

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 5:00pm at Council Chambers, 115 N. Locust Street with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: Jennifer Lemke, Brandy Smith, Matt Hernandez, and Randy Redlinger. Absent: David Pieart. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Jeff Dietrich, Steve Dietrich, Sophie Kongable, Wes O'Connor, Michelle Rosell, and Lorri Howell.

Public Hearing-Rezoning Property at N Locust and W Haigler (Mullins 2nd Lts 3-4 Blk 1)-5pm-The public hearing opened at 5:00pm by a motion of M. Hernandez, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried. The neighbor to the west of the property has concerns with the disturbance of the view from the back deck of their property and how it will be changed. The public hearing closed at 5:02pm by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Agenda-Agenda approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda-Bills and Minutes from May 16, 2024 Council Meeting-Approved by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Departmental Reports – Departments reviewed their electronic reports with the council.

Public Forum-Steve Dietrick introduced himself to the council as he will be running for Henry County Board of Supervisors and asked that the council reach out with any concerns and that he has a goal to improve the communication throughout the county with the tax payers. Michelle Rosell with Henry County Health Center informed the council that there will be a special election on September 10th in regards to moving EMS services from the hospital to the county increasing the levy from 27 cents to 75 cents. If vote fails, the sustainability of the EMS services will be in jeopardy.

City Utilities – M.O.P.S. Food Pantry-A member of the board had reached out asking for assistance on their city utility bill. Without knowing if this is allowed, the issue was not voted on.

Dollar General Cigarette Permit-Permit approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Ordinance 359 – Amending Chapter 165, Zoning Map District Boundaries (Mullins 2nd LTs 3-4 Blk 1)-With taking into consideration the concerns from a neighbor to the property the council agreed that without rezoning the property a resident would not be restricted from placing a two-story home on the property and agreed that rezoning is what is best for the city to generate revenue from the property as well as increasing economic development by bringing a new business to town. Council approved the ordinance and waived the 2nd and 3rd readings by a motion of M. Hernandez, R. Redlinger 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 13-2024 – Transfer Funds to Debt Service-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 14-2024 – Setting Salaries FYE 2024 (Rick Rodgers Community Poll Employees)-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 15-2024 – Health Insurance Renewal-Resolution approved by a motion of M. Hernandez, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

Setting Employee Salaries – FYE25-After discussion of the health insurance renewal increase, no action taken on item.

Burn Site – Security/Fines/Uses-JR stated that once the construction of the sewer project is complete the burn site will be an empty space and suggested that new signage be made stating an increased fine for dumping items other than yard waste. In addition, a camera will be at the entrance of the site and at the building facing the site.

Interviews – Public Works Assistance & Full-Time Police Officer/SRO-Interviews for Police Officer/SRO will have a committee of Mayor Bender, Jeff Dietrich (Police Chief), and Gaige Gill (High School Principal). Public Works position will be interviewed by Mayor Bender and JR Herrick.

Old Business –

FFA Chickens-A. Oepping sent letters to surrounding property owners and has received about half of them back. Unknown if the school board has approved the FFA's request.

306 E Ash House-Attorney requested updated pictures of the property to move forward with Chapter 657A.

Strategic Planning Workshop-Reminder that workshop is June 26th at 5pm. Mayor Bender asked the council to come to the workshop with short-term and long-term goals for the city.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank-Willie will set up a walk-through of the building with Matt Anderson.

Mayor's Comments-Mayor Bender will reach out to the school board about the signing of the 28E Agreement for the Police Officer/SRO position prior to setting up interviews.

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm by a motion of B. Smith, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 5:00pm.

Angie Oepping, City Clerk

Willie Bender, Mayor