

MINUTES

October 13, 2015

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session at City Hall on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Councilman Snead
Councilwoman Alexander
Councilwoman Bates
Councilman Spencer
Councilman Womack

Absent: None

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Roger Caldwell and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Alexander.

Under addresses, presentations and/or requests, the Council heard the quarterly reports from Winchester Utilities Manager Roger Caldwell and from Airport Manager Zackary Colescott. Their reports, along with quarterly reports from all Department Heads are included in the minutes file.

In the first order of unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the September 8, 2015, regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton requested approval of the latest version of the Dry Creek Marina lease, dated September 24, 2015, be approved and allow the Mayor to sign the contract, contingent of TVA's approval which we have not yet received but are expecting any time so we can enter into a contract. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion.

In the first order of new business, the Council approved Resolution #860, authorizing and approving the amended Grant Administration Agreement between the City of Winchester and the Board of Directors for the Winchester Downtown Program Corporation, referred to as the WDPC. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilman Womack and, after a discussion, all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Fire Chief Gary Greeson requested approval for payment of an invoice to Winchester Utilities for replacing and/or repairing fire hydrants in the amount of \$8,998.35. Chief Greeson explained that

this is a budgeted item for Winchester Utilities for providing Fire Hydrant maintenance and usage and stated that council approval is needed due to the amount being over the city's purchase limit. Councilwoman Bates made a motion to approve the payment, seconded by Councilwoman Alexander, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Next, Fire Chief Greeson requested approval of the Fire Department's three-year Breathing Air contracts for the cities of Cowan, Decherd, Estill Springs and Huntland for filling their air tanks. Motion for approval was made by Councilwoman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Alexander, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, Mayor Harrell made mayoral appointments of Susan Walton and Steve Cagely to the Winchester Design Review Committee. Mayor Harrell stated he was pleased that both appointees stepped up and accepted this challenge and we are excited and looking forward to working with them on this committee.

Next, City Administrator Beth Rhoton requested approval for an annual Christmas bonus for our permanent full time employees only in the amount of \$250.00. She stated that this bonus is already in the budget and is usually dispersed the first pay period of December. Motion for approval was made by Councilwoman Alexander, seconded by Councilwoman Bates, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, City Administrator Rhoton stated that Agenda Item F (bids for Phase V Sidewalks) and Agenda Item G (budget amendment to combine TDOT grant for Phases IV and V sidewalks) are a two-part request concerning the TDOT Enhancement sidewalk grant project. Under Item F, City Administrator Rhoton presented the following bids for TDOT Enhancement Program Phase IV Sidewalks:

Adams Contracting, LLC (Lexington, KY)	\$784,397.50
Sain Construction (Manchester, TN)	\$845,652.00

Mrs. Rhoton reminded the Council that this is the third bid opening for this particular grant. The first time we put this project out to bid, no one turned in any bids, and the second time we bid it, one contractor out of Kentucky placed a bid that was in excess of \$250,000 over budget and we had to reject that bid. This amount is in excess of what we were allotted per our grant and, after bidding this project for the third time, it's obvious the amount isn't going to reduce anymore. She reported that the City had already received a grant for the North Jefferson Street block that would happen several years in the future and, because of the new budgeting items that the Comptroller's office is now requiring, the City already had that put in our budget. We went to TDOT last week and asked if it was possible for them to combine the two grant amounts and basically give us the money we had been awarded for

North Jefferson to complete this project that we have been trying to complete for four years, and TDOT agreed, which will give us more than enough money to complete Phase IV. Councilman Snead made a motion to approve the low bid presented by Adams Construction in the amount of \$784,397.50, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Last under new business, City Administrator Rhoton requested approval for Item G, a budget amendment to combine TDOT Downtown Grant Phases IV and V. This is the second part of the request that also involved the previous approval of bids for the TDOT Enhancement Program Phase IV Sidewalk project. Motion to approve a budget amendment to combine Phase IV and Phase V TDOT grants was made by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilman Bates, and all voted in favor of said motion,

Under City Administrator, Council, and Departmental reports, communications, and updates: Councilwoman Bates reported that the Beer Board met on October 5th and issued beer permits to the new owners of Sharp Springs Market and T Fuel 7751 (formerly Home Depot Fuel), and that the Board also elected Mark Gass as Chairman and Marie Mosley as Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Bates said she talked with several doctors and they would like to see the community get high-speed fiber optic which would be very helpful to them with sending records to Nashville, etc.; Councilwoman Bates also requested prayers for her husband, Frank Bates, has cancer and is a former Councilman. Councilman Spencer would like to see everyone downtown on Saturday, October 17th for the annual "Taste of Autumn" event; Councilman Womack stated that the Christmas shopping season is fast approaching and urged everyone to shop at home to keep tax rates down.

Mayor Harrell reminded people that a chili cook-out is taking place on Saturday, October 17th for the "Taste of Autumn" event and hopes there will be entries to challenge the Winchester Fire Department as they had won this event previously. Mayor Harrell reported that the recently held "Winchester Wriggle" event put on by the WDPC was outstanding this year and he heard favorable comments from those attending who would like to see this event happen more often as it brought more people to our downtown square to enjoy, music, art, shopping, and other activities.

Mayor Harrell scheduled a work session meeting for the Council to take place an hour before the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 10th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Mayor said this meeting will be for discussions on marketing strategies and the Tims Ford Bass Club.

Fire Chief Gary Greeson thanked everyone that attended the

annual Police and Fire Memorial ceremony on September 11th in spite of the hard rain that forced the event to be moved into the Fire Hall. Mayor Harrell also thanked those who attended the memorial and stated that Chief Greeson gave an outstanding presentation, one of the best he's heard, and he hopes that Gary will have the opportunity to give his presentation to other groups because his speech is so good he would like others to hear it.

As the meeting was coming to a close, Mayor Harrell asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak and he recognized Marilou Hogan, a resident at 148 Brandi Way. Ms. Hogan had a couple of questions regarding the Dry Creek Marina project.

With no further business or communications 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

and the

International Dogwood Festival website is:

www.winchesterdogwoodfestival.com

Terry Harrell, Mayor
City of Winchester

Attest:

Beth J. Rhoton, City Administrator

Minutes taken and typed by: Judy Baker

Date of Meeting: October 13, 2015