

CITY OF WINCHESTER
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2008

Regular meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers/City Hall/113 E. Washington St.

Mayor Croyle called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting. Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney, recorded the minutes.

The Clerk-Treasurer's roll call showed four City Council members present.

Precinct 1 Councilor Larry Preston

Precinct 2 Councilor Tom Sells

Precinct 3 Councilor Bill Peden

Precinct 4 Councilor Bob McCoy

At Large Councilor Todd Schroeder arrived at 6:50 pm.

Additional Officials Present:

Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney

Citizens Present:

Don Matchett, Kevin Cook, Vicki Gant, Lyn Orr, and Doug Goodman (Homecasting.net).

Approval of the Minutes

Councilor Sells moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2008 meeting. Councilor Preston seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program

Many people have approached Mayor Croyle regarding the sidewalk rehabilitation program. The program has not been advertised. The group that presented tonight thought about doing a project that would make the City walk-able.

Councilor Preston has brought in a list of sidewalks that need rehabilitation from Precinct One. The Board of Public Works and Safety has not created a policy on the sidewalk rehabilitation.

NEW BUSINESS

Gateway Project

Don Matchett and Kevin Cook, local businessmen were present to explain the Gateway project. Mr. Matchett explained a group of local business leaders have been looking at ideas to make people who pass through Winchester on US Highway 27 want to visit in the community and see what it has to offer. In recent years, the City of Winchester has been discussing ways to draw people into the city from the major highways. The entrances from US 27 should be spruced up to be more visually appealing to passersby. The City (on behalf of the Gateway project group) has applied for a grant through the Ball Brothers Corporation Foundation and a matching grant was awarded. Mr. Matchett opened the presentation with an explanation of the first project. A person connected with the Ball Foundation contacted Mr. Matchett regarding a grant for Winchester because no grants have been awarded to Winchester. Some grants have been awarded in Union City and surrounding areas. Many people are

included in the group, but they do not have a name. Projects that were considered were 1) entrepreneurship, 2) downtown development, 3) sidewalk grant process and rails to trails projects, and 4) enhance the visual perceptions of US Highway 27. Dick Hepel, facilitator of this project, picked to enhance the US Highway 27 area from Wal-Mart to Union City Pike. This project was chosen because it could be accomplished in a short period of time and it could have a major impact on the Community. Many people travel on US Highway 27 therefore, making it a gateway to the rest of the world. Landscaping, pictures, and words were considered for making the area more visually appealing. Some of the current citizens may also enjoy the renovation of the area. Examples of this project include: Dublin, Ohio (the landscaping of the overpasses) and Englewood, Ohio (the overpass and streets have been landscaped). Speedway, Indiana has been doing this type of project off of Interstate 75. North Carolina has wildflowers beside all of the interstates. In November, the group decided to go along with the visual enhancement of the area. All of the adjoining property owners were contacted regarding the proposed project. A meeting was held for all of the adjoining property owners to ask questions and voice concerns. The grant was applied for in April. On May 22 the group received notification that the grant was awarded to them for up to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) that could be matched locally. INDOT is also giving the group funding that will have to be matched at twenty percent (20%). The group could potentially have Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) to complete this project. Mr. Matchett explained where the money could come from. The Randolph Inn and Suites have committed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to the project. Some of the property owners may also donate money to the cause. The County Government will have an opportunity to be a part of the project. Many other resources will also be considered (civic groups, service clubs, ect).

Ryan Brooks spoke at Conner Prairie for two hours about tourism. After the meeting, Mr. Matchett was convinced that Winchester could be a tourism destination. The state has given other communities grants to have Mr. Brooks' organization complete an assessment on their communities. The grant is usually Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Randolph County could be turned into a tourist destination. All investors should have some input into the project. Many items are not finalized about the project yet. The projected time frame will be 2009 or 2010. A commitment will be needed by July 21, 2008, but it will not be needed until the project begins. Mayor Croyle stated that an amount of funding does not have to be decided upon tonight. The 2008 budgets have been approved. Mr. Cook presented pictures of what the overpass currently looks like. Six different representatives from INDOT have been involved with this project so far. INDOT agrees that the project should be completed. David Cox, from INDOT, was the last representative to look at the project. The grant will be applied for on July 31. The group is trying to get the Fifty Thousand Dollar (\$50,000.00) match before the grant deadline so they know how much to apply for. Some design firms have been contacted and quotes have been received. The project will be completed in three phases. Phase one will be the landscaping to the overpass area. Once this is complete, someone will have to maintain the area. Some drainage and erosion issues are present in the area and INDOT will take care of those problems. Phase two is south of the overpass to the Wal-Mart area. Phase three will be north of the overpass to Greenville Pike. This presentation will be given to the Redevelopment Commission also. The City and Redevelopment Commission could donate money. The land adjacent to the highway can be deeded back to the City so signage and other structures can be placed there. The group would like the City to donate the amount they feel comfortable with. Some of the money committed to the sidewalk program can be redirected to this program. Councilor Peden stated that this issue should be taken under advisement so the Council can look at the budget and determine how much can be spent. The Council will meet three more times before the deadline to turn in the grant application.

Ordinance No. 2008-8

Ordinance No. 2008-8 was presented by Mayor Croyle and was entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 50.08 B1 AND B2 TRASH COLLECTION FEES ." This ordinance will amend the current trash ordinance to include the ten percent (10%) increase from Best Way for trash removal. Attorney Cockerill stated that the ordinance needs to be passed at this meeting and if Recycling is added to the fee

structure it will not be added in time to enforce it at the same time as this ordinance. Councilor Peden believes that the current fee structure encourages people to throw trash away rather than recycle. 1482 residential homes in Winchester have at least one 96 gallon trash container; and 97 of those have an additional trash container. 213 users have a 64 gallon trash container and 194 users have a 32 gallon trash container. Councilor Peden believes that the billing should be altered to encourage recycling; but no mandatory project should be implemented. Vicki Gant, 232 E. North Street, told a success story about recycling. They reduced their trash from three 96 gallon trash containers to one 96 gallon trash container. The family takes recycling products to the dumpsters three times per month. This family would be willing to pay extra for curb side pickup of recycling to save some money on the trash containers. Mayor Croyle likes the way this family started recycling without government involvement. Recycling should be explored further. Attorney Cockerill advised the Council that a profit can not be made on a fee structure when the service is contracted to an outside company. Mayor Croyle is concerned with educating people about recycling; not forcing citizens to recycle. Councilor Schroeder had a dumpster in front of his home and people kept throwing items in the dumpster without his permission. Forcing people to reduce the size (or number) of their trash containers could become a bigger problem of people putting garbage in alternative places including recycling bins. Mayor Croyle stated that Best Way is content with the usage of their trash containers in the City. A door to door questionnaire was discussed. A newsletter was discussed. A discussion was held about the Street Department picking up recycling so the City could keep the profit. Councilor Peden stated that he does not want to mandate anyone to recycle, but if the Council decides to mandate recycling everyone will have to pay for it, if they recycle or not. Mayor Croyle suggesting looking into trash bags that the citizens would have to buy a certain trash bag that would cost a certain amount of money. Only the City authorized bags would be picked up. Attorney Cockerill suggested that the ordinance should be passed tonight, then if the Council wants to change it later it can be amended. Another discussion was held about the Street Department running the recycling route and picking up the items. Lynn Orr, Randolph County Solid Waste District offered to give each household in Winchester a 18 gallon recycling container or recyclable bags. Mrs. Orr explained that the Randolph County Solid Waste Management District receives funding by the amount of waste that is put into Best Way's landfill. They do not receive any tax dollars. For every ton of trash that is put into Best Way's landfill Solid Waste receives One Dollar (\$1.00). Solid Waste is currently receiving about Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) per month, but Best Way recently lost a major contract. All of the money comes from Best Way. A contractor is hired to empty the bins around town, but Solid Waste has to pay for the removal of the recycling materials. A discussion was held on the cost of recycling. Councilor Peden moved to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 2008-8 by title only. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 5-0. First reading complete. Councilor Peden moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2008-8. Councilor Schroeder seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Councilor Sells moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 2008-8 by title only. Councilor Preston seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Second reading complete. Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2008-8. Councilor Peden seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Councilor Schroeder moved to suspend the rules and have the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2008-8 by title only. Councilor Preston seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2008-8. Councilor Peden seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Thus it becomes Ordinance No. 2008-8.

Public Concerns

Councilor Preston stated that many properties have not been mowed in the City. Clerk-Treasurer Haney will provide each Council Member a list of the properties that have been issued mowing citations. Many of the properties that have been issued citations are in foreclosure by a bank. The legal owner of the property is sent a notice before the yard is mowed and a notice of charges after it is mowed. If the charges are not paid they are certified to the taxes. The money is eventually received. All complaints must go through the Police Department so they can file an ordinance violation.

Bids on City Properties

The current bids on the properties are as follows:

524 Maple Street –\$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars)

213 Short Street – \$550.00 (Five Hundred Fifty Dollars)

540 N Meridian Street –\$ 350.00 (Three Hundred Fifty Dollars)

524 N Meridian Street – \$504.00 (Five Hundred Four Dollars)

Attorney Cockerill explained that when bidding on a property, it does not matter if the bidder is an abutting property owner. Everyone is being treated the same. When the bids are re-advertised the prices are reconsidered. Mayor Croyle suggested to re-advertise the bids. Councilor Schroeder moved to re-advertise the bids. Councilor Peden seconded. Motion passed 4-0 with Councilor Preston abstaining because of conflict of interest.

Fireman's Resignation

Councilor Peden mentioned Mr. Gary Moore has resigned as a fireman for the City. He is a paramedic and wishes to work in that field. He is accepting a position at the City of Union City.

Zoning Map

A new zoning map has been placed in the Court Room. It is a 2008 revision. New maps are to be received with the new annexations labeled on them.

Information Technology (IT) Support

Doug Goodman, from Homecasting.net, gave the Council a proposal for IT work for the City. Mr. Goodman believes that a SWAT analysis should be completed for the City. The work will cost Seventy Five Dollars (\$75.00) an hour with an estimation of ten (10) hours. The maximum amount to be paid by the City would be One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00). IACT has already done some of the service for the City by comparing (approximately) the same size towns and the amount IT's are paid. Mr. Goodman believes that other services (such as computers and uses of technology) should also be compared. Councilor Peden asked Mr. Goodman to give Clerk-Treasurer Haney a written proposal.

Budget Report

Clerk-Treasurer Haney reported receiving notification from the Department of Local Government and Finance (DLGF) that the 2008 budget has been approved. The tax rate decreased by One Cent (\$0.01) for the current year. The assessed evaluation increased by Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00), which is the reason the tax rate decreased. The 2008 new tax rate will be One Dollar and Forty Cents (\$1.40). The City was under the maximum levy by One Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$111.00). A public hearing to receive objections from taxpayers will be held on Wednesday, June 4, at the Randolph County Commissioners Room. Mayor Croyle explained the budget line items stayed the same from 2007 to 2008, utilities and payroll were increased. The 2009 budgets will be the same as this year. No increases will be approved.

Mayoral Report

The Indiana Fallen Officers Memorial Blood Drive of Randolph County will be held at the Main Street Christian Church on Wednesday, June 10 between 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

The Board of Public Works and Safety members have signed the INDOT Project proposal. The project will go to bid in July.

The prices in this contract have been inflated. Indiana American Water company is currently replacing the water line under Main Street.

Biehl's Greenhouse donated the hanging flower baskets, that are hanging on the lightpoles located around the square. Winchester Main Street purchased the arms that the baskets are hanging from.

Annexation seminars may need to be held for the Council Members. A discussion was held about annexations and the upcoming census.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Schroeder moved to adjourn. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The June 3, 2008 meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Mayor, City of Winchester, Indiana

ATTEST: _____
Clerk-Treasurer, City of Winchester, Indiana