

## MINUTES

December 8, 2015

The Winchester City Council met in a regular session at City Hall on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, that was rescheduled to begin at 12:00 noon instead of the regular meeting time of 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  
Greg O'Neal, City Attorney

Absent: None

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order with a prayer by Councilman Snead and the Pledge of Allegiance led by George Powell.

In the first order of unfinished business, the reading of the minutes of the November 10, 2015 regular Council meeting was dispensed and approved on a motion by Councilman Womack, seconded by Councilwoman Alexander, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Last under unfinished business was the Brush Pickup Program for the Winchester Public Works Department. This item was on the November agenda but Mayor Harrell tabled it to the December meeting due to wanting more research. City Administrator Rhoton presented a handout, printed on the front and back, of changes to the Brush Pick Up Program. Mrs. Rhoton is requesting approval of limits that we will allow per pick-up. She stated that limits for picking up brush is no more than a pile sized 12' long by 8' wide by 6' high at any single residence. This program is not designed for tree removal and all materials generated for tree removal will be the responsibility of the homeowner/contractor for removal. The handout also shows regulations for picking up grass, and includes a list of items that our Public Works cannot pick up that residents/contractors will have to take those items to Santeck Disposal at the Estill Springs transfer station. She added that this list of items is subject to change and other items may be added as necessary. Also included on the back of the handout are instructions for the City's Blue Bag Recycling Program. Mrs. Rhoton requested approval for the changes as stated in the handout and for Winchester Utilities to send these handouts with their electric bills to verify that each property owner is notified. Councilman Snead made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilman Spencer who then suggested that the notices be effective April 1, 2016, and that they are mailed

with the Utility bills from January through March 2016 in order to make sure the public is notified, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Under Item A of new business, City Administrator Rhoton stated that the city advertised for sealed bids for the purchase of two small non-buildable parcels of property that are deeded together for a total of 0.265 acres located behind 417, 419, & 423 Laura Avenue. This item was brought up at our last meeting and the Council approved to seek bids to sell the property as there is no road footage, which makes them unbuildable and the only value would be to any adjoining home owners. Mrs. Rhoton stated that we only received one bid and that bid was from adjoining home owner, Scott Byrom, with a bid in the amount of \$105.00. Councilman Spencer made a motion to reject this bid and to re-advertise for sealed bids for the lots, and also to notify all five adjoining homeowners in writing to verify that they are aware that the property is for sale. Councilwoman Bates seconded the motion and all voted in favor of said motion.

Under Item B, Recreation Manager Darrell Jolley requested approval to seek bids for two concession stands and stated that these bids will be presented at the January 2016 City Council meeting. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Spencer, seconded by Councilwoman Bates, and all voted in favor of said motion.

Under Item C, City Administrator Rhoton stated that the city changed our personnel policy April 2014 and employees hired after January of that year were not going to receive the exact same benefits as current employees. Mrs. Rhoton requested the opportunity to open a 457 retirement program for any of the newer employees hired after January 1, 2014. This will not be a defined benefit program like our current employees are involved in. The newer employees will be required to make a three percent (3%) employee match and the City will match it with eight percent (8%). Mrs. Rhoton further stated this retirement program would not affect city employees who are under the older retirement program. Councilman Spencer made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilman Snead, and all voted in favor of said motion. Councilwoman Bates stated wanted it known that the city will save some money by changing over to the new program, and that it won't affect the current employees as we know it right now. Councilman Snead stated that the new plan will allow for greater flexibility.

Last under new business, City Administrator Rhoton stated that Swimplex Manager Bryan Dalton and Recreation Manager Darrell Jolley have requested a Christmas bonus for their permanent part-time employees (five in the Swimplex and two in the Recreation Departments) Permanent full-time employees had received approval for the same Christmas bonus

at the November meeting. After a discussion, Councilman Spencer made a motion to give the seven (7) employees a Christmas bonus in the amount of \$250.00 each. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bates, and all voted in favor.

Under City Administrator, Council, and Departmental reports, communications, and updates: Mrs. Rhoton stated on behalf of all the employees, many employees say "thank-you" for the Christmas bonus; all Councilmembers wished everyone a very Merry Christmas, as well a prosperous and Happy New Year. Councilwoman Bates reminded everyone to attend the Downtown Merchants Christmas event on the square this weekend and said that pictures with Santa will be made at the Kiwansis club and to register for free bikes that will be given away on Saturday. Councilman Womack reminded everyone to shop at home first.

Under mayor communications, Mayor Harrell echoed what the Council said and stated that we've had a great 2015 and couldn't have done that without the hard work of the employees, department heads, council, and citizens and we look forward to 2016. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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](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 J. Rhoton, City Administrator

Minutes taken and typed by: Judy Baker  
Date of Meeting: December 8, 2015

