regulations, the county must apply through the city as we have to be the physical agent and the administrator of the federal grant. Mrs. Rhoton stated that in order for the county to be able to apply along with the city, there has to be

a memorandum of understanding signed by both the city mayor and the county mayor stating that each board has given their permission for the city to administer the grant. Motion for approval to resubmit for the grant along with the county was made by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Elliott, and all voted in favor of said motion.

First under new business was the first draft of the budget ordinances. Coyle Clark, with Clark and Knies Accountants, was present to answer any questions from the Mayor and Council concerning the budget documents.

The Council then approved the first draft and reading of Ordinance #906, an ordinance amending Appropriations Ordinance #897 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Elliott, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Next, the Council approved the first draft and reading of Ordinance #907, an ordinance making appropriations for the administration operation and maintenance and capital expenditures of each department, agency and fund of the City of Winchester for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Glasner, seconded by Councilman Womack, and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

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

Nays: None

Next, the Council approved the first draft and reading of Ordinance #908, an ordinance assessing and levying taxes within the corporate limits of the City for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, at a preliminary rate of seventy-nine cents (\$0.79) per one hundred dollars. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor by the following roll call:

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

Nays: None

Next, Mayor Harrell announced that Linda G. Smith had been appointed as their resident member to the Authority Board, as approved by Mayors Harrell, Henshaw and Williams. This appointment was made upon

the recommendation of the Franklin County Consolidated Housing Authority. No further action was needed as this is a mayoral appointment.

Next, the Council approved Resolution #805, a resolution authorizing the issuance, sale, and payment of capital outlay notes not to exceed \$200,000.00 for purchase of the former Franklin County Finance Department building for the new Police Station. This resolution is a requirement of the State Comptroller's office and needs the approval of the State Director of Finance. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Elliott, and all voted in favor of said motion.

In the last order of new business, Fire Chief Gary Greeson requested approval to apply for a \$58,000 FEMA federal assistance to firefighters grant with the money going toward the purchase of protective gear. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Scharber, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Under mayoral communications, Mayor Harrell stated that this would be an interesting and challenging year and that the first draft of the budget from the recent work session was a very rough draft. He stated that the city was fortunate to have maintained and improved our reserves to use for city improvements due to the careful planning and oversight.

Mayor Harrell thanked Councilman Snead for chairing the Dogwood Festival. He also thanked Bill Cowan, Beth Rhoton, Winchester Utilities, the Home Depot, and all the sponsors, volunteers, and city employees who helped with the 5th Annual International Dogwood Festival.

Under council communications, reports and updates, the Council stated they were thankful for all the people and the businesses that helped with the Dogwood Festival and for all who attended. Councilman Snead chaired this event and stated he had a great team to work with during the festival, and that he will also chair the 2010 Dogwood Festival. He reminded everyone that the Dogwood Festival Beauty Pageant is on Monday, May 18th and the International Dogwood Festival Golf Classic is June 1, 2009. He explained that the golf classic event is a fund raiser that helps keep the festival free to the public and urged people to enter and support this event. Councilman Womack still urges everyone to shop and keep our tax dollars at home.

Mayor Harrell scheduled another budget work session to be held in the Annex on Friday, May 22, 2009 at 7:00 a.m.

Under departmental reports, Bryant Dalton stated that the outdoor pool at the Swimplex will open Memorial Day weekend.

With no further business to be brought before the Council,

the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Snead 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

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2009