

MINUTES
July 8, 2008

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, 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 Glasner
Councilman Elliott
Councilman Scharber
Councilman Snead
Councilman Womack

Absent: Steve Goodwin, Public Works Director
Bryan Dalton, Swimplex Director

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Fire Chief Gary Greeson and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Eric Bradford of Winchester Utilities.

Under requests, addresses or presentations, the Council approved a road block request on June 12th by Gina Steele for the Franklin County Foster Parents Association on a motion by Councilman Glasner, seconded by Councilman Elliott, and all voted in favor.

Next, the Council approved a road block request on June 19th by Zack Norwood for the Tennessee Cheetahs track team on a motion by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Scharber, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Eva Foster addressed the Council concerning the Templeton property, which is approximately two blocks from the square and next to the Confederate Cemetery. She asked the City to consider purchasing this property for a cultural fine arts center, and would like to see the memory of Sir John Templeton honored by naming the project after him. Mayor Harrell commended Ms. Foster for her efforts, but stated money was not in the budget for this project and recommended she try to get a non-profit foundation interested in this idea. Ms. Foster said she would continue in her efforts to obtain this property for a fine arts center and would appreciate any help the city could give in supporting the project.

Next, the Council heard quarterly reports, goals and updates from Brian Norwood for Winchester Utilities, Airport manager Joshua Abramson, and from each of the City's department heads. During his report, Police Chief Young discussed various ways to try to save on fuel costs in his department. City Administrator Rhoton presented the department reports for Public Works Director Steve Goodwin and Swimplex Director Bryan Dalton as they were

absent. Councilman Glasner stated he received complaints that the campground is being used long term, like a permanent residence, with some lots having refrigerators outside, fencing and even a mailbox. He wants the campground to look like a temporary rental all the time without any of those objects on the lots. Councilman Womack thought campground rental fees needed to be increased. Councilman Elliott was asked to bring these issues before the Recreation Committee and their recommendations back to the Council.

Under unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the June 12, 2008, regular Council meeting (rescheduled from June 10th) was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Scharber. Councilman Elliott requested that more detail of the conversation with Johnny Wimley concerning the portable signs and how much the sign owners would commit themselves to making the cosmetics of the signs look good be added to the minutes. The revised motion was then seconded by Councilman Snead and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the reading of the minutes of the June 25, 2008, special called Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Scharber, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved the second reading of Ordinance #899, amending Zoning Ord. #506, to rezone the remainder of the Anderton farm property on Lynchburg Road belonging to Larry Phillips of Blue Sky Development from R-1, low-density residential district to R-3A, high-density residential alternative district. 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

First under new business, Mayor Harrell informed the Council of the recent passing of two members of the Sanders Foundation Estate Board, Cowan Simmons and Fricks Stewart, who will be missed. Mayor Harrell then appointed T. Simmons, Cowan's son, to the Sanders Estate Board and stated he will appoint another member at the August meeting.

Next, the Council approved the 2006 audit report conducted by Clark and Knies Accountants on a motion by Councilman Elliott, seconded by Councilman Glasner, and all voted in favor of said motion. The accountants have indicated that the 2007 audit report is scheduled to be completed by September and the 2008 audit report by December.

Next on the agenda was a firing range for the Winchester Police Department, but Councilman Womack stated he was not ready to discuss this item at this time and requested it be tabled to a later meeting.

Next, the Council approved the recommendation of the Winchester Public Safety Committee to help save gas by removing only the stop sign on Sharp Springs Road at the West Petty Lane intersection on a motion by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Scharber, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved the recommendation of the Winchester Public Safety Committee to help save gas by placing traffic signals on flash from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. (subject to the approval of TDOT), with the exception of the traffic lights at the intersection of Dinah Shore Boulevard and 41-A Bypass and at Baxter Lane and Bypass Road by the Industrial Park. These two traffic lights will remain active 24 hours. This motion was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion.

In the last order of business, the Council approved the recommendation of the Winchester Public Safety Committee to change the school speed zone only at the Franklin County High School on Bypass Road from 15 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour, subject to approval of TDOT. This motion was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion. This is the only school zone that is being raised.

Mayor Harrell discussed complaints he had received concerning enforcement of the crosswalks and traffic coming onto the square. He requested Councilman Womack to have the Public Safety Committee look into this issue and possibly changing the traffic signal on 1st Avenue and Jefferson Street to a red flashing two-way stop light in order to stop and slow the traffic for safety purposes.

Under his communications, Mayor Harrell thanked everyone who worked on preparing the new budget and for keeping within last year's budget. He also commended the Bell family on the wonderful July 4th fireworks display on the lake that the city sponsors.

Under Council, Departments, and committee reports, updates and other communications, Councilman Elliott stated he had heard positive comments concerning the Sign Ordinance; Councilman Glasner commended Fire Chief Gary Greeson his department for the improvements within the Fire Department; Councilman Scharber reported the Beer Board met June 11th and approved beer permits for Market Qmex, Red Pepper Restaurant, and Big G'S Tobacco and Beverage Store. Councilman Scharber stated that the Bell family needs help paying the extra expenses (permit

fees, insurance, etc.) in order to keep putting on the fireworks display; City Administrator Rhoton stated that TVA is now requiring permits and fees for events including fireworks and fishing tournaments, and TML is also requiring insurance; Councilman Glasner wants the City to continue to help the Bell family with the costs involved with putting on the July 4th fireworks display; Councilman Snead thanked the Public Works Department and all the employees that worked on the beautiful Dogwood float entered in the July 4th parade held in Sewanee.

Public Safety Committee member James Trimble was concerned about accidents occurring due to the stop sign, traffic lights, and speed zone changes that were just approved. City Administrator Rhoton replied changes would be made again if that happened.

With no further business to be brought before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilman Scharber, seconded by Councilman Elliott 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: July 8, 2008