**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 9, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Randy Barrett called the meeting of the Winfield City Council to order on August 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Winfield City Hall, 3426 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV.

**Attendance:**

**Members Attending:** Randy Barrett, Mayor; Steve Hanna, Kevin Karnes, Joe Rumbaugh and Dana Campbell, members; Jackie Hunter, Recorder. Ryan Powers attended via telephone.

**Staff Present:**  Nikki Phillips, City Clerk/Treasurer and Tim LaFon, City Counsel.

**Public/Guests:** Jim Withrow introduced himself to Council as a candidate for the Putnam County Commission in the upcoming election.

Travis Blowser, the Executive Director of the Municipal League presented an award to Councilman, Joe Rumbaugh for his 23 years of service to the City of Winfield. The Mayor also announced an Enrichment Award that was presented by the League to the City of Winfield for the outstanding project of the new SBR Plant.

Skylar Wotring and Callie Carte of the WV State Auditor’s Office.

**Approval of Minutes** Ryan Powers moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 regular meeting. Motion carried

**FINANCIAL:**

**Bills Paid.** Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved that the bills paid for the month of July 2022 in the amount of $87,418.16 be approved. Motion carried.

**General Fund Financial Statement.** Hearing no objections or questions, Kevin Karnes moved that the financial statement for the month of July 2022 be approved. Motion carried.

**Coal Severance Fund Financial Statement.** Hearing no objections or questions, Dana Campbell moved that the Coal Severance Statement for July 2022 be approved. Motion carried.

**A.R.P.A.** Hearing no objections or questions, Kevin Karnes moved to approve the A.R.P.A. statement as presented. Motion carried.

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**REPORTS, QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS:**

**Police and Municipal Staff Report.**

**Chief Arthur reported** Officer Perry has resigned to take a position closer to home and after next week two more officers will be leaving for the State Police. We are losing people because they are good and more people want them. The Chief said he would work extra before he would hire someone who is not highly qualified.

Officer Twohig just got back from training that’s required in order to get grants and those who were conducting the training spoke very highly of him.

**The Mayor reported:** Dustin Moses at the sewer plant resigned and feelers are being put out to locate a replacement.

Ritchie Ferguson and Dennis Harrison from the plant are in sludge training.

Due to the recent lightening strike at the plant, Nikki has submitted $4,911.00 in damages to the insurance company.

The air conditioner for the equipment room was installed today.

It was brought to Council’s attention that there is a line item “Due (to)from Sewer” in the amount $63,000 for the Utility Tax collected on each sewer bill. It has been there for several years and not transferred from the Sanitary account. The Sewer Board is looking for a solution to repay the City within the fiscal year.

It was hoped that the contingency fund from the SBR plant construction, approximately $145,000, could be used to purchase spare parts, but due to all the recent lightening strikes, the fund could be depleted to purchase lightening rods. The Sanitary Board voted to proceed checking into lightening rods and whether or not they will fix future lightning issues.

**Wastewater System/Treatment Plant Report.**

Reported under the Mayor’s report.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Infrastructure Projects Utilizing the American Rescue Plan Relief Funds/General Funds.** The manhole project will start within a month and we should get a price at that time for the retention pond.

**Street Repair Project.** A walk through will be conducted tomorrow with 5 or 6 different contractors.

**Sidewalk Bid Review and Committee Selection.** Kevin Karnes started with the committee and had to be called away. Jim Winter, Bill Davis and the Mayor attended an online Zoom meeting and selected Terradon from among the bidders.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Open Checkbook/PCard.** Skylar Wotring and Callie Carte of the WV State Auditor’s Office gave a presentation on how the Open Checkbook program works for the City’s transparency. Ryan Powers moved to adopt free Transparency tools and public website access to financial information as presented by the Auditor’s Department. Motion carried.

**Coal Severance Expenditures.** Nikki Phillips reminded the Council that the Coal Severance Account has to be down to $1,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Kevin Karnes moved to pay three bills from Econo Sign that total $2,023.97 from the Coal Severance Balance. Motion carried.

**Possibility of Elected Officials Pay Raises.** Tim LaFon raised the question “Does anyone want to make a motion for the Mayor to leave the room before discussion”? The answer was negative. He also stated that the Mayor should abstain from voting. Kevin Karnes moved that the Mayor’s salary should be raised from $2,000 a month to $2,500 ($1,250 per Bi-weekly pay period) commencing January 1, 2023. Motion carried. Mayor Barrett abstained.

Kevin Karnes moved that Council salary should be raised from $300 to $400 per month, commencing January 1, 2023. Motion carried. Mayor Barrett abstained.

**Projector TV Council Chambers.** Ryan Powers moved to procure 2 TV monitors and needed equipment for Council Chambers, not to exceed $4,000. Motion carried.

**HVAC Unit at Winfield Sewer Plant.** Discussed in Mayor’s report.

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**NEW BUSINESS (cont.):**

**Donation to WHS for Fireworks at Football Game.** Kevin Karnes moved to donate $500 to WHS if the proper forms are provided.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**ADJOURNMENT**With no further business, Dana Campbell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:17 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting. Motion carried.

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 Randy L. Barrett, Mayor Jackie Hunter, Recorder