

CITY OF WINCHESTER
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018

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

Pledge – Mayor Byrum
Moment of Silence – Mayor Byrum

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

The Clerk-Treasurer’s roll call showed five City Council Members present.

District 1	Councilor Larry Lennington
District 2	Councilor Tom Sells
District 3	Councilor Ron Loyd (departed at 7:02)
District 4	Councilor Leesa Friend
At Large	Councilor Missy Williams

Additional Officials Present:

Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney; Jon Reed, Police Chief; Dwayne Wiggans, fire chief; Chris Martin, Wastewater Treatment Superintendent; Gary Girton, Randolph County Commissioner

Citizens Present:

Kris Bilbrey, Jason Allen, Lynn Humphrey, Kate Thornburg, Joan Ashley, Cheryl Robbins, Eldon Solomon, Al Williams, Dalton Brown, Nathan Goodman and Charles Douglas Hill

Media Present:

Bill Richmond, Star 98.3 (radio station)

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilor Lennington moved to approve the meeting minutes of the November 19, 2018 meeting. Councilor Williams seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Journey Home Veterans Shelter

Eldon Solomon, Director of the Journey Home Veterans Shelter, came before the Council to ask the City to sponsor their Victory for Veterans 5k in Greenville, OH and their Victory for Veterans Gold Outing in Winchester. He presented the Council with information on the events. He said the benefit of sponsoring these events was that the City would be supporting their mission to end veteran homelessness and the City’s logo would appear on their website’s homepage as a partner. The City was a partner last year, so their seal is there until 2019. He asked the Council if the City would please sponsor again this year. Councilor Sells said he looked through the information and was all for partnering again. He agreed it was a great thing for our City. Mr. Solomon shared some statistics: twenty two (22) veterans commit suicide every day and nationally twenty four (24) percent of the homeless population is made up of veterans. Mr. Solomon thinks the community support to make a difference in veterans’ lives is something all of Winchester should be a part of. There are currently fourteen (14) people staying in the Journey Home

and they spend less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) on groceries because the community provides almost all of their groceries. They don't even have to seek our donations from food pantries because of community support. Last year the Gold Outing was in Greenville in order to reach out to the outlying counties, because support in Winchester had always been so strong. So they decided this year to leave the 5k in Greenville and have the Golf Outing here. He said the Winchester Golf Course has really opened their arms to this event. Mr. Solomon also reported that in 2017 Journey Home took fifty two (52) veterans off the streets. In 2018 they projected to increase that number by twenty percent (20%) and help over sixty (60) veterans get off the street and put forty to forty five (40-45) veterans into permanent housing. The Volunteers of America have been recognized in the state as a very effective transitional home. Senator Donnelly has spoken about it all over the country. It puts our community in a wonderful spotlight. Clerk Treasurer Haney reported that in 2018 the City paid for a Silver Sponsorship of Three Hundred and Fifty Dollar (\$350). Mayor Byrum asked how much was left in the Mayor's Promotional Fund. Clerk Treasurer Haney reported an available balance of Nine Hundred Seventy Dollars and Eight Three Cents (\$970.83) remaining in his 2018 promotional budget, but she was unsure if there were claims remaining to be submitted in December. Councilor Lennington asked if the VOA helps the Journey Home. Mr. Solomon said they have a contract with the VA (Veterans Affairs). The VA pays for every bed full up to twelve (12) beds. This started as a temporary contract in 2015 and now there is a 5 year renewable contract. Councilor Friend brought up the two vans that Journey Home plans to purchase. One was listed as Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000) and the other as Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$31,000). She wanted to know why there was such a large price difference. Mr. Solomon said they use two vans to transport veterans to different VAs around the state. Those vans need replaced. One was just replaced last month with the help of DAEAV. The DAEAV paid for half of the van. The other van they'd like to purchase has been quoted around Twenty Three Thousand Dollars to Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$23,000-28,000). Councilor Lennington asked if the mayor would be willing to give Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) out of the Mayor's Promotional Fund. Mayor Byrum said he would. Councilor Lennington would also like to give Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) from the General Fund under the item one promotional fund. Councilor Lennington motioned to pre-approve the claim to pay One Thousand Dollars (\$1000) to Journey Home. Councilor Williams seconded. Councilor Loyd asked why the Council was rushing into this. Councilor Friend brought up the fact that the City has a contract to receive gas at a cheaper rate for fire and police. She wondered if that was something the City would allow Journey Home to use; unfortunately that is not possible. Mr. Solomon explained that once they purchase a VA van, the VA pays for gas and maintenance, but those vans can then only be used for VA appointments. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Byrum said they could amend the EDIT plan and put a line item in for that. With the sponsorship the City is given one slot in either the 5k of Golf Outing. Councilor Friend said she'd like to see the City participate in the City at the Golf Outing. Councilor Williams said she may take the slot. Mr. Solomon said he would bill the city in January.

Council Member Issues and Concerns

Councilor Lennington told the council that the Beeson Clubhouse will be closed December 11 and 12 for remodeling. He also said the stove and refrigerator were in good shape if anyone on the Council knew of someone that needed one. Attorney Cockerill told the Council they cannot give them away. They have to sell them. Mayor Byrum asked Chief Wiggans if they could keep the appliances at the training center until they make a decision. Chief Wiggans said that was fine. Councilor Lennington said the renovations will be well under Four Thousand Dollars (\$4000) and that any remaining funds will be put into the basement.

Councilor Williams reported that the four members of the board for the Randolph County Museum has volunteered their time to totally clean out and reorganize the museum. They've had several groups come through since they cleaned it up. It's located in the old Harry Goodrich home and has primarily

Winchester memorabilia, but also things from the surrounding County. They have no means of income besides memberships. They have knob and tube wiring in the museum that is considered dangerous. They need One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1800) to install new wiring and do some plastering. Councilor Williams feels the museum has been drawing people in and they plan to begin some new programming soon. She made a motion to give the Randolph County Museum the One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1800) they need. Mayor Byrum suggested paying for half and asking the County to pay for half. Councilor Williams said the County did not approve spending any money on the museum since the 1980s, but said they may go back to the County now that everything has been cleaned up at the museum. Councilor Williams said she has also been looking for grants. Councilor Friend asked Kate Thornburg if they have any upcoming fundraisers. She said they're about to start their sale on the cobblestone walkway and they're also applying for some small grants. She also said the knob and tube wiring was going to cost Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000) not One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1800). The only way to do it is by conduit to avoid interfering with the structural and historic integrity of the building. The totally upstairs project with the plastering with cost Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000). Councilor Williams suggested tabling this issue.

Councilor Williams then brought up the idea they had discussed about having the Mayor bring in a grant writer. She mentioned several grants available, but said she was not a grant writer. She said that Union City was drawing in millions with Monty Poling, City manager, overseeing their grant program for them. The City doesn't have to hire on a permanent grant writer, but can hire on a project-by-project basis if they to find and write grants. She wants the Mayor to hire someone. Then you just give that person topics for projects and they find the grants that meet the criteria. Councilor Sells asked if they could have a grant writer or grant writing company would come in and give a presentation. He is hesitant to hire someone without being more selective after the grant writer they had on retainer before failed to land them very many grants. Mayor Byrum asked if the Council if they wanted him to look for grant topics and come to the Council when he has something so they can issue an RFP (request for proposal) to get a grant writer or if they want him to find someone to work on retainer. The Mayor is hesitant to hire someone to find grants when the Council is often presented with grants that they choose not to apply for. Councilor Williams said sidewalks, streetlights, blighted property, and the VOA are topics that the Council would like to find grants to cover. She said that Union City uses two specific firms, and she could get the Council their names if they'd like to use those. Once you find someone their either take the percentage of the grant or have a minimum fee. Mayor Byrum asked if they are typically a match. Councilor Sells explained that it revolves. You could get a grant for several years and then get earmarked and not receive that grant again because they want to give money to economically depressed areas. Winchester may not be as disadvantaged as Union City, so they may be more eligible than us. Councilor Lennington said they should at least try. Councilor Williams pointed out that the State often looks at County statistics, not individual city statistics. The children in poverty rate in Randolph County is above twenty five percent (25%). Mayor Byrum said he would look into issuing an RFP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Halderman Farm Management Contract Renewal

Councilor Williams motion to approve the contract. Councilor Friend seconded. Councilor Lennington asked if the land value was the same. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

Clerk Treasurer’s Report

Clerk Treasurer Haney reported that she received the 1782 notice budget year 2019 from the DLGF (Department of Local Government and Finance) that the City’s 2019budget was approved; however, the Park Department budget was decreased by Five Thousand Thirty Three Dollars (\$5033) due to the fact the DLGF didn’t agree that the Park revenues would support that budget. She felt this was because the adopted 2018 Park budget was increased and revenues have decreased. In 2018 we budgeted Two Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Dollars (\$224,000) and currently disbursed One Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$189,000). If the 2019Park Budget needs the additional Five Thousand Dollars (\$5000) an additional appropriation may be necessary. Once the Council approves the budget, including the decrease to the Parks budget, she will submit the response back to the DLGF. Councilor Sells motioned to approve the budget given by the DLGF including the deduction to the Parks budget. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Byrum reported that the United States Department of Labor issued a new grant Thursday of last week. The purpose of this grant is to enable eligible applicants to create a disaster relief to alleviate the effects of the opioid crisis in affected communities as well as to provide employment and training strategies including strategies for supportive service to address economic and work force impact of opioid addiction. He presented this to the Council to see if this is something they’d like to pursue so he can issue an RFP. Councilor Sells said he likes it because it helps local employers create training and education. Councilor Sells motioned to allow the mayor to issue an RFG for the East Indiana Works US Department of Labor grant. Councilor Williams seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Byrum said the VOA (Volunteers of America, Ohio and Indiana) asked him to submit a letter for the Indiana Early Head Start Childcare thanking them for the grant. Mayor Byrum read the letter to the Council.

Mayor Byrum also told the Council it was time once again for Councilors to make appointments, because all appointments expire in 2018. Councilor Sells said they’d be voting on that during the first meeting of January. Councilor Lennington thought they should vote on it during the last meeting of December. Meeks Cockerill said they usually do it in January because there is usually a turnover on the Council, but this year there is not. Councilor Sells said he did not mind doing it on the December 17 meeting. Mayor Byrum said he is looking for a Board of Zoning Appeals appointee. If anyone is interested they should submit to the mayor a letter of interest.

Mayor Byrum also reminded the Council that they decided to form an EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) committee and that Councilor Friend and Councilor Lennington volunteered to serve on that committee. He asked if he was also supposed to appoint some EDIT committee members. The Council said he could have two (2) appointees. If anyone is interested they’ll need to submit a letter of interest.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Sells moved to adjourn. Councilor Lennington seconded. Motion passed 4:0. The December 3, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Mayor, Shon Byrum

ATTEST: _____
Vicki Haney, Clerk-Treasurer

