

**CITY OF WINCHESTER
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**

**Public Hearing @ 6:30 pm: Proposed 2019 Budget
Council Chambers/City Hall/113 E. Washington Street**

Mayor Byrum opened the floor to receive public comment for the City’s proposed 2019 Budget. Vicki Haney, Clerk-Treasurer, announced the 2019 Budget Estimate for those funds primarily supported from property tax revenue is Four Million Two Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$4,298,160.00). The estimated amount for Home Rule Funds is Three Million Nine Hundred Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars (\$3,995,498.00). The total 2019 proposed budget is Eight Million Two Hundred Ninety Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Eight Dollars (\$8,293,658.00). Councilor Williams asked what the 2019 estimated Property Tax Cap (Circuit Breaker) amount is. Circuit Breaker estimated credits is One Million One Hundred Four Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Five Dollars (\$1,104,635.00); however the City’s anticipating the total property tax cap impact amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00). City Council will adopt the 2019 final budget on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm. There being no one desiring to speak, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Regular Meeting at 6:35 pm.

Council Chambers / City Hall / 113 E. Washington St.

Pledge – Mayor Byrum

Moment of Silence – Mayor Byrum

Mayor Byrum called the public hearing 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.

District 1	Councilor Larry Lennington
District 2	Councilor Tom Sells
District 3	Councilor Ron Loyd
District 4	Councilor Leesa Friend (absent)
At Large	Councilor Missy Williams

Additional Officials Present:

Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney; John Reed, Police Chief; Chris Martin, Wastewater Superintendent

Citizens Present:

Judy Moody, Dalton Brown, Rick Sanders, Bonita J Ashley Dove, Joan Ashley, Roger Miller, Travis and Kate Thornburg, Kris Bilbrey, Niles and Beth Thornburg, Deb Henning, Jim Nunez Jr., Lynn Humphrey and Randy Abel

Media Present:

Bill Richmond, Radio Station Star 98.3

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilor Sells moved to approve the meeting minutes of the August 20, 2018 meeting. Councilor Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Committee Reports

Blight Committee

Councilor Williams moved to remediate the property at 214 W South Street and abate the nuisance at 622 N East Street. Councilor Williams told the council the second letter went out and their two weeks should be up this Thursday. Councilor Lennington seconded the motion. Motioned carried 4-0.

Fountain Park Cemetery

Jim Nunez Jr. told the council there has been recent updating at the cemetery including closing the second gate and removing the driveway to create Twenty Six (26) more lots. Hopefully this will increase the customer base. The place where the driveway was will soon be seeded. They have been keeping up with mowing, weeding, and flooding. They also bought new stone to replace some of the washed out driveway. Jim also plans to install Thirty (30) new posts and signs to mark the sections of the cemetery that were recently re-divided to maximize space for new customers. Posts will cost about Thirty Six Dollars (\$36) each. The County gave Ten (10) posts for them to use, so they will need to purchase Twenty (20) more. The cemetery is a historic landmark, and volunteers strive to keep the property nice and to welcome visitors. They have almost paid off their excavator by borrowing from their own slush fund on the recommendation of Meeks Cockerill.

Councilor Williams asked if Gillman's might be willing to donate posts, but Mr. Nunez said they do not carry the kind of post the cemetery needs at Gillman's or Tractor Supply. They will be purchased from a company in Indianapolis that the City and County have used in the past.

Bicentennial Committee:

Mr. Nunez reported Wick's Pies donated time capsules for each of the Nine (9) cities represented in the Bicentennial Plaza located on the courthouse lawn. He requested the City fill Winchester's time capsule. The capsule will be reopened in fifty years. Mr. Nunez would like the capsule to include a picture of the City Council. There are instructions on how to preserve the pictures. He also recommended things like the City t-shirt and the bicentennial hat. The time capsules will be buried on the northeast side of the cemetery chapel with a headstone that includes directions for the capsules to be exhumed in Fifty (50) years. The capsules need to be filled by October 18. Councilor Williams recommended having elementary students write letters.

The 72nd Annual Mardi Gras Bicentennial Celebration will be October 3-6.

Councilor Williams and Mr. Nunez are also involved with the dedication of the Randolph County Courthouse Bicentennial Plaza to be held September 23 at 3pm on the Courthouse lawn. Emcees for the program will be Randolph County Youth Salute honorees; high school seniors from each of Randolph County's school districts. Dane Starbuck, a Winchester historian, and Chris Tally from the Liberty Fund Foundation will be present along with descendants of the Goodrich Family.

Public Concerns:

Kristopher Bilbrey of 318 S Meridian Street had asked if the clerk-treasurer would be able to provide him with the City's EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) fund balances from the last Two (2) years. Clerk-Treasurer Haney said she would. He also asked about city officials using city email addresses as opposed to personal email. Councilor Williams said she attempted to use her City email Six (6) times, and the emails have always bounced back. Other councilors reported the same problem. The City email

usually works only when you are present at the City Building. The reason is unknown. Mr. Bilbrey also asked about live video recording of meetings. Councilor Williams said she was uninterested in doing that, because it would create an additional expense for the City. She told Mr. Bilbrey he was welcome to record meetings on a personal device if he wished. Mr. Bilbrey also asked if the city council had looked into hiring legal counsel. Councilor Sells said they received permission from themselves via a motion to obtain council, and that permission was entered in public record, but there had been no further discussion on the topic. Mr. Bilbrey also asked about fundraising for the VOA (Volunteers of America). Winchester citizens raised Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) via a grant, but Mr. Bilbrey wanted to know if the VOA (Volunteers of America) had done any of their own fundraising. Councilor Williams said she was unsure about fundraising, but she and Clerk-Treasurer Haney met with John Van Arx and he said they will be making their payments on time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2018-8

Mayor Byrum stated Council may consider a second reading of Ordinance No. 2018-8 entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TEXT OF THE UNIFIED ZONING ORDINANCE OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA" which has been called the sign ordinance. Randolph County Area Planning Commission (APC) Director, Randy Abel was present to answer any questions from the Council. Commissioner Abel explained that it is difficult to please everyone when making an ordinance, so the ordinance may feel restrictive, but that is because they allow all of the cities to have their say. Commissioner Abel said it would be difficult to compare the two (old and new) ordinances, because the new ordinance shifts from a use oriented perspective to a developmental perspective. Use oriented perspectives require reading the sign to know its use to determine whether or not it is permissible. This pre-reading of the sign is technically unconstitutional. This new developmental perspective determines a sign's permissibility and dimensions based on the kind of property the sign is on, not based on the sign's content. When looking between the two ordinances there are instances when each is stricter than the other. Commissioner Abel reminded the council that if they see something of concern to keep variance in mind. Variance gives the City oversight to see if the sign is appropriate based on things like size, character, and light output. If a pattern of variances begins to occur, then they can always go back to the APC to recommend and amendment to the ordinance.

This ordinance was adopted by the county. Councilor Sells motioned to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 2018-8 by title only. Councilor Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Attorney Cockerill completed the second reading by title only. Councilor Sells moved to accept the second reading of Ordinance No. 2018-8 by title only. Councilor Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Councilor Loyd motioned to suspend the rules and have Ordinance No. 2018-8 ready by title only for the third and final reading. Councilor Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Attorney Cockerill completed the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2018-8. Councilor Sells motioned to accept the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2018-8 by title only. Councilor Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Thus it becomes Ordinance No. 2018-8.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2018-9

Clerk-Treasurer Haney presented Ordinance No. 2018-9 titled "Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates". Councilor Sells motioned to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-9 read by title only for the first reading. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Attorney Cockerill completed the first reading by title only. Councilor Loyd motioned to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-9. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Accounts Payable Vouchers

Clerk Treasurer Haney reported the accounts payable vouchers amounted to Sixty Six Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars and Twenty Six Cents (\$66,150.26) for the end of August and Three Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty One Dollars and Sixty One Cents (\$362,981.61) for September 1-13 which included the street pavement bill. Payroll amounted to One Hundred Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars and Ten Cents (\$181,399.10). Total accounts payable vouchers amount to Six Hundred Ten Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars and Ninety Seven Cents (\$610,530.97). Councilor Williams asked about claim number 2018-1829 for One Hundred Seven Dollars and Twenty One Cents (\$107.21) charged on the Judge Fry’s business credit card. She pointed out that the ticket included two entree items. Councilor Williams requested the council not approve payment for that meal, because the city does not pay for the dinner of non-elected officials. Clerk-Treasurer Haney reported the judge was on City business, however his dinner companion was not an elected official. She also stated Judge Fry said he would look for the itemized receipt at home. Clerk-Treasurer Haney also reported that the credit card bill has already been paid, because she is allowed to pre-pay credit card purchases to avoid late fees. Clerk-Treasurer Haney recommended the council table claim number 2018-1829 until they receive further information.

Councilor Loyd asked about the Best Equipment Company charge of Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Four Dollars and Eighty Eight Cents (\$2974.88). He wanted to know if the bill included labor or was for parts only. Clerk-Treasurer Haney provided him with the invoice. It did not include a labor charge. Councilor Loyd asked that someone look into cheaper transportation of the parts. The City was charged over Seventy Dollars (\$70) in freight.

Councilor Loyd also asked about the charge titled “docking station.” Chief Reed explained it was a docking station and hardware for the police computers and tablets. This charge does not include labor, because the department installed the equipment themselves.

Councilor Loyd also asked why the two Companion Life insurances charges were different. Clerk-Treasurer Haney explained the difference was due to adding/deleting employees to the plan.

Councilor Loyd also asked about the charge “Repaired Lighting at Summer Point.” Clerk Treasurer Haney explained that was for street light repair. AEP no longer repairs those lights.

Councilor Loyd asked if the City has to buy OSHA compliance manual every year. Councilor Williams said that we do, because the laws change each year. It is required by insurance that we purchase the manual.

Councilor Williams motioned the council pay the bills excluding item 2018-1829 pending further investigation. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Treasurer Haney explained that the council will need to do additional appropriation for the 2018 budget on expected expenses in multiple funds including animal control, ambulance fund, and Randolph Central Driver TIF that were not originally included in the 2018 budget. She requested the council approve for her to advertise in the September 27th newspaper that there will be a public hearing on October 15 to consider the approval of the additional appropriations. Councilor Sells explained that most of these expenses were covered by additional money that has come in through grants and other unexpected revenue streams. Councilor Williams motioned to put the announcement in the newspaper. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

General Fund	1,382.97
MVH	181.27
Ambulance Non Reverting	172.84
Employee Welfare Benefit Plan	64,334.12
Animal Control	79.06

General Fund	34,105.22
Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	284,002.40
Light Fund	5,194.13
City Court User Fee Fund	1,058.00
LLECE	1,028.78
Fireman's Pension Fund	5,201.58
Ambulance Non Reverting Fund	1,985.60
CEDIT Fund	5,175.50
Employee Welfare Benefit Fund	228.82
Special LOIT	22,362.04
Animal Control	1,299.14
Court Cash Due County	1,174.00
Weed Assessment	166.40

The next budget workshop was set for September 20 at 6:00 pm.

Fire Chief

Mayor Byrum told the council he accepted Fire Chief Gary Moore's resignation and appointed Dwayne Wiggins as his replacement.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Sells moved to adjourn. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 4-0. The September 17, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Mayor, Shon Byrum

ATTEST: _____
Vicki Haney, Clerk-Treasurer