

CITY OF WINCHESTER
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014

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

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'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; David Coffman, City Judge; Mike Burk, Police Chief; Bill Yost, Fire Chief; Frank Lowrance, Street Department Superintendent; and Chris Martin, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent

Citizens Present:

Deb Henning, Janet Winbigler, and Tim Yost

Media Present:

Darrell Radford, News Gazette

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilor Sells moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2014 meeting. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fountain Park Cemetery

Councilor Nunez gave each Council Member a copy of the minutes of the last meeting. The financials and next year's projects were discussed at the year-end meeting. The expenses were discussed because gasoline and office supplies are in need. Janet Winbigler stated the Fountain Park Cemetery has done well this year; Janet is one of the City Council's appointments to the Fountain Park Cemetery Board. The Board recommended Janet Winbigler and Larry Preston as the Council's Appointments for 2015. These appointments will be made at the organizational meeting in January.

Street Sign Replacement Program

Councilor Nunez asked if the Street Sign Replacement Program is part of the grant funding that replaced the signs in the north end of Winchester. Mayor Croyle stated many signs will be replaced in Winchester in the same manner as the other signs. The contract was signed and sent to INDOT today. The issue was that the bids came in low, so the City asked to add signs to the project. INDOT would not allow other items to be added. The City will need to remediate some signs that are not covered by this grant. Councilor Nunez asked if the Wayfinding Signs would be part of this project. Mayor Croyle stated the Wayfinding Signs was a study the City conducted to determine what it would take to install wayfinding signs in Winchester. The signs were never made, but the study is still available if the Council wishes to do proceed with the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Year End Claims

Mayor Croyle explained in previous years the Council has authorized the Clerk-Treasurer to disburse payment for year-end accounts payable vouchers; thus eliminating another meeting. Councilor Nunez moved to approve the year end claims. Councilor Friend seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Ordinance No. 2014-9

Ordinance No. 2014-9 was presented by Mayor Croyle and was entitled, "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF WINCHESTER, RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA." Mayor Croyle stated the salaries of the elected officials did not change for the 2015 year.

Councilor Nunez moved to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-9 by title only. Councilor Schroeder seconded. Motion passed 5-0. First reading complete. Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-9. Councilor Nunez seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Councilor Schroeder moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 2014-9 by title only. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Second reading complete. Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2014-9. Councilor Nunez seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Nunez moved to have the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2014-9 by title only. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Third and final reading complete. Councilor Schroeder moved to accept the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2014-9. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Thus it becomes Ordinance No. 2014-9.

City Court

Clerk-Treasurer Haney has discussed dissolving the City Court with two of the Council Members. Judge Coffman has decided he is not going to run as a candidate for City Judge and the Court Clerk, Kay Baker, is planning to retire at the end of his term (2015). The annual budget for the City Court is Thirty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$38,000.00). Court revenues have averaged (over the previous 3 years) approximately Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) yearly. In the state of Indiana 26 cities provide City Courts that have a population of 6,000 or less. The City of Winchester Police Department will not be affected by dissolving the City Court. Judge Coffman stated he is not going to be Judge after 2015. Judge Coffman believes the City needs the Court because he works with citizens whom need additional time to pay for fines. The citizens who use the courts and the current hours of the court were discussed. Councilor Lennington asked why the revenue was so low. The revenue received is divided (mandated by State statute) among state and local agencies. The City Court is a service that is provided at the expense paid by the tax payers. Councilor Friend asked where tickets would be paid if the City did not have a court.

Clerk-Treasurer Haney stated tickets would be paid to through Randolph County Court. The City may be able to be collected at the Police Department for many of the tickets; however some tickets would have to be sent to the County. The hours of the Court are not convenient; many citizens are not available from 9:00 am to noon Monday to Friday. Bench trials were discussed. Mayor Croyle stated he spoke to the Prosecutor’s Office and one of the Court of Records clerks; the concern of Prosecutor’s Office was where the extra work would go. Mayor Croyle stated the City Court provides value to the City. Mayor Croyle is concerned that doing away with the Court will be problematic. Councilor Friend asked what percentages of different items were completed at the City Court. Judge Coffman does not know; but he did state you have to be able to work with the citizens. Many citizens just want to talk to someone about the issue, and Judge Coffman listens to them. The Judge suspends licenses when the tickets are not paid. Councilor Nunez discussed the ordinance violations when citizens were dumping illegally in the dumpsters. Dumpster violations were submitted to the City Court earlier this year. Many of the citizens who visit the City Court are not from Winchester, but Winchester tax payers are paying for the court. Different courts were discussed. Councilor Sells asked when the Council has to decide if the Court will be dissolved. The Council can discuss it again at the Organizational Meeting in January.

Fuel

Councilor Schroeder asked if the fuel prices at the County fluctuate with the prices of fuel in other places. The current cost at the gas stations is less than what the City has paid the County in the past. When a price is locked in with the County, it is locked in. The City employees do not have to use the County if it is a lower-cost at another location. The City is not under contract for the amount of gas that will be used, just the price that will be paid.

Department Reports

Frank Lowrance, Street Department Superintendent –no report submitted. Councilor Nunez asked if the invoice was received for the flags that were ordered. Superintendent Lowrance stated yes. Councilor Schroeder asked when the new dump trucks will be delivered. Superintendent Lowrance stated according to a representative from Selking International, the trucks will arrive second week of January.

Mike Burk, Police Chief – submitted a written report.

Kathy Bond, Parks Department Superintendent – submitted a written report.

Bill Yost, Fire Chief –submitted a written report.

Chris Martin, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent – no report submitted.

Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the department reports. Councilor Friend seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Accounts Payable Vouchers

The end of November accounts payable vouchers (APV) totaled One Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and Eighteen Cents (\$126,868.18).

General Fund	\$2,198.88
Local Road and Street	\$23,811.00
Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	\$3,082.94

Fire Dept. Non Reverting Training Fund	\$11.37
Operation Pull Over Grant	\$4,188.91
Aging in Place	\$49,412.00
Weed Assessment Fund	\$44,163.08

The December 1 thru December 15 accounts payable vouchers totaled One Hundred Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars and Forty Two Cents (\$141,937.42).

General Fund	\$43,082.76
Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	\$13,264.35
Light Fund	\$4,752.65
Court Cash Due County Fund	\$966.00
LLE Continuing Ed. Fund	\$3,243.17
City Court User Fee Fund	\$700.00
Cumulative Capital Improvement	\$4,237.05
Beeson Estate Farm Fund	\$517.19
Fire Pension Fund	\$3,184.05
Operation Pull Over	\$126.85
K-9 Donation	\$140.98
Police Department Donation Fund Walmart	\$11.25
Ambulance Non Reverting Fund	\$3,875.28
CEDIT	\$53,500.00
Winchester Police Professional Development	\$175.00
Fire Department Professional Development	\$96.16
Employee Welfare Benefit Plan	\$7,094.31
Weed Assessment	\$1,410.00
Sidewalk Rehabilitation Fund	\$419.30

Animal Control Fund

\$1,041.07

The Payroll accounts payable vouchers totaled One Hundred Six Thousand Sixty Eight Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$106,068.80). The total of all accounts payable vouchers Three Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Four Dollars and Forty Cents (\$374,874.40). Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

The City has not received the revenue for the Fall Property Tax collections. The 2014 budget for the general fund was at 77% at the end of November; 88% for MVH; 89% for Street Lights; and 97% for the Parks. Certified shares may need to be transferred in and or out to the Park and MVH budgets in order to have a balanced budget in the Funds. If the transfer is necessary, the Council would need to approve the transfer. Councilor Schroeder moved to allow Clerk-Treasurer Haney to reallocate certified shares as necessary. Councilor Friend seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor's Report

The Annual Employee Christmas Carry-IN will be held on December 19, 2014 at noon at City Hall. Mayor Croyle announced he recently toured the Randolph Central School Corporation's new school science wing. It is state of the art. The new Lee Driver Middle School and exercise facilities are anticipated to be completed in February. The students will move in August. School is on schedule and under budget on this project.

The Gateway Project is substantially complete. A few items need to be addressed but the items are being corrected.

At the end of the year a proposal will be presented to the Council regarding Economic Development items in Winchester.

Announcements

The Board of Public Works and Safety Meeting will be held on December 16, 2014 at 8:00 am in the Council Chambers.

The Randolph County Economic Development Board Meeting will be held on December 16, 2014.

The Park Board meeting will be held on December 18, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

An EIDD Meeting will be held on December 19, 2014.

The City Council will meet for an Organizational meeting on January 5, 2015 followed by a regular meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Schroeder moved to adjourn. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The December 15, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mayor, Steve Croyle

ATTEST: _____
Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney