

CITY OF WINCHESTER
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Croyle
Prayer – Larry Lennington, Councilor

Regular meeting @ 6:41 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's roll call showed all City Council Members present.

Precinct 1	Councilor Larry Lennington
Precinct 2	Councilor Tom Sells
Precinct 3	Councilor Santiago (Jim) Nunez Jr.
Precinct 4	Councilor Leesa Friend
At Large	Councilor Todd Schroeder

Additional Officials Present:

Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney; Mike Burk, Police Chief; David Coffman, City Judge; Peter Haviza, Randolph County Superior Court Judge; David Daly, Randolph County Prosecutor; and Frank Lowrance, Street Department Superintendent

Citizens Present:

Mary Daly, Tom Cockerill, Deb Henning, Tim Yost, Jeremy Butler and Angela Newman

Media Present:

Darrell Radford, News Gazette

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilor Lennington moved to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting. Councilor Nunez seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Court

Mayor Croyle stated the disbandment of the City Court was discussed at the previous meeting. The discussion will continue tonight because additional citizens have input on the topic. Mayor Croyle has spoken to Peter Haviza, David Daly, and David Hoover (who have all worked with the Court System). Mr. David Daly, Prosecuting Attorney, stated he has been a part of the City Court System for over 20 years. City Court is a very valuable service to Randolph County. All traffic tickets are accepted at the City Court. All cases that are currently filed at the Winchester City Court would need to be filed at the Court House if the City Court was closed. It would slow down the process because so many cases would be presented at the Court House. The County is already having issues hearing all the cases it currently has

because of time restrictions. Mr. Daly hopes the City considers keeping the City Court open. Councilor Nunez asked if more staff would need to be hired at the Courthouse if the City Court was closed. Mr. Daly stated it is not his staff that would be affected, it would be the Court staff. Mr. Peter Haviza asked Judge Coffman how many cases are processed in a single year. Judge Coffman stated 1700 tickets were processed this year. Mr. Haviza stated 800 criminal cases are filed in County Court each year with the bulk of them being in Superior Court. All Union City's criminal cases are now filed at the County which has added to the workload. Mr. Haviza is concerned that there will not be enough time to process all the cases that will be presented to the Court. If the County had to absorb the 1700 tickets that must be processed, more equipment and more time would be needed to process the required information. This is just shifting the tax burden from the City to the County. Mr. Haviza stated Superior Court is not set up to handle these cases. Mayor Croyle's major concern is doing something like this after budgets are already established. Clerk-Treasurer Haney clarified the changes would not become effective until the 2016 budget. The City Court serves a purpose so it should stay open. Mayor Croyle would like to have the City Court to stay open. Tom Cockerill stated if the tickets go to Circuit Court the citizens will need to get an attorney. Citizens could drive to Union City to have the City Court hearing. Councilor Lennington stated if the City is worried about the revenue the Court could try to make more money; but other than that it should be left alone. Councilor Nunez stated the other department, like the swimming pool, doesn't make any money but the City keeps those departments for the citizens. Councilor Nunez would like to preserve what we currently have. Clerk-Treasurer Haney stated this was not presented to the Council to make a hardship on anyone; it was a budget concern. The Council needed to be aware of the financial situation of the City Court budget. Councilor Sells thought this discussion was very informative. The Council now knows more about the various departments and how they function. Many little cities are finding it difficult to support a City Court so many City Courts are being dismembered. None of the revenue collected from seatbelt violations is received into City Court; however the state of Indiana received revenues from seatbelt violations. Councilor Schroeder moved to allow City Court to function as it has in the past. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

City Hall Electronic Information Sign

Mayor Croyle stated Winchester has an electronic sign outside City Hall that is not operating properly. Mayor Croyle has been unable to add new messages to the sign for many months. The sign was pre-owned when it was purchased. The sign needs to be serviced to determine if it can be fixed or if a new sign needs to be purchased. Angela Newman, 2nd Deputy Clerk, reached out to Daktronics, the sign manufacturer, to determine if the sign can be serviced. The cost to come on site and service the sign is Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$240.00) per hour including travel time. This could easily cost One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or more. Even if this service is completed, the sign may still need to be replaced. Mayor Croyle did not want to schedule a service call without consulting the Council about the financial aspects of the decision. Other digital signs were discussed. Councilor Nunez asked if this sign could be traded in for a discount on a new sign. Councilor Friend asked if a single computer can be used just for the sign. Angela Newman stated the sign is web based so the operating system of the computer is not a factor. Councilor Schroeder asked if new software is available for this sign. Mrs. Newman stated there could be new software but the City has no way to access the sign to install the new software until the sign is serviced. Mayor Croyle is not sure how long it has been since messages could be uploaded to the sign. The issue is with the connection from the sign to the server room. Councilor Friend asked if anything else can be done to the sign before a service call is made. Newman stated there is nothing else that can be done until a connection is reestablished with the sign. The sign was purchased from Future Signs, but they do not service the digital signs. Councilor Lennington asked if a new sign should be

purchased. Councilor Nunez would like to look at the other places that have purchased digital signs for input. Councilor Schroeder asked if the service call payment could be put towards another sign if that is needed. Mayor Croyle stated he would have that discussion with the representative from Daktronics. Mrs. Newman stated they contract the service calls, so it will not be performed by Daktronics. Councilor Sells moved to allow Mayor Croyle to contract Daktronics for a service call. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Other Motorized Vehicles Ordinance

Councilor Lennington asked if the new law that requires mopeds to register at the BMV (Bureau of Motorized Vehicles) is in addition to the amount the City charges. Mayor Croyle stated the City will no longer be registering mopeds. The state law supersedes the city ordinance. The ordinance needs to be rescinded at the next Council meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Clerk-Treasurer Haney stated the 2014 year end financials are being completed. A 2014 year-end financial report will be presented at the next Council Meeting. Certified Shares will be transferred to various funds as previously discussed.

Public Concerns

Councilor Nunez thanked the Street Department for the Holiday decorations during the holidays. The City is fortunate to still decorate as much as we do. This makes the City better. Many citizens in district three (3) and WCCPC (Winchester Community Cultural Preservation Committee) would like to thank the City for this effort. The WCCPC will pay the electric bill for Christmas tree and Santa House on the Randolph County Courthouse Square.

Executive Session

Council will meet in executive session on January 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm (the next regular Council meeting will immediately following the executive session). The purpose of the executive session is to discuss an economic development initiative.

Trash Rate Increase

The trash rates will increase effective January 2015. Each trash service will be increased by Fifty Cents (\$0.50).

Mayor's Report

Mayor Croyle reported Winchester is currently under a severe weather warning. This means there is a potential for four to seven inches of snow. The snow will blow and drift. It is also going to be very cold. The Randolph Ready Initiative will meet on January 6, 2015 at 12:00 noon to discuss the educational initiatives and to interview grant writers.

Mayor Croyle plans to meet with OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) to explore opportunities for the community on Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

The Winchester Redevelopment Commission will meet on January 8, 2015 at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

The Randolph County Solid Waste Management District will be hosting a Post-Holiday Electronics Pollution Solution on Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 10 am to 2 pm. Any electronics will be accepted at this event.

The EDIT Board will meet on January 13, 2015.

The Incentive Committee meeting will be held on January 15, 2015 at the Randolph County Economic Development Office.

The annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held on January 15, 2015 at the Towne Square Business Center.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Schroeder moved to adjourn. Councilor Friend seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The City Council Meeting of January 5, 2015 meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mayor, Steve Croyle

ATTEST: _____
Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney