

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 5:00pm at Council Chambers, 115 N Locust Street with Mayor Wille Bender presiding. Council persons present: Brandy Smith, Randy Redlinger, Jennifer Lemke, Matt Hernandez, and David Pieart. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Scott Roen, Lynn Whaley, Cheryl Wade, Lisa Rees, Scott Jennings, Henry County Sheriff Lieutenant Jesse Bell.

Approval of Agenda—Agenda approved by a motion of M. Hernandez, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda-Bills and Minutes from November 13, 2024 Council Meeting—Approved by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Departmental Reports—Electronic reports provided to the council. Library received a \$5,000 donation for new computers (money went into a CD); SRO Roen attended awards ceremony, in which the school received a grant from Enhance Henry County for a bluetooth speaker system that will be placed in all classrooms and locker rooms.

Public Forum—Cheryl Wade expressed her issues with the pool light shining onto her property; Lieutenant Jesse Bell stated that a representative from the sheriff's office will be attending city council meetings to observe.

Wemiga Waste – Trash Service Items (Lynn Whaley)—Due to insurance issues and getting coverage, Wemiga would like the city to convert to cart pickup. Out of approximately 26 cities that Wemiga services, Winfield is the only hand trash pickup. Wemiga Waste would purchase the carts if the city agrees to a contract extension. Lynn Whaley will present the contract extension at the January city council meeting.

Swimming Pool Light—JR will reach out to Alliant about options of either having a different light pole being on all night or placed on mechanics building.

WWTP Improvements – Change Order #4—Change order approved by a motion of B. Smith, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

WWTP Improvements – Progress Report and Pay Application #14—Progress Report and Pay Application approved by a motion of D. Pieart, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Pool Manager Contract—Contract amended with an increase salary to \$16 for Jill Townsley by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 09-2025 – Transferring Funds FYE 2025—Resolution approved by J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Tractor Purchase Payment—Council approved borrowing approximately \$30,000 for a 4-year term with annual payments and paying the other half from the Road Use Fund by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Compensatory Time Changes to Employee Handbook—Council approved the changes to handbook with a 90-hour cap on comp time by a motion of D. Pieart, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Garage Water Usage – 306 E Center—The council agreed to not forgive the final bill. Water meter is disconnected; however, water is still accessible for the garage. Council stated that the water line needs to be dug up and disconnected at the service line. JR will reach out to the home owner to have a discussion about the council's concerns and how to fix it.

Old Business—Cats – council will review the current ordinance at January council meeting and look into places to re-home them; Junk Vehicles – Officer Roen will train with Jeff on how to handle and the process to take; Trailer Park – 10 trailers, only 4 occupied. Send letter to deed holder about the nuisance property and request what the future plan is for the trailer park to get it cleaned up.

Mayors Comments—Mayor Bender stated that as we come to the end of 2024, the council should be proud of what has been accomplished, and although it is a thankless job, Mayor Bender thanked all council members for helping make the community better. He ended comments by wishing everyone a ‘Merry Christmas and Happy New Year’.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 5:00pm.

Angie Oepping, City Clerk

Willie Bender, Mayor