

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:00pm at Council Chambers, 115 N. Locust Street with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: David Pieart, Brandy Smith, Matt Hernandez, and Randy Redlinger. Absent: Jennifer Lemke. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Heath Borders, Lynn Ament, Lisa Ament, Scott Jennings, and Terry Reynolds.

Approval of Agenda-Agenda approved by a motion of D. Pieart, R. Redlinger 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda-Bills and Minutes from December 13, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting-Approved by a motion of R. Redlinger, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried.

Departmental Reports – Departments reviewed their electronic reports with the council. JR brought to the council's attention that there will be a pre-construction meeting for the wastewater treatment plant project on Monday, January 22nd.

Public Forum-Ament's stated that they have a small pile of debris left and is asking for an extension of a couple months to finish cleaning up.

E. Pearl Demo Update-Council approved an extension until April 30, 2024 by a motion of M. Hernandez, R. Redlinger 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried.

Gas Service Rules-JR reviewed Section 2.1 of the gas service rules with the council and stated his recommendations in regards to service extensions and for customers that are outside of the corporate limits. JR and Angie will make revisions to the rules and present to the council at the February 14th council meeting.

2024 Sealcoat Proposal – L.L. Pelling-Council reviewed the proposal to lock in sealcoat pricing and approved the proposal by a motion of M. Hernandez, R. Redlinger 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried.

Wind Turbines within City Limits-City's ordinance states the maximum height restrictions for each zoning districts which would prevent a wind turbine to be placed within city limits. Council further discussed the proposal of wind turbines being placed in northern Henry County and would like to gather more information to make a decision on whether or not the council would support or be opposed to the project to present to the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Urban Revitalization Plan/Tax Abatement – Victory Lane Adventures-Council received copies of Mt Pleasant's Urban Revitalization Plan giving multi-residential properties a 100% tax abatement for 10 years. Council had several questions and asked that the developer attend the February 14th council meeting to answer some questions and discuss benefits to the city.

Committee Appointments – City Clerk, City Attorney, City Treasurer, Landfill Reps, Sub Committees-Council approved the appointments by a motion of M. Hernandez, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried.

WARC Liquor License Renewal with Sunday Privileges and Outdoor Service – 19th Hole-License approved by a motion of B. Smith, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried.

Set Budget Workshop – FYE 2025-A. Oepping provided council with preliminary budget figures and council set the date of January 31st at 5pm by a motion of M. Hernandez, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried.

Old Business-D. Pieart stated that himself and the two school principals went to West Branch to ask questions about a shared School Resource Office and City Officer. B. Smith had obtained information from Louisa County and will share with the committee. A. Oepping will reach out to city attorney in regards to the current small business loan agreement.

Mayor's Comments-Mayor Bender will be meeting with high school principal Gill on 1/22/24 to discuss school resource officer. Mayor Bender thanked JR, Brandon, and Heath for 'working their tails off' with the snow removal. He also thanked Kerry Davis for helping on Nebraska Avenue and Ryan Rees for working with public works to have sidewalks cleared. He welcomed Brandy and Matt to the council.

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm by a motion of R. Redlinger, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1 Carried. The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 5:00pm.

Angie Oepping, City Clerk

Willie Bender, Mayor