The Winfield City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 9, 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, Scott Jennings, and David Pieart. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Scott Roen, Chad & Stephanie McAllister, Eric & Stacey Dickerson, Jeremiah Schlee, and Jay Nelson.

Approval of Agenda-Agenda approved by a motion of S. Jennings, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Bills and Minutes from August 12, 2026 Regular Council Meeting-Consent agenda along with two additional bills from AT&T Mobility were approved by a motion of M. Hernandez, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Departmental Reports-Departments provided electronic reports for the council to review. In addition, Officer Roen stated that he would like to proceed with the purchase of insurance for the K-9 dog (work alongside officer Jacob Ford) and reminded the council that he will be attending DARE training from September 27th through October 10th. S. Jennings stated he has been attending the Des Moines County Regional Solid Waste meetings; J. Lemke would like the council to consider other alternatives to a chain link fence to replace the fence at the Commons that was damaged. The swimming pool closed on Monday, 9/7/26 for the season and are awaiting final numbers from Jill Townsley, the pool manager.

Public Forum-Winfield resident, Jay Nelson, stated that he purchased his home in 1988 and had a finished basement. He recalled that in 2008, the city had the sewers lines and since that time, when there are heavy rainfalls, he gets water coming up from his floor drain. Winfield resident, Jeremiah Schlee, asked the council to consider changing the ordinance to allow residents up to 5 hens to provide eggs to families. He provided several advantages to having chickens and stated that there could be requirements in the ordinance such as keeping coops clean, no roosters, coops only allowed in the backyard, and all chicken feed be in sealed containers.

Winfield Community Veteran Building Renovations – ROOTED-Representatives from Rooted, Chad & Stephanie McAllister presented the council with an example of what the finished renovations would look like at the Winfield Community Veterans Building. Council agreed to let the ROOTED group proceed with their plans by a motion of S. Jennings, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Library Renovations Update-Updates from library board included trim being installed as well as soap & towel dispensers in the bathrooms. They are estimating that each book shelf will take approximately 5 hours to dismantle, transport, reconfigure in new space, and adding end boards, brackets & ledger boards. Council would like to ask the board if they would be willing to help with the replacement of the windows at the building with any of the leftover funds. Current balance is around $20,000; however, painting invoice has not been paid yet.

4-H Chickens – 103 S Olive St-Residents would like 6-8 hens for fair project. They currently have a 6-foot privacy fence and will also have a coop for the hens. They will be non-flying birds and feel that this gives kids responsibility. The council motioned granting an exemption from the current ordinance allowing up to 8 chickens within a coop, with the authority to allow a 60-day notice to correct action or remove the chickens if found necessary. The motion was made by M. Hernandez, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. **Future consideration of ordinance change**-Council continued the discussion to make permanent changes to the ordinance to allow chickens. A. Oepping will provide ordinances from surrounding communities that allow chickens for the council to review.

City Clerk – Vacation Accrual Payout-Council approved paying out 75.75 hours to get the city clerk down to 40 hours at her anniversary date to carry over by a motion of S. Jennings, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Ordinance 367 – Garbage Rates-Council approved the 2nd reading of the ordinance and approved waiving the 3rd reading by a motion of B. Smith, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Ordinance 368 – Handicap Parking-Council approved the 1st reading of the ordinance and approved waiving the 2nd & 3rd readings by a motion of S. Jennings, J. Lemke 2nd 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Police Chief/SRO Salary (General Fund)-A. Oepping provided the council with financial reports showing the anticipated budget for the remainder of FY27 for the general fund. After reviewing the reports and following discussion, the council agreed upon a salary of $30 per hour for Police Chief, Scott Roen.

Resolution 05-2027 – Setting Salaries FY27 (Police Chief/SRO)-Resolution approved with a salary of $30 per hour effective with the October 9th, 2026 payroll by a motion of S. Jennings, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Liquor License Renewal – El Mariachi 2-Liquor license approved by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Liquor License – Dollar General-Liquor license approved by a motion of S. Jennings, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Snow Removal Bid Expectations-After discussion, the following expectations will be added to the bid – at least one pass along the curb of the two blocks of the business district and a separate cost for snow removal along the business district only. Bidders can submit a 1 to 3-year bid. In addition, A. Oepping will send letters to business owners to make them aware that they are responsible for treating the sidewalks with sand/salt and if there is less than an 1" of snow, they will be responsible for the snow removal.

Old Business-B. Smith voiced concern with the condition of W Elm St between Locust and Olive. JR Herrick stated he was aware & it will be addressed. J. Lemke questioned a handicap parking spot for El Mariachi but it was stated that they could use the new handicap parking spot that will be painted on the far east end of W. Pine Street. Council person asked about the status of the trailer on the 2nd block of E. Pearl. It was stated that there are a few people interested in purchasing the property and would demo the trailer. S. Jennings stated he would not be in attendance at the October meeting.

Mayors Comments-Mayor Bender thanked the lifeguards for another successful and safe pool season. In addition, he thanked pool manager, Jill Townsley, for taking care of the city's pool as he has received many comments on how nice our pool is. Mayor Bender welcomed back all students and thanked the community for their support for all school events.

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm by a motion of B. Smith, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular session city council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th, 2026 at 5:00pm.

_____ _____

Angie Oepping, City Clerk Willie Bender, Mayor