

CITY OF WINCHESTER
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Croyle
Prayer – Mike Burk, Police Chief

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 four City Council Members present.

Precinct 1	Councilor Larry Lennington	
Precinct 2	Councilor Tom Sells	
Precinct 3	Councilor Santiago (Jim) Nunez Jr.	arrived at 6:31 pm
Precinct 4	Councilor Leesa Friend	
At Large	Councilor Todd Schroeder	

Additional Officials Present:

Tom Cockerill, City Attorney; and Mike Burk, Police Chief

Citizens Present:

Bruce Hosier, Deb Henning, Jan Ledyard, and Tim Yost

Media Present:

No Media Present

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting. Councilor Friend seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2014-7

Ordinance No. 2014-7 was presented by Councilor Nunez and was entitled, "AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF WINCHESTER, INDIANA AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 75, SCHEDULE I". Councilor Nunez recently spoke to Mr. Jeremy Duncan, Principal of Willard Elementary School, about the parking issue in front of the school on W. South Street. Parking of vehicles should be prohibited in front of the school during school bus pick up and drop off hours. Councilor Schroeder moved to have the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2014-7 by title only. Councilor Friend seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Third and final reading complete. Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2014-7. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Thus it becomes Ordinance No. 2014-7.

Signs will be purchased and installed for the area. Once the ordinance is published the ordinance is in effect.

S. Meridian Street Lights

At the last meeting a street light was discussed on Meridian Street. Mayor Croyle and Attorney Cockerill do not see an issue in that area. Councilor Nunez stated since all the leaves have fallen off the trees in that area the street lights are more visible. A municipal light on Main Street is out; it will be reported to the Police Department.

Willard Elementary School Lighting

Councilor Nunez stated he drove around Willard Elementary School this morning when it was still dark; the school system took Mr. Lennington's advice. New lighting has been added to the area. A fence is also going to be around the playground equipment.

NEW BUSINESS

Randolph County Economic Development Project

Mr. Bruce Hosier, Executive Director, for Randolph County Economic Development Corporation (REDC), explained he and Mayor Croyle have been working together on an expansion project for The Coin Vault and SilverTowne L. P. The expansion will create local jobs and global broadcast capabilities. The production studio will be moved from Franklin, Tennessee, to Winchester; a new facility will be built at their current location on Union City Pike. The new building will be approximately 4,000 square feet. The capital investment in this project is Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) which will incorporate a new broadcast facility and the equipment capacity will be increased. Utility upgrades will also be required including fiber optics. This project will create 10-12 new high quality jobs. Several employees will relocate to Randolph County. The project requires a specialized skill set and it is a great opportunity for Winchester. This project will begin in May 2015. An incentive package was presented to the Randolph County Commissioners. The amount of the incentive package was approximately Ninety Eight Thousand Dollars (\$98,000.00). All operations for SilverTowne have now been consolidated in Winchester. Mr. Hosier presented a press release on the expansion. Councilor Lennington asked if local people would be qualified to work at the new facility. Mr. Hosier stated some local people will be working at the facility, but SilverTowne will be selecting the employees. This is a very specialized field. Mr. Hosier commented this will add diversification to the tax base. This is a unique and exciting project. Three state of the art studios will be included in this project. This could be a great opportunity for the community to embrace students wanting to go into communications in college. Ball State University has a great communications facility where students could learn how to run a production studio. This will create diversity in the workforce. The unemployment rate in Randolph County is 5.7%, which is lower than the state average. Councilor Nunez stated four committees are being formed that Council Members could be a part of. The Community could also be a part of this project. Mr. Hosier mentioned REDC's Strategic Plan.

Summers Pointe Street Lights

The street lighting at Summers Pointe, Seniors Living Community, was discussed. Mayor Croyle stated a resident requested a street light be installed in the area. The council members will look at the condo area and determine if a street light needs to be installed.

229 Carl Street Mowing Liens

Jan Ledyard, of C & J Acquisitions, owner of a property located at 229 Carl Street, Mr. Ledyard explained the property was purchased at a commissioner's certificate sale and has a large sum of liens against the property. Mr. Ledyard stated many families are renting properties but want to own their home. Many people can't get a mortgage because they have gone through bankruptcy. C & J Acquisitions acquires properties, renovates them, and sells them on land contracts to people who cannot get a mortgage. The deed was applied for and over Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) of liens for mowing have been applied to the property. Mr. Ledyard asked if the City could reconsider their mowing fees. Mayor Croyle asked if Mr. Ledyard wants the liens completed forgiven. Mr. Ledyard stated he would like to be refunded for some of the costs. Mr. Ledyard stated he would like to pay \$0.30 for every \$1.00 of liens which would make the total paid One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The mowing charges are established by City ordinance. Councilor Schroeder stated the lien charges are set high to discourage citizens from using the City as a mowing service. Councilor Schroeder stated he likes to see investment in the City; if Mr. Ledyard has any other properties in the City he is willing to purchase he needs to present them to the Council because they can give relief of liens in some instances. Two mowing liens have not been filed for mowing. The liens follow the property, not the property owner. Clerk-Treasurer Haney stated the Randolph County Treasurer assesses a fee to each lien also. The City charges a Thirty Five Dollars (\$35.00) fee for each lien. The fee includes a filing and releasing fee which is paid to the Randolph County Recorder. The recording and releasing of each lien is a separate charge. Clerk-Treasurer Haney stated the lien process is very time consuming. Mr. Tim Yost, Street Department Employee, stated the employees were told to mow the properties on a two week schedule so that is what is being done. The mowing season is over for this year. Councilor Schroeder does not want to discourage people from purchasing homes in Winchester. Councilor Sells would like to see what the costs to the City are for the mowing and the liens and then discuss a price with Mr. Ledyard. Mayor Croyle stated he does not want the Council to set a precedent for other people wanting to have relief from liens. The liens that are currently due on the property were discussed. The process of the tax lien sales was discussed. The process for mowing was also discussed.

Cash Drive

Councilor Lennington thanked Chief Burk for getting the lot behind the skating rink mowed. The road to the skating rink is terrible. The City does not currently own Cash Drive, it is owned by KOTA Holdings who also owns the trailer court. There are many potholes in the area. Mr. Kota stated he feels the Starlite Skating Rink should pay for half of the paving. Mr. Lawson stated business is low at the Starlite Skating Rink and they do not have the money for the improvements. Mr. Kota wants to dedicate the street to the City. Councilor Lennington told Mr. Kota that he would determine the process for getting the street dedicated to the City. Mayor Croyle stated Mr. Kota would be required to get a survey of the area and a legal description needs to be obtained. When Amanda Drive was dedicated to the City, the owners were required to put a top coat on the street and then the City accepted it. The costs incurred and the extensive rehabilitation that needs to be completed on that street needs to be determined. The City does not plow in that area because of the speed bumps. Councilor Friend stated the speed bumps are very useful at night when young people are walking to and from the skating rink. They really make the traffic slow down. If the property owner does not comply with the City's conditions the road will not be accepted or repaired. Councilor Lennington will discuss this issue further with Mayor Croyle.

Davis Street

Tim Yost, Street Department Employee, stated the Council needs to compose an ordinance for Davis Street. During the winter the Street Department employees cannot plow the street because of large trucks parked in the area. The trucks are parked at an angle and it does not leave enough room for the

plow trucks to get through. Mayor Croyle stated the employees' angle park to the building. The parking in that area will be examined. The trash truck cannot fit in the area either. Mayor Croyle will contact the plant manager regarding this issue.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Clerk-Treasurer Haney stated she is composing funds which will require additional appropriations before the year end. The additional appropriations will be presented at the November 17, 2104 meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Croyle will meet with Mr. Hosier (Executive Director, REDC) and Marujun (along with other industries) to discuss projects.

Mayor Croyle will attend a breakfast in Muncie with site consultants. They will be discussing issues and initiatives that are looked for when obtaining a new site.

Mayor Croyle will be meeting with the Randolph Central School Representatives and other industries to discuss the Work Ready Community Initiative and the curriculum for this project.

Mr. Hosier and Mayor Croyle will be going to Indianapolis to meet with the Indiana Economic Development Cooperation to work on projects for the City.

Mayor Croyle will meet with Work One for their reentry program. It could be utilized within the City for people who are offenders and need to be put back in the Workforce.

The Delta Theta Tal Convention was held on October 31 through November 2, 2014 in Winchester. 98 people attended the event.

The sectional for the Falcons Football Team will be Friday.

Announcements

The Board of Public Works and Safety will meet on November 4, 2014, at 8:00 am in the Council Chambers.

Veterans Day is November 11, 2014.

The Winchester Redevelopment Commission will be meeting on November 13, 2014 in the Council Chambers at 5:00 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Schroeder moved to adjourn. Councilor Friend seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The November 3, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Mayor, Steve Croyle

ATTEST: _____

Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney

