

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Randy Barrett called the meeting of the Winfield City Council to order on January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Winfield City Hall, 12448 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV.

Attendance:

Members Attending: Randy Barrett, Mayor; Joe Rumbaugh (Via Phone), Kevin Karnes, Scott Morris, Dana Campbell members.

Staff Present: Nikki Phillips, City Clerk/Treasurer, Tim LaFon, City Counsel, Jeff Losh, Chief of Police, Richie Ferguson, City Employee.

Absent: David Mattocks, Recorder, Ryan Powers, member

Public/Guests:

Approval of Minutes

December 12, 2023 – Regular Meeting – Dana Campbell motion to accept.

FINANCIAL:

Bills Paid. Hearing no objections or questions, Dana Campbell moved that the bills paid for the month of December 2023 in the amount of \$150,514.90 be approved. Motion carried.

General Fund Financial Statement. Hearing no objections or questions, Dana Campbell moved that the financial statement for the month of December 2023 be approved. Motion carried.

Coal Severance Fund Financial Statement. Hearing no objections or questions, Dana Campbell moved that the Coal Severance Statement and Bills Paid for December 2023 be approved. Motion carried.

A.R.P.A. Hearing no objections or questions, Dana Campbell moved to approve the A.R.P.A. statement as presented. Motion carried.

REPORTS, QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS:

Police and Municipal Staff Report. Jeff Losh reported that the police department had no issues through the holidays. Basketball games are being taken care of and staffed through Officer Mills and Officer Twohig.

Wastewater System/Treatment Plant Report. Richie Ferguson reported on 811 locates for the water company, and that fiber optics marking has started and work will be done in phases. General maintenance around the plant and trucks. City Employees will be taking down Christmas lights.

Pole cut in half – going to shut power off to Old Town on Sunday morning. Project will take 6-7 hours to replace.

Chairman Report. Mayor Randy Barrett reports that our bucket truck needs replaced. He is going to contact AEP to see if they have any bucket trucks that they are going to be retiring soon. Eleanor has agreed to let us borrow a truck to complete lights and should not need again until May. Still looking at other options. Needed for approximately five (5) requirements a year.

Randy Barrett will be in DC January 30 & 31, 2024. Putnam County Commission Meeting is January 30th, and the city has applied for their Enhancement Grant at just under \$10,000 to get a new roof on the community center and a swing set for the park. Grant is only awarded if someone is present at the meeting on January 30th, Nikki Phillips will be going to answer any questions. Kevin Karnes volunteered to also go.

Meeting with Solar Hollar about Solar power at the Plant. With tax incentives and grant money, we can receive an \$800,000 unit at no cost.

Potentially closing on property on Thursday. Tim Lafon will be exchanging paperwork with their lawyer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Infrastructure Projects Utilizing the American Rescue Plan Relief Funds/General Funds. City will utilize the remaining ARPA funds to purchase the property adjacent to the Municipal Building.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont):

Proceed with Home Rule – Home Rule committee meeting in January and again in April. Must hold the public hearings prior to the April meeting. Tim Lafon has the justification for the 1% sales tax. Mayor Barrett would like to set the public hearing for February. Once approved money can be used for various projects, including bringing in the orphan streets and completing repairs.

Property Purchase – City will utilize the remaining ARPA funds, and additional money from General Fund to get a cashier's check in the amount of \$230,000 for the property closing scheduled for this Thursday.

Ordinance 2023-2024-2 Incentives Development Outside City Limits wanting to annex in – Second Reading – Dana Campbell motion to approve. Motion carried.

Opioid Settlement – The City received check in the amount of \$20,914.79. As agreed, upon at last council meeting, an interest-bearing checking account has been opened at Poca Valley Bank. Mayor Barrett has spoken with County Commissioner Skidmore, and nothing has been done at the county level to use these funds collectively.

Ordinance 2023-2024-3 Replacement Pages – Dana Campbell motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2023-2024-3 Replacement Pages. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1345.06 Annexation Revision – Tim Lafon updated Ordinance 1345.06 requiring all properties come into the city as R1. This update would change the way properties are brought into the city, stating that a property will come into the city as it is currently zoned. This update is not to be used to bypass spot zoning. Dana Campbell motion to accept as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annex Donald & Jackie Hayes Property recorded in Deed Book 582 Page 971 Parcels 29 & 30 – Tax Map 184 – Discussed during the sanitary meeting. City engineer is reviewing but has not received anything in writing for storm water and sewer at this development. The pump station at the riding rink will only take on a certain number of units, this development would max out that station. Meaning the next developer would have to improve this lift station or build another before approval to build will be granted from the Sanitary Board. Streets would be built up to code for this development and the city would be required to do snow removal. Kevin Karnes motion to accept annexation of Donald and Jackie Hayes Property recorded in Deed Book 582 Page 971 Parcels 29 & 30-Tax Map 184 as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (cont):

Cemetery Price Increase - Current charge is \$925 per plot. Based on comparison of Haven of Rest (starting plot price is \$2,195) and Tyler Mountain (starting plot price is \$2,495), Kevin Karnes motioned to increase new cemetery plot prices to \$1,850 beginning new fiscal year (July 1, 2024). Motion carried.

2024-2025 Budget Survey – Insurance/Raise – Discussion to increase what city pays for PEIA, currently \$475 per employee. All current personnel are in Plan “A”. Currently employees pay \$75 with discount, \$87 without discount. New rate would be \$120.50 with discount, \$133 without discount. Recommend increase of \$50 to be the potential threshold that will be used to research next steps. Tabled until next meeting.

GOOD OF THE Order:

Coal Severance Expenditure Ideas?

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dana Campbell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting. Motion carried.

Randy L. Barrett, Mayor

Dave Mattocks, Recorder