The Winfield City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 5pm in the Council chambers located at 115 N Locust St, Winfield, IA with Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: Brandy Smith, Jennifer Lemke, Matt Hernandez, and David Pieart. Absent: Scott Jennings. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Scott Roen, Jeremiah Schlee, Trisha Stodgill, Alexa Kongable, Elizabeth Hernandez, Abbie Leichty, and Becky Wilson.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda – Bills and Minutes from September 9, 2026 regular session-Consent Agenda approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-4, Absent-1, Nays-0 Carried.

Departmental Reports-Departments provided electronic reports for the council to review. In addition, Officer Roen stated that he had completed DARE Training and explained that there is a possibility that the K-9 will no longer be available due to health issues.

Public Forum-Abbie Leichty introduced herself and stated that she was running for Henry County Attorney. She had stated that her #1 priority is family and keeping the community safe. Her second commitment is the awareness of having a fiscal responsibility on spending tax payers' money. Lastly, Ms Leichty will focus on communication with the public and envisions herself to have an active roll in the community. She also wanted to remind everyone that early voting started today (10/14/26). Becky Wilson then introduced herself as the current Henry County Attorney and is seeking re-election. She stated that her office has had a busy 6 months. Mrs Wilson's campaign promise is to restore the county attorney's office relationship with law enforcement. She also stated that if re-elected, her office will continue to support the victims as well. Mrs Wilson stated that she is happy with progress made in many cases and the prosecution of criminals. She welcomes the communication with the public by stopping by the office anytime (call or write).

Library Renovation Update-Alexa Kongable provided the council with an update on the renovations and possible moving dates. Topics included shelving options being finalized, ceiling tile repair, adding 4 ceiling fans, setting up internet/computers, and questioned the responsibility of snow/ice removal.

Open Snow Removal Bids-One bid was received from Ryan Rees Farms L.L.C. Council approved the 3-year bid of $275, $275, & $300 for all areas and $200, $200, $225 fo the two blocks of main street and city office areas. The bid was approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-4, Absent-1, Nays-0 Carried.

Fencing Options – Commons-No action taken, will re-visit it in the spring.

Winfield Community Veterans Building Rental Contract Update-A. Oepping will update the contract and present to the council at the November council meeting. In addition, A. Oepping will be researching the steps that would need to be taken if the city were to sell the building.

Resolution 06-2027– Setting Public Hearing for Budget Amendment FY2027-Resolution approved by J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-4, Absent-1, Nays-0 Carried.

Pool Pass Pricing – Christmas Certificate-Council approved keeping the rates from the 2026 season of $150 for family and $75 for individual for Christmas Certificates by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart Ayes-4, Absent-1, Nays-0 Carried.

Infrastructure Prioritization-Mayor Bender stated he would like the council to be aware of possible infrastructure projects that are needed to reduce the amount of I & I into the wastewater system (water backups during major rain events) as well water treatment plant upgrades. JR Herrick has looked into GIS to map the sewer system with costs ranging from $15,000 to $25,000. Another option is completing sewer inspections by leasing 6 monitors that monitor the flow through 6 separate manholes and then can move to 6 different manholes to figure out the highest flows. In regards to the water treatment plant, the current EDR system is having issues. The city was awarded funds through the Community Project Funding Grant – therefore, the question is which project should the funds be used for. Another zoom meeting will be scheduled with EPA to discuss the city's options for the funding.

Old Business-
Chickens – Council was provided with surrounding towns ordinances. A survey will be sent out to get feedback from the residents in town on whether are not to allow chickens within the city limits.
Hy-Vee Pharmacy Lease Renewal – Lease was renewed through 2031

Current Library Location Future Plans – Communication will begin to take place with the Winfield Fire Dept as well as the Winfield Benefitted Fire District to determine if the 28E agreement needs updated.

Mayors Comments-Mayor Bender wanted to remind everyone about the annual meeting at Twin Lakes on Monday, October 19th at 6:30pm and the importance the golf course is to our town.

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 6:21pm by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernadez 2nd Ayes-4, Absent-1, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, November 11th at 5:00pm.

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Angie Oepping, City Clerk

Willie Bender, Mayor