

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 5:00pm at Council Chambers, 115 N Locust Street with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: David Pieart, Matt Hernandez, Jennifer Lemke, Brandy Smith, and Randy Redlinger. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Jeff Dietrich, Joel & Jessica Haines, Lisa Rees, Jeff & Mindi Allbaugh, and Gabe Giesel.

Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter a General Obligation Tractor Acquisition Loan Agreement – 5pm-Public hearing opened at 5:00pm by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. No one from the public had any comments. Public hearing closed at 5:05pm by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Open Bids – 306 E Ash Street-City received one bid for \$1.00 from Barton Construction.

Public Hearing on Proposal to Sell Real Property Locally Known as 306 E Ash Street – 5:05pm-Public hearing opened at 5:06pm by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. No one from the public had any comments. Public hearing closed at 5:07pm by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Public Hearing on Budget Amendment FYE 2025 – 5:10pm-Public hearing opened at 5:16pm by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. No one from the public had any comments. Public hearing closed at 5:17pm by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Agenda-Agenda approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Bills and Minutes from January 8, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting and January 28, 2025 Special Meeting-Approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Departmental Reports-Electronic reports provided by the departments for review. J. Dietrich reported that the new radio has been installed in the squad car using E911 funds and that he has sent out 9 junk letters to residents in town.

Public Forum-Resident voiced their concern with diminishing value of the trailer park on S. Maple, as well as two other properties near and adjacent to his property with junk vehicles. Letters had already been mailed out to the trailer park owner as well as one of the other property owners.

Feral Cat Program-Mindi Allbaugh has expressed interest in heading up a feral cat program and asked if there would be any funding available. The council supported her idea; however, were concerned on the city's liability if a volunteer of the program were to get injured. A. Oepping will look into this with the insurance company.

Economic Development Loan Agreement-Joel and Jessica Haines informed the council that there is a gentleman from Burlington interested in purchasing the oven. Once the oven is sold, then the building will go up for sale. They also have a 3 compartment sink for sale as well.

Code of Ordinances Review - Chapter 56 Dog License Required-Council reviewed the current ordinance and will add licensing of cats to the ordinance and changing the chapter title to 'Pet License Required'. The ordinance will be presented at March council meeting.

Lion's Club - Location of Wind Spinner and Trash Container Repair-Council approved the Lion's Club to place a wind spinner in the southeast corner of the pocket park at 101 N Locust Street as well as repair/refurbish trash containers on Locust Street.

WWTP Improvements – Progress Report and Pay Application #16-Progress report and pay application #16 approved by a motion of B. Smith, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 14-2025 – Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Loan Agreement, Providing for the Issuance of a \$35,000 General Obligation Tractor Acquisition Note, Series 2025 and Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay the Same-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 15-2025 – Resolution Accepting an Addendum Agreement for Service Contract with Wemiga Waste Inc-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried

Resolution 16-2025 – Resolution Awarding Bid and Authorizing Sale of 306 E Ash Street-No action taken by the council due to no bids meeting the minimum bid amount. Council approved moving forward with the bid process and removing the minimum bid by a motion of D. Pieart, R. Redlinger 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-1 (J. Lemke) Carried. A. Oepping will reach out to the city attorney to determine steps that will need to be taken.

Resolution 17-2025 – Set Public Hearing for Consolidated General Fund Tax Levy-Resolution approved by a motion of M. Hernandez, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 18-2025 – Resolution Approving Tax Abatement Application-Resolution approved by a motion of B. Smith, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 19-2025 – Approving the Budget Amendment-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Ordinance 361 – Amending Chapter 55 Animal Protection and Control-First reading of ordinance approved by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Review Revisions to Budget FYE-2026 and/or set Budget Workshop #2-Council reviewed and approved the revisions to the FYE-2026 budget by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Cemetery Board of Control Appointment-Council appointed Jennifer Lemke, David Pieart, and Angie Oepping to the Cemetery Board of Control by a motion of B. Smith, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

March 2025 City Council Meeting Date-The March city council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13th at 5pm by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

AT&T First Net Phones-Council stated city paid phones must be carried at all times by employees when on the job & on-call.

Agreement for Codification Services-Council approved the agreement by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Old Business-Police department has mailed out 9 junk letters and will continue to send letters to those in violation of the city ordinance; A. Oepping & J. Herrick will set up meeting with owner at 306 E Center in regards to disconnection of water/sewer services to garage; No update on library renovations (library board had to re-schedule meeting for February).

Mayors Comments-Mayor Bender has spoken with the librarian in regards to identifying items to be kept at the old bank building; working on plan to sell unwanted items; and sharing with council their plans for renovations and receiving of bids. Mayor Bender asked for feedback on how to make curve at Nebraska Avenue and W. Central Ave safer. A. Oepping will research the cost of adding a solar flashing warning light alerting traffic of the curve ahead.

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm by a motion of B. Smith, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13th at 5:00pm.