

MINUTES

July 14, 2015

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session at City Hall on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Present and participating were: Mayor Terry Harrell, presiding; Beth Rhoton, City Administrator; Greg O'Neal, City Attorney; Judy Baker, City Recorder; various Department Heads; audience members Representative David Alexander, Cile Alexander, Jeannie Bates, Billy Simmons, Phyllis Daniel, Deanna Sidley, Annette Sisk, Teresa Tucker; news media; and the following Council members:

Present: Councilman Snead  
Councilwoman McDowell  
Councilman Hart  
Councilman Spencer  
Councilman Womack  
Greg O'Neal, City Attorney

Absent: None

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Representative David Alexander and the Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Spencer.

Under addresses, presentations and/or requests, Special Projects Coordinator Yvonne Stewart and Miss Tennessee Pageant Board member Deanna Sidley spoke concerning the Miss Dogwood Pageant and the positive impact on the young ladies it affects. Mrs. Stewart stated that Winchester is one of 36 communities represented at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, an official preliminary of Miss Tennessee, and she and members of the Miss Tennessee Board of Directors are requesting that this project not be cut from the City's budget. Mrs. Stewart read a prepared statement (attached) giving reasons for not cutting this project and allowing it to continue. In her statement she explained that the Miss Dogwood Festival Pageant is the only scholarship pageant in Franklin County and the only scholarship offered by the City of Winchester. Mrs. Stewart stated that they all want Winchester to keep the pageant and that she is willing to compromise by not requesting any comp time for nights and weekends if the Council agrees to keep the pageant for this year. The Council did not have any questions for the ladies after Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Sidley completed their remarks. Mayor Harrell then thanked the ladies for coming and for being passionate about this and also thanked them for all they have done throughout the years with this. Mayor Harrell further stated that their request would be taken under advisement and there will be some discussion in regards to their request.

Next, Zackary Colescott, who stated he just had his 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as manager of the Airport, presented his quarterly report. Highlights included talks with Med-Trans toward a location of a life

flight helicopter base at the airport that would operate 24 hours a day, bring 17-20 new jobs to the area, and provide a very in-demand service for local/regional residents. The airport would benefit directly from a ground lease and increase in Jet-A fuel sales.

Next, George Powell presented the Winchester Utilities quarterly report as Manager Roger Caldwell was at a utility conference in Gatlinburg. Mr. Powell spoke on the quarterly highlights that included projects that were recently completed as well as upcoming projects.

Next, the request by the Winchester Downtown Program Group to hold their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Autumn Festival on October 17<sup>th</sup> from approximately 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. in downtown Winchester was presented by City Administrator Beth Rhoton as Executive Director Abby Pickett was attending a Main Street meeting. Activities are to include a chili cook-off, antique car show, corn-hole tournament, and music entertainment (letter of request is attached). Motion for approval was made by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

First under unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the June 9, 2015, regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilman Womack and all voted in favor of said motion.

In the last order of unfinished business, the Council approved the second reading of Ordinance #979, an ordinance to further define the terms "structure", "building setback line" and to amend Zoning Ordinance #506 accordingly. Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman McDowell, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and passed unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilman Snead  
Councilwoman McDowell  
Councilman Hart  
Councilman Spencer  
Councilman Womack

Nays: None

In the first order of new business, the Council approved Resolution #858, a resolution authorizing the City to participate in the TML Risk Management Pool "Safety Partners" Loss Control matching grant program. The City's portion of the 50/50 grant is \$2,000.00 that will be used to provide safety googles, ear pieces, and gloves for the Police Department and those funds have been budgeted. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Snead, seconded by Councilman Womack, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council approved Resolution #859, a resolution amending Resolution #854, for the City to submit an application to the Tennessee Department of Transportation for funds through the Eastern

Federal Lands Access Program to improve roads where the Winchester Marina is being developed. Special Projects Coordinator Yvonne Stewart explained that this is in partnership with TVA as the Marina roadway will be on TVA property. She informed the Council that the grant application is more than originally requested as our engineers wanted contingency and escalation funds added as the probability is, if this grant gets awarded this year, this project likely won't get started until sometime in 2016 or maybe even 2017. The total cost of the project is now estimated to be \$1,120,500.00 with the City's 20% match being \$224,100.00. Motion for approval of Resolution #859 was made by Councilwoman McDowell, seconded by Councilman Spencer and all voted in favor of said motion. City Administrator Rhoton and Special Projects Coordinator Stewart informed the Council that the City's grant application ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State. They thanked Representative David Alexander, Franklin County Highway Superintendent Johnny Woodall, Franklin County Mayor Richard Stewart, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, and Dennis English for their support of this grant. Mayor Harrell added his thanks and appreciation for their support as well. City Administrator Rhoton stated that she had the opportunity earlier today to meet Mr. Rodney Carmichael, who is with the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association and serves on the committee that reviews federal land grants. Mr. Carmichael was very complimentary of the grant application and told Mrs. Rhoton that this project ranked very high on the economic impact to the area and he felt confident that the grant would be funded in the 2016 year.

Next, the only bid received for the Tennessee Department of Transportation Enhancement Program for Phase IV Sidewalks was from Angel Contracting, LLC located in Kentucky in the amount of \$873,375.01. Special Projects Coordinator Yvonne Stewart explained that this is the second time that this project was bid as there were no responders to our first bid. She stated that this bid is in excess of the \$260,000.00 of the funds we had available for the project and recommended rejecting this bid and rebidding this project at a later time with hopes that we will receive more bids. Councilman Hart made a motion to reject this bid and to rebid this project at a later time, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Finance Director Martha Carol Luttrell stated that issuance of notes for the purchase of the Fire Truck has been approved by the State, however Fire Truck Debt Form CT0253, which indicated that this debt complies with its debt policy must be approved by City Council and returned to the State of Tennessee. Motion for approval was made by Councilwoman McDowell, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in

favor of said motion.

Last under new business, Fire Chief Gary Greeson requested approval to seek bids to purchase Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) air packs for the Fire Department. He stated that funds for this purchase was budgeted last year and rolled over to this year's budget. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Womack, and the motion passed unanimously.

Under City Administrator, Council, and Departmental reports, communications, and updates: Councilman Snead wanted it known to everyone that if the Council meetings seem to go by "boom, boom, boom" fast sometimes, it is because the City Council holds work sessions on the first Tuesdays of each month and discuss the items that will be on the agenda for each Council meeting. These meetings are open to the public and they allow the Council time to discuss and to work out things without having to bog down the council meeting with a lot of extra discussion. Councilman Snead further explained that the public is welcome to attend these open work session meetings. Councilman Womack stated that construction is picking up and reminded everyone to spend their tax dollars locally to help keep property taxes down.

Under his communications, Mayor Harrell stated that Councilwoman McDowell has one more meeting before the next City Council election. He stated that we have enjoyed having her with us and appreciate her and that there will be more comments for her at the next meeting. Mrs. McDowell replied that no one could have been treated nicer than she has been, that they are all perfect gentlemen, and that it has been a pleasure to return here and to work with them. She stated that she appreciates the employees and that she has known many of the department heads for a long time and is really proud of the way they have helped the City to become better all the time, and thanked Beth for all she does.

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

City of Winchester's website is:

[www.winchester-tn.com](http://www.winchester-tn.com)

and the

International Dogwood Festival website is:

[www.winchesterdogwoodfestival.com](http://www.winchesterdogwoodfestival.com)

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Terry Harrell, Mayor  
City of Winchester

Attest:

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Beth Rhoton, City Administrator

Minutes taken and typed by: Judy Baker

Date of Meeting: July 14, 2015