

CITY OF WINCHESTER
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Croyle
Prayer – Mayor Croyle

Regular meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers / City Hall / 113 E. Washington St.

Mayor Croyle called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Vicki Haney recorded the minutes.

The Clerk Treasurer’s roll call showed four City Council Members present.

Precinct 1	Councilor Larry Preston	
Precinct 2	Councilor Tom Sells	
Precinct 3	Councilor Bill Peden	arrived at 6:42
Precinct 4	Councilor Bob McCoy	
At Large	Councilor Todd Schroeder	

Additional Officials Present:

Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney; and Mike Burk, Police Chief

Media Present:

Bill Richmond (News Gazette) and Doug Goodman (Homecasting.net)

Citizens Present:

Jim Nunez, Jason Allen, Mr. Younger, Robin Winston (of the Winston-Terrell Group), Jeffrey Coin (of the Winston-Terrell Group), Pat Terrell (of the Winston-Terrell Group).

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2010 meeting. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2010-3

Ordinance No. 2010-3 was presented by Clerk-Treasurer Haney and was entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK TO ESTABLISH AN EMPLOYEE SICK BANK FOR THE CITY OF WINCHESTER, RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA.” Attorney Cockerill deleted: accumulated time over 160 hours that would be taken off the employee’s service record will be put in the bank. The employees would not be able to use these hours. Councilor Preston said it needs to be added to the employee handbook. This ordinance would give justification to giving employees time they are not to be compensated for. Councilor Peden asked who would determine if an employee gets banked time. The Board of

Works has control over that determination. Councilor Peden is concerned with discussing an employee's health issues in a public meeting. The process of an employee asking for banked time was discussed. Councilor Schroeder asked what would happen if someone took advantage of the system. An employee has to have 2 weeks of available time off that is used before they could ask for banked time. If an employee does not save 2 weeks and needs banked time they are ineligible unless they have not been employed long enough to receive 2 weeks of vacation time. Councilor Peden is concerned that employees are going to need to use the bank and not enough hours will be available. The employee must be off at least 4 weeks before they can request time, but the City will only take 2 weeks pay out of the Sick Bank. A paragraph will be drafted to be put in the employee handbook.

NEW BUSINESS

Winston/Terrell Group

Robin Winston, Jeffrey Cline, and Pat Terrell were present to make a presentation on securing funds from various federal programs and private sector grant opportunities. The Winston/Terrell Group is a Government Affairs, Public Outreach and Community Relations firm based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Winston mentioned he has worked with Mr. Greg Beumer and written grants for Randolph County. The firm helps communities get federal grants and private sector grants. The Winston Terrell Group currently represents the City of Rushville, who has received two new police cars. The City of Richmond is also represented, who has received \$2.7 Million Dollars for Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements, \$1 Million Dollars in stimulus money and the other \$1.7 Million in low interest loans. Mr. Winston provided a proposal to assist the City of Winchester on securing funds from various federal programs and private sector grant opportunities. Other firms traditionally work from retainers that cost so much per month. The Winston/Terrell Group charges One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) based on One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per hour and travel is not billable. The Winston-Terrell Group will only bill for the hours that are worked. The options of getting money for projects were discussed. Some of the current grants Winston/Terrell Group is working on were presented. Councilor Schroeder asked if the fees from Winston/Terrell Group could come out of the grant. Mr. Winston said it depends on the grant or funding. The Winston/Terrell Group will not administer the grant, which usually costs about eight percent (8%) of the total grant. The City can administer the grant themselves. Most of the grant opportunities that will be examined focus on zero percent local matches or a very small local match. Federal money is available to help the City build new buildings and purchase new equipment. Much of the funding depends on population size and City income. Councilor Schroeder asked what the success rate is of the grants that are applied for. It depends on when the grants are awarded. Some grants were supposed to be awarded at the end of 2009, but are still pending; so if the money is available, the success rate is good, but it depends on the availability of funding. The City could provide a priority list that would have the most important projects listed so grants can be found. Both public and private sector money will be examined. The Council will take these services under consideration. Mayor Croyle explained how he came into contact with Winston-Terrell Group.

Fountain Park Cemetery

Councilor Preston reported the Fountain Park Cemetery amended by-laws will be presented at the February 15, 2010 Common Council Meeting.

WCCPC (Winchester Community Cultural Preservation Committee, Inc.)

Jim Nunez, WCCPC President, and Jason Allen, WCCPC Vice President, were present at the meeting to discuss the electric bill for the lights on the Christmas Tree located on the west side of the Randolph County Courthouse. Mr. Allen had discussed this issue with Mayor Croyle previously. The current electric bill is Three Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Thirty Four Cents (\$338.34). The 2008 electric bill was One Hundred Twenty One Dollars and Seventy Eight Cents (\$121.78). The electric bill reflects an increase of Two Hundred Sixteen Dollars and Fifty Six Cents (\$216.56) from 2008. WCCPC receives revenue solely from donations. Mr. Allen requested a reimbursement for the electric bill. Councilor Peden moved to pay for the electric bill for the Christmas Tree Lights in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Thirty Four Cents (\$338.34). Councilor McCoy seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Nunez wants to talk to the City Street Department to discuss another way of turning the lights on and off. Councilor Schroeder suggesting asking the other service organizations to take turns turning on and off the lights. The 4th of July Fire Works Display is supported by donations. Mayor Croyle would like to make a One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) donation to the fireworks fund. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 3, 2010. The City usually donates One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to the Easter Egg Hunt. The donations for the Fireworks and Easter Egg Hunt would be expensed from the Mayor's Promotional line item budget. Mardi Gras will be held on October 6th-9th. Three of the downtown streets will be closed. WCCPC will provide blank maps to Chief of Police Mike Burk. Councilor Sells commended the organization on their good work.

Area Planning Commission's Response To City Ordinance No. 2009-10

Mayor Croyle explained the Area Planning Commission (APC) of Randolph County provided a document to the City Council regarding the City Ordinance No. 2009- 10. Since the ordinance was passed with a 3-2 vote, it did not meet the APC's criteria to change the zoning map. The County's zoning map is not going to change from an R1 (residential) to a C2 (commercial). Attorney Cockerill and Mayor Croyle will attend an APC meeting to discuss the language in the ordinance. An amendment may be discussed at the meeting. Attorney Bob Oliver had the interpretation that no matter what the City Council did with the ordinance it would be denied because of the unfavorable recommendation. Attorney Cockerill wants the language to say a majority vote would change the ordinance. The Area Planning Commission would no longer be a recommending board if they can change or decide not to change the ordinances; then they become an executive board. The Common Council should have the final say in the passing of ordinances. The goal is to talk to the Area Planning Commission about changing the wording for the recommending body. The Common Council wants the Area Planning Commission to be a recommending board. The City should be able to overrule the decision of the Area Planning Commission with a majority vote. Councilor Preston stated it would be good for the City to clarify the position of the Area Planning Commission. A copy of the APC's response is attached to the minutes.

Sidewalk Rehabilitation

Clerk-Treasurer Haney reported the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Fund received 2009 Riverboat Gaming Revenue in the amount of Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty One Dollars and Seventy Two Cents (\$31,521.72). Six Property Owners were reimbursed for sidewalk rehabilitation for the total amount of Four Thousand One Hundred Eighty One Dollars and Forty

Five Cents (\$4,181.45). The current balance in the Sidewalk Fund is Twenty Four Thousand Five Dollars and Twenty Seven Cents (\$24,005.27). A spread sheet was given to the Council Members. Mr. Allen asked about the sidewalk rehabilitation and the specifications were explained. Sidewalk specifications and applications are available in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Request for Public Hearing

Council heard a request from Clerk-Treasurer Haney for a public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Council agreed the hearing will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 15, 2010.

Randolph County Tourism

Kirstin Oswalt, Director of Tourism and Community Development, would like a planning meeting with the Council to discuss the projects or items that could help promote tourism in Randolph County. Council requested Ms. Oswalt provides a list of projects before the next Council meeting via email. Ms. Oswalt and the Council would discuss the list of projects at the Council meeting scheduled for Monday, February, 15, 2010.

City Tax Rate

Clerk-Treasurer Haney explained the 2010 City tax rate is Three Dollars and Twenty Eight (\$3.28). This is a twelve cent (\$.012) increase from 2009. The 2010 Corporation (City only) tax rate is One Dollar and Seventy Cents (\$1.70). This was a one cent (\$.01) increase from 2009.

Code of Ordinances

Clerk-Treasurer Haney requested the Code of Ordinances displayed on the internet. Citizens would have the capability to view and search City Ordinances on the internet. The Council Members agreed with the Code of Ordinances being linked to the webpage. This expenditure is Five Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$595.00). American Legal Publishing Corporation will provide this service.

Council Concerns

Councilor Preston asked why the ditch assessment on some of the ditches is higher than others. After a short discussion Councilor Preston decided he would ask Ed Thornburg, Randolph County Surveyor about the assessments.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Croyle will be attending a Legislative meeting on Friday, February 5, 2010. He expects the legislators will provide the status of the bill pertaining to township government; but nothing detrimental to City government will be presented. The 911 Consolidation Executive Board met on January 28, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 911 Consolidation. The County Council informed the County Sheriff if Winchester and Union City provide the funding for one dispatcher each, the County will provide the funding for two additional dispatchers. Local Dispatch should be combined with the County by March 1st. The Spillman Technologies Law Enforcement System software program should be installed by that date. Tony Kuykendall, Business Development Manager, Performance Services, will provide a proposal for Wind Feasibility Study at the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Croyle explained there are some issues to overcome with the location of the

site. The Randolph County Airport and the river that is located by the Waste Water Treatment Plant will need to be assessed. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for RC Sportswear, 100 W. Washington Street.

The Winchester Redevelopment Commission meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 5:00 pm. Mr. Greg Winkler will be speaking at the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Schroeder moved to adjourn. Councilor Preston seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The February 1, 2010 meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Mayor, Steve Croyle

ATTEST: _____
Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney