

MINUTES

November 10, 2015

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session at City Hall on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Greg O'Neal, City Attorney

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Councilman Snead and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief Young.

Under addresses, presentations and/or requests, City Administrator Rhoton stated that she and Main Street Director Abby Pickett made a presentation to the Winchester Downtown Program Corporation and also discussed this with the Council during their work session to purchase a speaker system for the downtown square from Autonomic Mirage Audio System at a cost of \$21,684.00. This system includes sixteen speakers which will be attached to the light poles. The WDPC stated they would pay for half of the speaker system if the City would pay for the other half which would be approximately \$10,842.00 each. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilwoman Bates, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Next, the Council heard the first quarter financial reports from period ending September 30, 2015 by Finance Director Martha Carol Luttrell. Highlights included the general fund revenue being above expected margins, expenditures for the general fund running 5.75% below budget, as well as remaining funds running under budget, which are all good signs. Motion for approval was made by Councilwoman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Womack, and all voted in favor of said motion.

In the first and only order of unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the October 13, 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.

In the first order of new business, City Administrator Rhoton reported that the city recently found out we own two parcels of property located off of Laura Avenue. This was discovered after Mr. Scott Byrom, who lives at 417 Laura Avenue, brought to Mrs. Rhoton's attention that he thought he had purchased those parcels of property.

After working with the Franklin County Tax Assessor, it was discovered that the back corner piece that is adjacent to Mr. Byrom's property and the triangular piece facing his property to the right are deeded together to the city, which is why Mr. Byrom didn't receive property tax notices for those. Mrs. Rhoton stated that the City has no need for these properties as they have no road footage which makes them an unbuildable lot and the only value would be to the adjoining home owners. Mrs. Rhoton requested permission to dispose of the property publicly by sealed bids or through govdeals.com. She recommended selling the property by sealed bids as she thinks it is a better option for the city. Motion to approve to dispose of the property by sealed bids was made by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilwoman Alexander, and all voted in favor of said motion.

The next item on the agenda was the City of Winchester's Public Works Brush Pickup Program. Mayor Harrell tabled this item until the December meeting as more research is needed.

Next, Special Projects Coordinator Yvonne Stewart requested approval to apply for a TDOT Multimodal Access 95/5% grant. She stated this is a one million dollar grant and the city's portion will be \$50,000.00. She also stated that engineering is eligible for reimbursement. This grant is only for Phase I of a section of Highway 50 going to the Dry Creek Marina project. Mrs. Stewart further stated that three (3) phases are required to complete the roadway project because of the extremely high cost and that the one million dollar grant will only be enough for Phase 1. The City will have to apply later for a grant for Phase II and then again for Phase III of this project. City Administrator Rhoton stated that Phase 1 will be for the open ditches on Hwy. 50 to be completely piped to allow for shoulders and sidewalks. Motion for approval was made by Councilwoman Bates, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Police Chief Dennis Young requested approval to surplus the following two (2) pool cars and one (1) motorcycle from the Police Department. He further requested to sell the pool cars on govdeals.com and to either sale the motorcycle on govdeals.com or trade it for a John Deere Gator or another type of ATV as it would be useful at the Dogwood Festival and other city events. He stated if he couldn't find an ATV to swap, he would sell the cycle on govdeals.com.

2006 Ford Crown Victoria (General Fund 111,553 miles)	Vin# 2FAFP71W56X119454
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2002 Chevrolet Blazer (Drug Fund 103000 miles)	Vin# 1GNDT13W52K203205
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1994 Harley Davidson Motorcycle (Donated IPTN)	Vin# 1FXRP1hd1ed110ry113221
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Councilman Womack made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilman Spencer, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Last under new business was the Tims Ford Bass Club lease which has expired. Mayor Harrell stated that the Council had met for a work session to discuss the lease and representatives of the Tims Ford Bass Club attended and talked about what the many activities put on by the Bass Club. Mayor Harrell then recognized Bass Club Vice President Jake Davis, who stated that the Bass Club holds many events at the City Park for our community as well as co-sponsoring events with the city. He asked that the Council take in consideration the money the Bass Club would spend on joint projects with the city as well as the updates and upkeeps being made to the building and property, including upcoming projects such as making additional dock space, putting in a boardwalk on the lake and increasing abilities to put boats in the water. Mr. Davis then requested that the city not charge the Bass Club a yearly lease. Motion to renew the lease with a new lease document with updated language and no annual fee was made by Councilman Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Alexander. After a discussion, Councilman Snead amended his motion to also include a ten year (10) limit on the lease and all voted in favor of said motion.

Mayor Harrell recognized audience member Ms. Phaedra Simmons who lives at 106 9th Avenue, N.W. She informed the Council that she has a menacing problem with many feral cats with fleas running loose in her area and multiplying rapidly. Recently, her four month old blue heeler puppy was attacked by at least a 35lb. tomcat and slashed his eye wide open and now she has a very large vet bill. She stated that Animal Control informed her that cats are free roaming animals and the State of Tennessee will have no part in helping to take care of that problem. A man named Junior in Animal Control did tell her that he would bring some traps and she could bait them herself but never brought them. She is asking for help with the cat problem and stated that she is willing to help with the animal control program any way she could. Mayor Harrell informed Ms. Simmons that the City had entered into a contract with Franklin County to handle Animal Control for our city. He advised her to contact Franklin County Mayor Richard Stewart if she wants to participate or help with their endeavor. Mayor Harrell also requested City Administrator Rhoton to talk with Franklin County Animal Control people and County Mayor Stewart tomorrow for help with this problem.

Under City Administrator, Council, and Departmental reports, communications, and updates: Councilman Alexander reported that the Design Review committee met and approved signage for a specialty shop downtown and that some wonderful new people have come on board to serve

with this committee; and Councilman Womack is proud to see a new business on the square and urged everyone to visit and buy at our local shops to keep tax rates down.

Under mayor communications, Mayor Harrell urged everyone to attend the Veteran's Day program being held on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. on the square to honor all our veterans. Mayor Harrell stated that the new communication system being ordered for the square will be a big asset to this and other downtown events. He also informed everyone that the downtown merchants Holiday Open House held November 6th & 7th had one of the better turnouts in years with many people shopping on the square during this event. He complimented City Administrator Rhoton and city employees who helped decorate the square for Christmas and thought that the new Toy Soldiers is a great addition to the square. He also thanked the Winchester Utility System for all their help in putting up the Christmas lights.

With no further business or communications to be brought before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilwoman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Alexander, 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: November 10, 2015

