

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 14, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Randy Barrett called the regular meeting of the Winfield City Council to order on January 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Winfield City Hall, 3426 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV.

ATTENDANCE

Members Attending. Randy Barrett, Mayor; Steve Hanna, Kevin Karnes (via telephone) Ryan Powers and Joe Rumbaugh, members; Jackie Hunter, Recorder. Dana Campbell was absent.

Staff Present. Gloria Chapman, City Clerk/Treasurer; Tim LaFon, City Counsel; Eddie Starcher, Police Chief and Ritchie Ferguson, City Maintenance.

Public and Guests. Ms. Jill Newman, 2020 Census Partnership Specialist, spoke to Council about the 2020 Census and its importance to the community.

Approval of Minutes. Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved that the minutes of the December 10, 2019 regular meeting be approved. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

Bills Paid: Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved to approve the bills paid for the month of December 2019 in the amount of \$52,349.12. Motion carried.

General Fund Financial Statements: Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved that the Financial Statement for the month of December 2019 be approved. Motion carried.

Coal Severance Fund Financial Statement: Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved that the Coal Severance Statement for December 2019 be approved. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL (Cont'd).

General Fund 2019-2020 Budget Rev. #4

Gloria Chapman explained the revision to reflect added expenses for the two extra City Court hearings in the fiscal year; park expenses, which will be replenished by the promised grant; added monies from the City of Huntington sharing the Safe Driving Grant and increase for remittance of fines.

Steve Hanna moved to approve Rev. #4 as follows. Motion carried.

Acct.. Number	Acct. Description	Prev. App. Amt.	(Increase)	(Decrease)	Rev. Amount
416	Police Judge's Office	9,500	3,500		13,000
440	City Hall	227,593		2,500	225,093
757	Sidewalks	4,000		3,000	1,000
900	Parks & Rec.	74,176	3,500		77,676
700	Police Dept.	478,720		1,500	477,220
417	City Attorney	35,500	500		36,000
720	Safe Traffic Grant	9,299	3,500		12,799
721	Resoure Officer Grant	34,039		4,000	30,039

REPORTS, QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS

Police and Municipal Staff Report:

Chief Starcher reported:

Because of the company's surplus of Glock 9 mm guns, the Range Officer at the Police Academy was able to buy the City's 40 mm guns for \$225 each, plus all the unneeded ammunition, and sell the City 8 Glock mm weapons for \$173 per weapon. This allows the Winfield Police Department to use the same weaponry as other police entities throughout the state.

There were two terror threats at the High School, resulting in 2 students being expelled. Also several laron cases were solved by PRO Officer Alicia Powell. Highway Safety money is increasing which helps with the overtime budget.

REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Police and Municipal Staff Report (cont'd).

Mayor Barrett reported:

The recently published article regarding his position on Home Rule was inaccurate stating that he was starting Home Rule at this time.

The grant application for reimbursement of expenses for the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant for the City Park was turned in last week and we expect payment before the end of the fiscal year.

Laura Cox is now the Planning Director for the city as of January 1. Her grant experience and work has enabled the City to apply for a Trans-Canada recreation grant for \$20,000 which after approval, will be awarded within 30 days and there is no corresponding financial match for the city to pay. This grant will go toward building a shelter on the other side of the Community Center, similar to the one already constructed only without bathroom facilities.

The pre-bid meeting on the new SBR plant was held last week with 9 general contractors and 8 sub-contractors attending. The bid opening for equipment will be held on January 28th and the plant construction bid opening will be held on February 4th. The loan closing should be the end of March or the beginning of April, with actual construction commencing the end of April or the first of May.

The Mayor asked Attorney Tim Lafon to explain the situation with the PSC concerning the second sewer bill rate increase. Tim stated that he had approached the PSC at Council's request and explained how the second rate increase had been tied to the SBR plant construction completion and repayment of the loan, but now the loan payment was to begin when the loan closes. He said the PSC would approve the second rate increase implementation to correlate with the loan closing; subject to receiving back the final bond package and having the Council pass an ordinance to amend the previous ordinance that stated the second rate increase would commence when construction of the plant was completed.

Wastewater System/Treatment Plant Report Ritchie Ferguson reported that the ammonia reading for November was 11.6 mg/L. December's reading was not available because of so much rain. Maintenance has taken down Christmas lights, cut trees damaged by wind, ordered flashing lights for stop signs and a back stop for the city park basketball court, touched up paint at the Community Center and opened several graves at the cemetery.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Annexation Discussion: City Attorney Tim Lafon reported the hearing was held on January 9th and the Mayor and Dana Campbell were present. Counsel's argument was that although the County Commission has discretion in granting these things, they are required to have some factual basis in the record to deny it. They denied two prongs of a seven-prong test and there will be no evidence in the record. Their defense was that the City didn't get the recording in the first four months. Mr. LaFon pointed out to the judge that the recording was indeed in the file. The judge will make a decision after he hears the recording.

Street Committee Report: No Report.

Building Permit Fees and B & O Tax on Construction of New Wastewater Plant.
Failed for lack of a motion.

Discuss Police Contract with Regard to William Bogle: Tim Lafon stated that the complaint filed with the Department of Labor was taken to a higher level and the Attorney General's office said they were dropping the case because the Contract signed by Mr. Bogle when employed by the City was iron tight. Mr. Lafon stated that now we can get a judgment and proceed with collection actions.

NEW BUSINESS

Adjust Building Permits per Planning Commission request: Joe Rumbaugh moved to adjust the Building Permit Fees by dropping a the inspection fees, Section B, for inspection of HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical for both residential and commercial, as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

GSA Account – Fire Dept/Mikyle White: After discussion, Joe Rumbaugh moved to approve the City hosting the Winfield Fire Department for a GSA Account, pending the City Attorney's approval after research. Motion carried.

First Reading and Act Upon Proposed Bond Ordinance-Sewer Revenue Bonds 2020 New SBR Plant: Steve Hanna moved to hold the first reading and approval of the proposed bond ordinance for the new SBR Plant. Motion carried.

Presentation from US Census – Proclamation of Support: Presented above.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Mayor announced with regret that Gloria Chapman had turned in papers to retire. He stated that we would be advertising for a replacement immediately.

ADJOURNMENT. With no further business, Joe Rumbaugh moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:27 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting. Motion carried.

Randy L Barrett, Mayor

Jackie Hunter, Recorder