**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Randy Barrett called the meeting of the Winfield City Council to order on May 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Winfield City Hall, 12448 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV.

**Attendance:**

**Members Attending:** Randy Barrett, Mayor; Joe Rumbaugh, Kevin Karnes, Scott Morris, Dana Campbell, and Ryan Powers members; David Mattocks, Recorder.

**Staff Present:**  Nikki Phillips, City Clerk/Treasurer, Tim LaFon (Phone) City Counsel, Chief of Police, Jeff Losh.

**Absent:**

**Public/Guests:** Doug Erwin discuss Backpack Buddies; Debbi Rabel, Accountant

**Approval of Minutes**

April 18, 2023 – Special Meeting – Ryan Powers motion to accept.

**FINANCIAL:**

**Bills Paid.** Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved that the bills paid for the month of April 2023 in the amount of $178,331.57 be approved. Motion carried.

**General Fund Financial Statement.** Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved that the financial statement for the month of April 2023 be approved. Motion carried.

**Coal Severance Fund Financial Statement.** Hearing no objections or questions, Ryan Powers moved that the Coal Severance Statement for April 2023 be approved. Motion carried.

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

**REPORTS, QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS:**

**Police and Municipal Staff Report.** Jeff Losh reported on officer status. Officer Deflumeri will be attending the Academy on June 5th assuming he passes his PT test. Officer Woodford will be attending Firearms training to become an instructor. Officers will be qualifying at the Eleanor Gun Club next week. New Dodge Durango has been delivered and we have a car on loan from Hurricane, we still have a Charger on order. Chief Losh requested ability for officers to drive cruisers home, on occasion, and within specific limits. Consider adding to agenda. Chief Losh is working with Dana Campbell on purchase of Shotguns and possibly a Rifle. We have three Sherriff Deputies working as needed to fill holes in our schedule.

**Wastewater System/Treatment Plant Report.** Mayor, Randy Barrett reported on Backflow on the Community Center is completed. Summit wired the last meter/counter on the main power. Aerators are being purchased by the same company that installed for $5,000 each. Received a good report from DEP on the sludge but cannot get questions answered on storage at the Mason County farm. In order to install new cameras at the Boat Ramp we had to order a new switch for the shelter and should be installed TBD. The Sign at Community Center was damaged during the recent storm and has since been replaced. Garage has insulation, completion is pending install of garage doors and electric. Shelly Moore-Capito has approved grants for stormwater, and the equipment to equip two cars, we expect that the new budget will be approved in October. Mayor purchased property on Connie Lane during recent auction. AEP is still looking to get meters available to conduct a “Dirty Power” study.

Mayor spoke with Dale Vance regarding an appraisal for the property next to the City Hall, we have agreed to pay for half of the appraisal with first option to buy goes to the city. If the City purchases the property, we will be looking for suggestions including assistance to the Fire Department, Ballparks, or other options.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Infrastructure Projects Utilizing the American Rescue Plan Relief Funds/General Funds.** $79,750 invoice to Benchmark has been paid for Emergency Storm Sewer Repairs.

**Proceed with Home Rule** –Tim LaFon provided a handout with proposals on why Home Rule is needed:

* Property can be sold at Fair Market Value without an auction. League says there is a cap of $25,000
* Sell to nonprofit with no cap
* No authority for building code person to site
* Dilapidated building shortened to 12 months
* Cut B&O tax and go to 1% sales tax (this will need a financial study and an ordinance to Home Rule Board)

Motion made by Kevin Karnes to move forward with all proposed statutes, except for #5 (Not needed at this time). Motion carried.

**Maximum Carryover Leave –**Ryan Powers suggested to make a motion to change all leave categories to Paid Time Off (PTO) starting July 1, 2023 and cap at one year max accrual. Council asked Nikki Phillips will work with Tim LaFon to provide updated policy wording at next meeting.

**Second Reading Ordnance 2022-2023-4 2023 Replacement Pages –** Motion made by Dana Campbell to approve the pages as read. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sewer Rate Increase –** The City’s accountant, Debbi Rabel, presented documentation on the Sanitary Budget. There has not been a sewer increase since 2015, there are bonds that are scheduled to be paid off in the next couple of years. She has suggested a 10% increase now and a small increase every 3 years going forward to keep up with inflation.

Dana Campbell made motion to increase sewer rates by 10% now. Motion carried.

**Purchase Hurricane Cruiser –** Dana Campbell made motion to approve purchase of the cruiser from Hurricane for $10,000. Motion Carried.

**GOOD OF THE Order:**

**ADJOURNMENT**With no further business, Dana Campbell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:42 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting. Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 Randy L. Barrett, Mayor Dave Mattocks, Recorder