

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:00pm in the council chambers located at 115 N Locust St, Winfield Iowa with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: David Pieart, Matt Hernandez, Scott Jennings, Jennifer Lemke, and Brandy Smith. Others present: JR Herrick, Angie Oepping, Scott Roen, Alexa Kongable, Graig Stauffer, Wanda Jennings, and Elizabeth Hernandez.

**Public Hearing – Budget Amendment FY26 (5pm)**-Public hearing opened at 5:00pm by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. Elizabeth Hernandez from the public inquired about where to find the information on the budget. A. Oepping stated that it is published in the paper. The public hearing closed at 5:03pm by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

**Approval of Agenda**-Agenda was approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda – Bills and Minutes from February 11, 2026 Regular Council Meeting**-Consent agenda approved with the addition of 3 invoices by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

**Departmental Reports**-Electronic reports provided to the council. JR Herrick stated he would like the council to continue thinking about the options for the water treatment plant and stated he is still awaiting a quote for the meter at the gas plant. S. Roen stated that the car unlock equipment the police department has may need to be replaced. S. Roen thanked Winfield Tire for their assistance with the unlock, JR for the use of traffic cones & Jen Lemke for the use of her golf cart at the school activities. A. Oepping stated that no pool manager applications were received and after speaking with previous manager, Jill Townsley, she is willing to continue with the responsibilities of scheduling, timesheets review, training, swim lessons, and paperwork. However, would like to discuss the possibility of having head lifeguards to handle the day-to-day issues.

**Public Forum**-Graig Stauffer from the Wayland area introduced himself to the council as a potential candidate for the Henry County Board of Supervisors. He would like to know what the tax payers & municipalities want from the county and will have an open-door policy.

**Library Renovations Update – Library Board**-Alexa Kongable presented an update to the council on the library renovations. Lights are currently being installed; waiting until fall for evaluation of boiler and radiators; computers being ordered (funds coming from second \$5000 CD); awaiting bid on demolition of wall, interior windows, and building walls; grant submission for Washington Riverboat Casino Foundation; and will begin painting.

**Library Renovations Quotes for City – Windows and Parking Lot**-Quotes were received for the ground level windows of \$13,750; upper windows of \$41,629.76; and parking lot of \$40,959.75. A. Oepping will get additional information in regards to the Hoaglin Foundation grant. No action was taken by a motion of B. Smith, M. Hernandez 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

**FY27 Budget Review-Library Budget Revenue & Expenses; Parks Budget Revenue & Expenses; Pool Budget Revenue & Expenses; Reassessment of the Tax Levy with Budget**-After further discussion of additional expenses for the new library, the possibility of reducing the tree removal budget, and raising rates at the pool; the council approved keeping the library budget as it was for FY26 (\$86,742 which includes the FICA and IPERS and removal of the \$63,000 for renovations) and to tax levy only \$20,000 for Liability, Property, & Self Insurance Costs by a motion of B. Smith, D. Pieart 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

**Update to Ordinance 361 – Animal Protection and Control**-After further discussion, council agreed to add the verbiage from the Mt Pleasant ordinance Section 4-20 a & b as well as a part c for violation fine of \$50 for each occurrence of leaving food out for animals at large to be paid within 30 days. A revision to the ordinance will be presented at the April 8<sup>th</sup> city council meeting for the first reading.

**Ordinance 364 – Chapter 1.14 Standard Penalty**-First reading of the ordinance approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

**Resolution 20-2026 – Authorizing the Execution of an Amendment to it’s Gas Supply Agreement with PEFA, Inc in Connection with the Reset of the Available Discount in PEFA Inc’s Gas Prepayment Project; Approving the Issuance of Bonds by PEFA, Inc; and Related Matters-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Piart 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.**

**Resolution 21-2026 – Approving the Budget Amendment FY26-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.**

**Resolution 22-2026 – Approving the Application for the Purpose of Receiving Benefits from The Washington County Riverboat Foundation-Resolution approved by a motion of D. Piart, S. Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.**

**Public Officials Gas Training**-JR Herrick completed the annual gas training for all the council as well as police chief, Scott Roen, in which a record of attendance was completed.

**Old Business**-Letter was sent to resident on N. Olive street in regards to the sewer line and asked for a written response by the April city council meeting; the committee for the 28E Agreement with school and rec league will meet on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm; awaiting response from HCHC in regards to financial assistance for the no parking signage at the Winfield Clinic location; Lions club is still working on renovating trash containers; resident at 202/204 E Pearl has been spoken to about the nuisances on property including structure on 204 E Pearl and junk vehicles & campers; Hillyard benches location needs to be decided on at the commons; two additional lounge chairs for the pool have been delivered; 206 E Pearl trailer still in contact with family in regards to nuisance.

**Mayor’s Comments**-Mayor Bender informed the council that himself, Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, and Brittini Rahmus with SEIRPC will have a zoom meeting with the EPA on Friday, 3/13 to get a better explanation of the Community Project Funding status and what the next steps will be for the city; Mayor Bender welcomed B’s Coffee Shop and will reach out to them in regards to a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new business.

**Adjournment**-The Winfield City Council meeting adjourned at 7:10pm by a motion of M. Hernandez, S. Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular session meeting is Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm. The public hearing for the proposed tax levy will proceed the regular session meeting at 5:00pm.

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Angie Oepping, City Clerk

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Willie Bender, Mayor