

The City of Winfield met in special session on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers located at 115 N Locust Street with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: Jennifer Lemke, Brandy Smith, David Pieart, and Scott Jennings. Council person absent: Matt Hernandez. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Scott Roen, Wanda Jennings, and Greg Lemke.

**Approval of Agenda**-Agenda was approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Public Hearing – Proposed Property Tax Hearing (FY27) – 5:00pm**-Public hearing opened at 5:00pm by a motion of D. Pieart, J. Lemke 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried. A member of the public questioned if the council had looked at other means for savings in which Mayor Bender stated that the council had been cutting expenditures the past few years as well as minimal increases to the tax levy over the past several years. In addition, A. Oepping provided an explanation of the School, County, and City Budget Year Statement to Owners and Taxpayers that all property owners should have received from the county in March. The public hearing closed at 5:15pm by a motion of B. Smith, J. Lemke 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Adjournment**-The special meeting adjourned at 5:15pm by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

---

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 5:15pm in the Council Chambers located at 115 N Locust Street with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: Jennifer Lemke, Brandy Smith, David Pieart, and Scott Jennings. Council person absent: Matt Hernandez. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Scott Roen, Wanda Jennings, and Greg Lemke.

**Approval of Agenda**-Agenda was approved by a motion of S. Jennings, D. Pieart 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda - Bills & Minutes from March 11, 2026 Regular Council Meeting-A.** Oepping provided two additional bills for approval. Consent agenda with the bills and minutes were approved by a motion of D. Pieart, S. Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Departmental Reports**-Electronic reports were provided to the council. J. Lemke noted that the 28E Agreement committee for the commons area met. Items brought up at the meeting were the following: no lime is currently needed on the fields, lock codes created for each coach for the bathrooms and one for the garage, scoreboard on the middle field is up and running, Lesley Wilson has replaced Chad Haines for the rec league board member, and Jason Remick will be assessing the high school field. The school is still taking care of the maintenance on the high school field and batting cages. There will be no concessions this year – possibly utilizing food trucks instead. In addition, they would like to look into putting up a water filling station.

**Public Forum**-No comments from the public

**Library Renovations Update (Library Board)**-No one from the board in attendance; however, Alexa Kongable provided a written update showing the progress. In her notes she stated they would be getting a quote for demo work and would like to move forward if the quote falls in line with their budget. Council agreed.

**Pool Manager Contract 2026**-Contract approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Public Works Truck Bids**-Four bids were received (Delzell Brothers, Deery Brothers, Wiele Motors, Mincer Ford). Trade-in value only received from Mincer Ford. JR will reach out to the other 3 dealerships in regards to trade-in of the chevy. Council approved moving forward with the purchase of the truck that JR feels best fits the needs of the public works department by a motion of S. Jennings, J. Lemke 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Deputy Clerk Position**-A. Oepping provided the council with a summary of the past two months. At this time, the council decided not to move forward with the hiring of a deputy clerk. However, starting in May, the office will only be open Tuesday thru Friday. Compensation of the city clerk will be discussed at the May city council meeting.

**Resolution 23-2026 – Resolution Setting Public Hearing for FYE-2027 Budget Estimate**-Resolution approved with the public hearing being held on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:15pm by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Ordinance 364 – Chapter 1.14 Standard Penalty (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**-Second reading of the ordinance was approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried. Council approved waiving the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by a motion of B. Smith, S. Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Ordinance 365 – Amending Chapter 55 Animal Protection and Control (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**-The first reading of the ordinance was approved by a motion of S. Jennings, J. Lemke 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Swimming Pool – Hiring Lifeguards, Pool Memberships, Hours, Discounts, Swim Lessons**-No changes from last year. Jennifer Lemke and David Pieart will be on the hiring committee.

**Cigarette Permit – Casey’s General Store**-Permit approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Cigarette Permit – Dollar General**-Permit approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**PTO Request for Donation**-The Winfield Mt Union PTO will be having a celebration at the end of the school year and asked for a donation. Council approved the donation of a family pool pass (with no monetary value on certificate) by a motion of B. Smith, J. Lemke 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried.

**Old Business**-Vandalism at the city park was discussed and it was noted that the cameras at the water plant do point in the direction of the park. Signs to be purchased in regards to video surveillance.

**Mayors Comments**-Mayor Bender asked that the council help to get more exposure for the hiring of lifeguards. Mayor Bender informed the council that himself, JR Herrick, Angie Oepping, and Brittni Rahmus had a meeting with the EPA and our denial was upheld. However, the good news is that the million dollars is not lost. EPA will be making a site visit at the city’s sewer plant and water treatment plant to discuss a future project. The question was presented to SEIRPC if there were any other options for additional aid on the sewer project. Mayor Bender wanted to thank the Library Board and stated that they have been doing an excellent job with the library renovations.

**Adjournment**-The meeting adjourned at 6:38pm by a motion of J. Lemke, S. Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes-4, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular session city council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

---

Angie Oepping, City Clerk

---

Willie Bender, Mayor