

CITY OF WINCHESTER
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
SAFETY MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

Regular meeting @ 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Byrum
Moment of Silence – Mayor Byrum

The roll call showed all Board of Public Works and Safety members present

Mayor Shon Byrum
Mr. Bob McCoy
Mr. Bill Richmond

Additional Officials Present

Chris Martin, Waste Water Treatment Superintendent; Shean Bosworth, Streets and Parks Superintendent; Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney; Jon Reed, Police Chief and Dwayne Wiggans, Fire Chief

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2019 meeting with amendments to the police department report--specifically changing the word “partner” to “reporter” as there is no partner within the News Gazette. In addition, Mr. Richmond clarified that he understands if people cannot afford the sewage system replacement, and asks if there is anything that the city can do for people who cannot afford it. Mr. McCoy seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Public Concerns

Mayor Byrum opened the floor for public concerns. There being no public concerns, Mayor Byrum closed the floor.

Fire Department

Chief Wiggans gave the fire report. Mayor Byrum said that it must be a powerful thing to

know that he saved people's lives. Mayor Byrum said that Chief Wiggins had brought a consulting agreement for a grant writer for a new truck. Mayor Byrum had hoped that in the startup phase for the ambulance, he had hoped they would be able to generate revenue for the new fire truck without turning to the taxpayer. He asked the board what they thought of getting a grant writer to get money to buy a new ladder. The grant writer they have in mind may be out of Texas and they research from Evanston, Indiana. He explained that it would cost Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900). Mr. McCoy asked what type of grant this would be. Mayor Byrum said this would be a Tiger Grant, which is a federal grant specifically designed to help fire departments because rural communities don't typically have enough money to cover it. The USDA (United State Department of Agriculture) is a go-to spot for this type of grant. Right now, they're simply wondering if they should hire a grant writer. Mr. McCoy would like to see if it would be possible to retrofit a ladder for a truck. Mayor Byrum said he would be surprised if they could find a grant that would do that.

Mr. Richmond moved to approve the hiring a grant writer to consult to look for a new fire truck. Mr. McCoy seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. McCoy asked Chief Reed what happens after he cites someone for burning trash within the city. Chief Wiggins confirmed that it goes to the judge. He said that if they fail to pay the fee, then they could potentially go to jail, but in Thirty (30) years he hasn't seen it happen.

Police Department

Chief Reed brought the police report, presenting stats from the police department from 2019. Since January 1 until today, there have been One Hundred Eighty-Six (186) physical arrests made, Fourteen (14) in the month of September. Since January 1, they've responded to Three Thousand Ninety-Three (\$3,093) calls for service. These are actual calls for service, not including requests for permits. Mr. Richmond asked if they feel like they're getting a handle on the theft problem. Chief Reed says that because of community involvement, they've seen a drop in the number of incidents. Surrounding cities have seen a rise in the number of incidents. As of Thursday, they only had a total of Four (4) reported thefts. Chief Reed said that right now he's having a hard time getting a grasp on what the plan for the neighborhood watch program is. They're figuring out who really wants to get involved and who wants to complain. He's glad for it, but he doesn't want to run it. Mr. Richmond told Chief Reed that he appreciates his involvement in the community.

In addition, Officer Fodrea graduated from the academy and they have him back on duty. Officer Detro left for the academy as of today. Hopefully by 2020 they'll be at full staff. Mr. McCoy asked if they were planning on leasing cars for the next year. Chief Reed said they would be able to look at that by the end of the year. Mr. McCoy said that he knows Chief Reed is not a fan of the Dodge, but the County is. Chief Reed said he's had problems with them and Dodge mechanics have told him that's probably the wrong car for them. It has to do with oil pressure when the car is stopped or idling. This can mess with the timing. The County is more often on

the move so they don't have that problem. Chief Reed is looking at getting a Ford or an Explorer SUV. At this point, the 2010 has been "bulletproof." For whatever reason, they're struggling to find parts for the 2012 model.

Wastewater Treatment

Superintendent Martin has been in contact with a company from Wisconsin who will look at the lagoons and hopefully get the ball moving on fixing this problem. The lateral for the Reece property drive is done. The issue on North Main is supposed to be done on Friday, though they ran into a problem with a power pole and had to coordinate with AEP (American Electric Power). Other than that, they're hoping for rain because it's like a dust bowl and it's creating complications with treatment at the plant.

Street Department

Superintendent Bosworth said the chip and seal is completed. Cody Yost, Laborer for the Street Department, is leaving his full-time position of Seven (7) years and he will be tough to replace. Superintendent Bosworth stated he's set up to talk about the dead pine trees around the Gateway sign. He also wants to downsize the length of gravel. He explained his plan to downsize by swapping it with dirt. There will be no costs other than labor.

The last summer concert in the park had a great turn out.

There have been complaints about the pool water because there are no chemicals in it and it's dirty. It's going to get dirty, but they're keeping water in it because they just put a One Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$100,000) liner in it and they want it to hold its shape. He said he could put some blue dye in it. Mayor Byrum explained that there used to be a cover but it was pretty useless after it got snow and rain in it. Superintendent Bosworth said he can drain the pool but he doesn't know if it's the right thing to do. He said he could get something to wrap it with so it's harder to see.

The crack seal street work is completed. Superintendent Bosworth has had a meeting with Mike from INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation) over what can be done at the West Dock at Ardagh Glass Container Factory. He said it's possible they can use Plum Street and try to avoid being in residential areas. They need to redo Cherry Street. They could possibly widen Plum and redirect truckers there. Many of the truckers get stuck next to Ardagh because their GPS take them there. This could possibly be a major project. They have to move cable lines. Mr. McCoy asked if they could use Race Street, which is a bit difficult because it's a tight turn. The other way makes more sense.

865 Western Avenue

Mayor Byrum recapped the 865 Western Avenue tabled issue. The owners are asking that the City put a boot on the pipe going into the lift station. Mr. Richmond said this is the homeowner's responsibility. They didn't know the cost of the repair. Mr. McCoy said he's not in favor of doing any boot. Mr. Richmond agreed. This settled the matter.

Sidewalk Application

The sidewalk application for 713 Richmond was submitted by Michael Clevenger. This is for sidewalk reimbursement. The sidewalk was in bad shape, as shown in the accompanying pictures. His application was after the fact. He’s asking for retroactive approval, as he’s already fixed it and turned in the receipts. Mr. McCoy moved to approve the sidewalk at 713 Richmond Street. Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Accounts Payable

Clerk-Treasurer Haney presented the Accounts Payable Vouchers for Sewage. At the end of the month, APV totaled ninety-two dollars and twelve cents (\$92.12). APV for September 1-13 totaled fifty-one thousand two hundred fifteen dollars and twelve cents (\$51,215.12). Payroll totaled twenty-seven thousand nine hundred ninety-six dollars and seventy-one cents (\$27,996.71). Total APV for Sewage equaled seventy-eight thousand four hundred three dollars and ninety-five cents (\$78,403.95). Mr. McCoy moved to approve sewage claims. Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Haney presented the APV for BOW Claims. For September 1-13, APV totaled sixteen thousand fifty-one dollars and sixty-one cents (\$16,051.61) Payroll totaled one hundred sixty-five thousand seven hundred seventy-four dollars and twenty-five cents (\$165,774.25) Total APV equaled two hundred twenty-five thousand eight hundred twenty-five dollars and eight-six cents (\$225,825.86). Mr. McCoy moved to approve the claims. Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Haney requested that the board consider that an employee of the Clerk-Treasurer’s office, Peyton Haney, be moved to a full-time position. She’s worked part time for Three (3) years and has done a great job. She’s requesting it for the balance of this year, 2019, as they plan for the transition because Soni Kaufman, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, is retiring. Ms. Haney has experience and is very qualified. Funding for the full-time position would come from the sewage utility budget, as there is an appropriation available for it. Clerk-Treasurer Haney asked if Superintendent Martin had a problem with that, which he did not indicate that he did. The only issue Mayor Byrum saw would be that the job should potentially be posted. Clerk-Treasurer Haney said it isn’t required. Part of the reason it’s important is because health insurance would be available to Ms. Haney after Thirty (30) hours a week. Mr. McCoy moved to approve the full-time employee. Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Mr. McCoy moved to adjourn. Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The September 16, 2019 meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Mayor, Shon Byrum

ATTEST:

Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney