

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
IN REGULAR SESSION
MAY 12, 2009**

A regular session of the Winchester Common Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 in the Council Chambers, Rouss City Hall. President Jeffrey Buettner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Jeff Buettner; Vice-Mayor Michael Butler; Councilor Evan Clark, John Hill, Milt McInturff and Les Veach; Vice-President Art Major; Mayor Elizabeth Minor (8)

ABSENT: Councilor John Willingham (1)

MOMENT OF SILENCE – President Buettner led the councilors and citizens in a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Minor led the councilors and citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 24, 2009 Special Meeting, April 7, 2009 Special Meeting, April 14, 2009 Regular Meeting, and April 21, 2009 Special Meeting.

Councilor Clark moved to approve the minutes. *The motion was seconded by Councilor McInturff then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

REPORT OF PRESIDENT

- Motion to approve a resolution honoring of Mary Chasteen.

Vice-President Major moved to approve the resolution. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Vice-Mayor Butler read the resolution honoring Ms. Chasteen and presented it to her supervisor, Zoning Administrator Vince Diem, in her absence.

- Presentation by the French and Indian War Foundation.

Mayor Minor presented the proclamation honoring Fort Loudoun Day to Lord Fairfax and James Wood, re-enactors and members of the French and Indian War Foundation.

- Proclamation honoring Virginia Lifelong Learning Week in the City of Winchester.

Mayor Minor presented the proclamation to Susan Utt of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Adult Education.

- Proclamation honoring National Preservation Month.

Mayor Minor presented the proclamation to Frank Wright of the Preservation for Historic Winchester.

- Public Hearing: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT CHAPTER 30 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE TREE COMMISSION

No citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

- Public Hearing: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTIONS 29-11 AND 29-13 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE PERTAINING TO AN INCREASE IN WATER AND SEWER RATES.

No citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:14 p.m.

- Public Hearing: Request of Goodfellows, LLC for a conditional use permit for nightclub use at 821 North Loudoun Street (Map Number 134-5-6) zoned Highway Commercial (B-2) District. CU-09-04

Mark Stivers, attorney for Goodfellows, LLC, stated he and the applicant were present at the meeting and they appreciate Council's support.

With no further citizens to speak, the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:14 p.m.

- Public Hearing: Request of Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc. for a conditional use permit for a museum at 608 South Kent Street (Map Number 213-1-M-17) zoned Limited High Density Residential (HR-1) District. CU-09-03

No citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

- President Buettner stated there were a number of individuals who signed up to speak regarding items that were not on the agenda and offered them a chance to address Council.

Todd Golding of 1027 Kinzel expressed his disappointment that the proposed Senior Codes Inspector/Police Officer II position is even being considered. He feels it is a waste of time and effort by the city and could be solved through a

memorandum of understanding between the two departments which would provide flexibility to make changes as needed. He doesn't think all of the fiscal concerns have been addressed yet. He has read the memorandums provided at the public hearings and questioned if this person is already a certified police officer and if not, how is that going to be paid. He also questioned how it will affect the retirement benefits of this person later on. He would like to see these fiscal issues addressed. He also questioned which department will cover things such as uniforms, weapons, training, future trainings, and recertification. He stated these are concerns he would like to see addressed in greater detail before proceeding.

Councilor Willingham arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Robert Baker of 106 Prospect Drive spoke on behalf of the LaRouche Political Action Committee. He brought forward a bill and resolution and requested City Council's support for the Homeowner and Bank Protection Act. This bill has been endorsed by almost 200 city councils around the nation and 6 state legislatures including the State Assembly of New York. The purpose of the bill is we have a big financial crisis on our hands but the underlying problem is we don't have a banking system and monetary system that can direct the credit into reindustrializing the nation properly into the communities and the states. He stated they are calling for what the nation has the constitutional right to do which is to put the banking system into bankruptcy. Let's freeze the debt and stop putting trillions of dollars into bailing out speculators and foreign corporations where we don't know where the money goes. The idea is to re-regulate the banks in such a fashion that they become servants to the industrial base of our nation for the people. To regulate it so the credit is directed into jobs so we have a future so we can build an industrial base and bring those factories back to the United States like this nation was originally set up for. In that process, the idea of the bill is to put the banking system into bankruptcy, freeze the debt, and change the banking laws so the bank can legally rent the home back to the homeowner. No foreclosures until we get an economic recovery set in motion so people have a job and can repay the debt.

- President Buettner stated there are a number of people who would like to address Council regarding Starting Point. He announced that Council would not be discussing the issue tonight because it is not on the agenda. It is a part of the budget which is next month. He offered to allow them to speak but reiterated it is not an agenda item tonight.

Melissa Elliot of 382 Shenandoah Avenue spoke on behalf of Starting Point that will be closing soon. She wanted to speak on behalf of a lot of people in the community who have been given a second chance and whose lives have been turned around. She requested that Council reevaluate some type of funding to keep the facility open. She believes it is imperative for the community, it saves money in jails, and it helps everybody return to society and be productive

members. Without it, it will hurt the city. It is essential for the facility to stay open.

Harry Payne of 308 Wood Avenue stated he was shocked when he read the articles in the Winchester Star regarding Starting Point funding. He thought the Finance Chairman's comment indicated a very shallow view of the program. It is more complex. The organization has done a good job for 30 years and Council is pretty much signing the death warrant for them if not funded. He appreciates the City's position but urges Council to consider alternatives. All this will do is transfer the problem to other agencies and it will be more costly than to maintain Detox. For example, the superintendent of the Northwestern Jail stated it will cost them an extra \$200,000.00 a year. The annual budget for Detox is only \$322,000.00 for the year. He asked Council to talk to the other agencies who will be affected if the Detox facility fails. Council will find the cost will be greater than if Detox is funded. He understands wanting to keep the drunks out of sight but they will become more visible and will be more of a problem than it would be without Detox. Starting Point began 30 years ago through a grant and it has done a good job. A lot of drunks will go through withdrawals if put in jail and might die which would increase the medical costs. He urged all members of Council to look at the budget and look at the problem before deciding.

Deborah McClain of 382 Shenandoah Avenue stated she read in the paper that the city is going to spend so many point million dollars on cameras on Loudoun because of the undesirables. If you close Detox except for a couple of days a week, that is all you are going to see because they will have no where else to go. The tent people and the homeless people rely on food in the dumpsters during the winters. They will be coming into town because the food spoils in the warmer months. They have to eat. If you close Detox, you are putting that expense on other agencies.

Jeff Beard of 717 Van Fausen stated he thanks God for Starting Point for turning his life around. He asked Council to look in their hearts to see what it has done and the money it has saved for the City of Winchester. There will be some funds that come from some place. He is one of the people who came to Winchester from jail to Starting Point and had the pleasure of being there for a while and it changed his life turned around. He knows what it has done for his life and he knows what he does now to give back to the community. They feed people in the community and have a church home for this community. His life has changed because of Starting Point. He is only one person compared to the thousands who have come through Starting Point. He asked why you would take such a treasure away for money when it is saving peoples lives. He guarantees it has touched everyone's family some how or some place because of the alcohol and drug problem in Winchester. To take away such an affordable place where people can turn their lives around will cause us to lose in the long run. He challenged Council to search their hearts to really see the importance of the jewel in the community that we have before it is gone.

Wyatt Martin of Clear Brook, Virginia, stated anonymity is one of the foundations of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. He has been clean and sober for 24 years on account of this program. He has seen programs like this work time and time again. The funding for the jail has been cut significantly and work release has been closed. He doesn't see how you can close this because it just creates another burden on the justice system. He has worked with and sponsored people from Starting Point. He has seen a lot of success come out of it. This would be detrimental to the people in Winchester and Frederick County. It is a chance for rehabilitation for a lot of people that would not get any other chance. He can't see how you can put a dollar amount on a second chance for someone to correct their life and be a productive member of society. He is very passionate about this as many of those here are. We have seen a lot of success come out of this program that with out this opportunity would not happen.

Enoch Sampson of 102 Williamson Road #5 stated he has had the opportunity to be an employee at Starting Point. He knows the type of people that come in and out of Starting Point. He knows the success rate Starting Point has had. In his opinion, it would be opening up Pandora's Box to close Starting Point. The people the facility serves are the people that absolutely need what the facility has to offer for people coming out of jail for the first time. The name says it in itself – Starting Point. It is the starting point for people in this community. To take the opportunity away from the people we serve would be an injustice. Those people will have to go somewhere. He is not here to discuss finances because he does not know a lot about it but he does know what the facility has done for a lot of people. He still helps to counsel and support a lot of the people who are in and out of there. It would be an injustice if this place is not there for people when they need it.

Andrea Wright of 119 South East Lane stated she couldn't say anything else except what the others have said but her presence is enough. One of the awards given tonight was for the number of years served and the other was for teaching. Starting Point serves and teaches the people what they need to know to live in the community and to make it a better community for your family, your kids and her child. Starting Point helped her and it would be a shame if it went away. She understands about the budget but if Starting Point closes all of the undesirables will go somewhere else and in 6 months you will be at a meeting looking for someplace for these people to go and the money to pay for it. It will cost a lot more money to start something up than it will to keep this going. She hopes Council remembers what everyone said tonight for the meeting next month.

Jenna Warren of 130-5 Fay Street stated she is one of those persons who got a new start at Starting Point. It gave her a place to begin again. Without it, she does not know what she would have done. She had no where to go and did not know what to do. Starting Point opened doors for her and taught her how to be a part of society. Many of the people have already said what she wanted to say. However,

she would like to add to the comments about the awards. A gentleman received an award for preservation. This is a building that needs to be preserved on the inside and out. It is historic for so many reasons. It has saved so many lives. The people who work there are so important to this community and some of the people who have gone in and out of there have made it. They are here tonight to say they made it because Starting Point was there for them. Without it, so many people will die right here in this city. There is the old saying "if it is not broke, don't fix it". This is something that doesn't need to be fixed, it needs to be preserved. They need Council to help them preserve it. God put that place and the people there for a reason, don't take it away. We need you.

Bob Pinner of 124 East Clifford Street stated he lives very close to Starting Point. It has never been a problem. He has seen people go in that program and come out successful citizens. You can't dump them on the street. If you get rid of it, it will cost millions to get started up again. You can't look at that down the road in your budget. Consider saving it. Listen to these people and consider saving it. It is really needed in this community.

Elisa Dove of 2521 Jones Road stated she is a social worker in the community. She sees everyday the ramifications of this dreaded disease of alcoholism and drug addiction. Starting Point opens their arms and welcomes you no matter what your financial situation is. If you have insurance, treatment centers want you. The people that go to Starting Point have nothing. Starting Point does give them a chance to start again. She agrees if it is not broken, don't fix it. This program has been working for 30 years. This community needs Starting Point. The only other thing she would say is Starting Point really matters. She hopes Council will take it into consideration when discussing it next month and not take Starting Point away from Winchester.

Shawn Roop of 448 North Braddock stated if the funding is cut, Detox will close period. The city will need to hire more police because it will take at least 45 minutes for them to go out to the jail. Even though the money to process the person will be divided over three counties, Winchester gets billed for every person it brings in. He was raised around Detox. His mother was a probation officer there for 17 years. When the police come in to drop off a drunk, they are there a whole 5 minutes. That is how much time the city is paying the police officer to be there. The amount of paperwork required at the jail will take a minimum of 30-40 minutes. Our streets will be a lot less safe if you are picking up 3, 4, 5, or 6 drunks a day minimum and sometimes 5 or 6 at a time and taking them to the jail. He asked what will be done when 4 or 5 cops are at the jail and something big happens. We are talking about drunks, not those who rob, steal and break into our houses. These are the town drunks. The problem is now the drunken person will have a record for being drunk in public which will cost the court system time, paperwork, and money that the citizens have to pay for. If it happens three times, they will go to jail for a year which is \$30-40,000.00 per person. This is a snow ball effect that all Council will have to do is give Detox \$180,000.00 and the

problem would be done and over with. He understands other places like Loudoun County does not have a Detox but that is a different demographic than us. People are getting hit with the recession right now and drinking because they don't know what else to do. He asked if all of the funding will be cut and all of the people put in jail because of everything being shut down. Education is being cut so the schools will not be producing the most intelligent students. We have to keep it or we will pay.

Elizabeth Nugent of 510 North Loudoun Street spoke on behalf of some of the women who have come through Starting Point. She did not come through the program but does some volunteer work with the women at the jail. One of the concerns is when they leave they have no where to go. A lot of them will automatically go back to where they lived which is not a safe and sober environment so they end up going back into jail. She has seen a lot of women who have come through there and have been successful. It would be a tragedy if this placed was closed because, in Winchester, there are no other facilities for women to go. She does not want to single anyone out but she does work with the women and that is what she wanted to speak about.

Linda Anderson of 217 South Loudoun Street stated she is being taught in the process that if there is anything we want, we need to learn to have faith and practice some humility. She asked that she be made aware and hopefully put on the agenda to learn as much as she can about the budget meeting for next month. She is a byproduct of 317 South Cameron Street. She came here from Mississippi and this place was totally different to her. 317 South Cameron Street and 217 South Loudoun Street are her home. When you left this morning, you left your home. You have memories in your home, good or bad; they are your memories and are a part of who you are. Your family is who you are. She lives at 317 South Cameron Street. She has been a product of 317 South Cameron Street since 1992 and she has not found another way but this way. She works at 317 South Cameron in the ASAP program. She doesn't understand the budget cuts but would like to consider scaling back on the parking garages we have that go unfilled or maybe ask the George Washing Hotel for some ideas. A lot of us are hurting. They don't understand what is going to happen. All they have heard is the possibility of closing Starting Point. They know people may lose jobs and may not have a place to sleep at night. She has seen a lot of people who do not have the title of undesirable on them. They are human and have been evicted from their homes for no reason. They have lost their jobs. She has seen a lot of staff at Starting Point go get these people to offer them a place to stay on a cold night or offer some crackers and a cup of coffee before they go on their way if they were not detoxing. She is going to leave the meeting tonight with faith and ask that you don't cut off the hope that some of them live for everyday. If you cut off their hope, what are they going to do?

Kenneth Williams of Frederick County stated he grew up in Winchester. He thanked Council for volunteering their time because he knows it is not about the

money for them. It is his personal opinion that some of Council is out of touch with reality. The reality is we have a problem, a problem that is not going to get better. His role is almost finished but he is concerned about the younger generation. They will need some hope and some transition when they make a bad decision. It is not about being young and making bad choices or for whatever reason we might hit that low point. He has been there. He thanks God for Starting Point and places like that. He knows Council has to cut some of the fat but he sees the money spent to beautify this town and it is good but you need to grab the heart of the people. Council has heard tonight that the people's heart is with Starting Point. He knows Council will make a good decision. Starting Point has helped a lot of people and continues to do so. He encouraged Council to take a look around and see it is a much needed thing.

Kathy Marles of 315 S. Loudoun Street stated she echoes all of the sentiment Council has heard tonight but she also understands that sentiment doesn't pay the bills. She wanted to throw out some ideas instead of closing a facility that is much needed. These are not the dregs of society. These are people who need help. These are people who given the opportunity some of them take the chance to become productive members of society, can pay their taxes and elect everyone on this board or participate in an election. Instead of cutting Starting Point out all together, Council could help them trim the fat to keep them open. She suggested using volunteers instead of some of the paid staff members. There are a lot of certified and qualified volunteers that can do some of the things that people are paid to do and would jump at the change to give back. Some of the people in this room are those very same people. Although it hurt to say it, she suggested limiting the number of times an individual could sign in to Starting Point over a particular span of time to give the open seats to someone who has not had a chance yet. She stated there are other ways to look at how to better utilize the money that is given to Starting Point. Everyone has had to take cuts in our homes, in the city, and in education. She understands Starting Point will have to take cuts too but not to the point of having to close it. She did not go through Starting Point but had a chance through a different facility almost 14 years ago. She pays taxes today, is a productive member of society, and gives back to the community. Almost everyone in this room can say the same thing. The people are not worthless dregs of society. She was once a liar, a cheat, a con-artist that you would not trust with your pocket book. But, if you were to drop a hundred dollar bill today, she will tap you on the shoulder to tell you that you dropped it. A lot of the people coming out of Starting Point will do the same thing. She saw a statement in the paper on May 6th where one of the council members said it is a waste of money to put funds into these kinds of people and they should be locked up. Maybe after a couple of times being drunk in public you need to be locked up to wake up but where do they go after being in jail? Some of the people do not have homes to go back to. It is real easy to count the dollars that you can see but it is harder to count the dollars you can't see. Starting Point is more than a drunk tank. It has a facility for people to go a little longer term to get settled and put some air between them and the last time they felt it was necessary to use whatever. You are giving the

opportunity to moms to not have a premature, fetal alcohol syndrome baby that will cost the city, health department, and jails millions of dollars over its life. The jail just shut down a facility so they will not have the room to for all the extra people that will end up there if Starting Point is closed. She asked where the people will be put. She doesn't think this has been thought out and thinks there are more ideas that could be looked at by people with experience in this type of thing.

Kevin Wright stated when he moved here in 1973, the downtown you have now is not what we had then. It was full of drunks, full of problems, and a nightmare. You tore up the street to get rid of it and all you did was make a parking lot for it. His mom worked at Detox for over 22 years when it started. Because of that place, we have the downtown we have now. He has seen people coming in and out of that place that have saved their lives but he has also seen people coming in and out that have died. Basically, life is a lot better and he has seen it happen. We would not have our downtown like we do today without this place. Apple Blossom was a nightmare back then. There are some people around here that know exactly what he is talking about. They used to have drunk parades after the parade because the people had no where to go. The police were so swamped that if something seriously happened, there was nothing they could do about it. Because of Starting Point, he has seen a change over the years that have made a big difference. To close this place would really be a tragedy to Winchester. We have a nice town here. It is working fine. Let's not throw it away. Once you throw something away, you never get it back. It never comes back.

Christina Ramsey of 14 Glaize Avenue stated she has the disease of addiction. About 4 years ago, she was sitting in the Adult Detention Center getting ready to get out and was facing two decisions. She could go to where she was before getting arrested on drug charges or she could go to Starting Point to try to start a new life. If it was not for that place, her 11 year old son and 13 year old daughter would not have a mother today because she was heading down the wrong path. The reason why Starting Point made a difference in her life is because it wasn't a 30 day vacation like most drug rehabilitation centers are. She went in there and had to find a job, to pay rent, to learn responsibility, to take turns with chores and cooking meals and to attend meetings. The things she needed to do to stay clean and sober. Most rehabilitation centers are an escape from reality for 30 days and then you come out not knowing what to do to stay clean and sober. This place teaches you how to maintain and become a productive member of society and give back to the community. She knows Council has heard the same plea from several people but she believes it would be a major loss for the community if we did not have Starting Point.

Kathryn Poklar of 1443 Back Creek in Gore, Virginia, stated she moved here when she was 13 years old. Her mother did not know what to do when she found Detox. If she did not have someplace to go and have someone to talk to and to be almost like a family to her, she would not be here today. She was never in Detox

but it was a place where the doors were always open. She was young and had no clue what she was doing to her life. After she got clean, she graduated college, worked a full time job and had three children. She asked what is going to happen when our kids need somewhere to go. There was nothing out there when her mother looked for them but this place said to bring her here. We will talk to her, we'll sit with her, and we'll be a family to her. It was like a second home. Half of these people have known her since she was 13 and watched her grow and have children. When someone called her last week to come to this meeting, she thought what is the point. The point is this place has really changed people's lives. She doesn't think they are the dregs of society. She is a college graduate with a 4.0. She has 3 children. She works and pays taxes so that places like this can be open when someone needs it the help is there. She has been in many 30 day rehabs and it was a vacation. It was a joke. When you have somebody who actually cares and is constantly there with the door open to listen to you or sit with you for hours on end to keep you from doing something stupid. If you close this place down, the people out there who are using and abusing are going to be on your door step. You think you are going to close your eye on something and you are opening a whole other can of worms. She knows this because she has been there. She was the person who was the liar, she was the cheat, she was the person who robbed your house, and she was the person who was thrown in jail. How much did it cost for her to sit in jail instead of going to Starting Point or the facility for help. It was her tax money and your tax money paying for her to be there. When she got out, she had no where to go so she went back to the same thing she knew what to do, drugs and alcohol. She feels very strongly that this would be a bad mistake and you would be closing your eyes to something that you're not going to be able to close your eyes to because it will be more of a mess than you think it is now. Winchester is nothing but drugs and alcohol unless you give these people something to do or the desire to want to do something different. If not, they are going to go back to what they know. This is the one thing that will teach them how to change.

Katherine Thomas of 1980 Dable Church in Frederick County stated everyone else has said what needs to be said but she wanted to share what Starting Point did for her. Four years ago on July 4th, she slit her wrist, not once but twice. She did not want to live as an addict anymore. She has been to four 30 day treatment centers and they were a vacation and a joke. Her mom came to her in the Winchester Hospital Psych Ward and said to chose between jail and Starting Point. She went to Starting Point and stayed for 50 days. She may not have stayed clean and it may not have changed her entire life but things have been better since going there. The people at Starting Point just care, they love you, and they do so much for you. The family that you can build and the humility and lessons they teach you cannot be learned at the other 30 day treatment centers in this town. If you take away the opportunities and the doors that are opened so many people are going to die. They are not going to be given that chance they deserve. She hopes Council will reconsider and find it in their hearts and in their budget to at least give it a chance

and find some way to let the people live. That is what Starting Point does, it lets people live.

Jennifer Roop of 448 North Braddock Street stated the things everyone is talking about tonight are priceless. There is no price tag that can be put on it. She knows several of the people on Council personally. She has worked with them and voted for them and would do it again. She is grateful that Council put together a Budget Committee that went line by line through this budget. She thanked Council for giving citizens an opportunity to be on that committee as well. Her concern though is a decision made now in trying to make things right in a quick way to fix things that were not done properly before and to balance the budget is going to cost us and our children considerably more down the road. She asked how many of Council has actually been to Starting Point to take a tour to see what happens there, meet the staff and see how it is run. This is a shoe string budget. If you are going through to choose something to pick, this is not the place. She asked if the salaries of the police have been compared to the staff at Starting Point or the judges that will now have to take the time to run these cases. She hopes a fair cost analysis has been done. If common sense is used, the police make more than the people at Detox who put in the long hours and are there 24 hours a day. The employees at the jails have better pensions and better wages than the staff at Starting Point. She wants to make sure the analysis has been done to make the right fiscal decision when doing this. She loves Winchester and wants to raise her family here. She doesn't want to have this be a mistake and have to come up with a solution in a few years. This Starting Point story is amazing. If you think Winchester residents are paying for it, they are not. The Starting Point people pay for themselves. Though, make no mistake, if the funding is cut the way it is proposed, Starting Point will close. They pay rent to be there and pay for their own food. What they share is the staff. You cannot have a place like Starting Point without a supervised staff. Other than that, they are pretty much self-sufficient. She thanked Council again for going line by line in the budget and asked if they have not been on a tour of Starting Point to do so in the next month before voting on this. She said there are no frills at Starting Point. They have the same furniture they have had for 25 years. It has been recovered and looks beautiful because they take pride and take care of it. Their budget is already a shoe string. If Council cuts them more than the 15% that the county already cut, they will not be able to operate and they are one thing that works right and saves us money.

Darrel Lyons of 220 Boscawen Street stated he came here 11 months ago through another program that saw fit to spend \$125,000 on him alone. At the end of his treatment, he opted to stay in Winchester. He heard this is a nice place to live, people care about one another here, and it was a recovery town. He spent a lot of years in the District of Columbia. He spent a lot of years on Capital Hill. He knows a little bit about budgets and politics. He will never forget the year that they spent \$7 million dollars to keep the cherry trees alive in the same year they vetoed blankets for the homeless. This is a beautiful city and he does enjoy living

here. He has heard about some conservation efforts and keeping trees but he asked Council to show him how much it costs to save a tree and how much it costs to save a human being and tell him which one is more important.

Lacy Shuck of 503 South Kent Street stated a comment was made in the paper about the ones who keep coming back. She is one of those that keep coming back and she was taught in the program that is what matters. No matter how many times you go out there and use, every time you come back you take a piece of you with you out there. Every time you go back out there, you have to duck and dive. These people care about you so much. She does not have a family. This is her family. This is who she has grown to learn and is still learning to love. It is not easy to love someone when you have never been loved yourself. They are teaching her day by day to love and how to be a mother to her children because she was not taught that. The first time she went to Starting Point was in 2005 not because she wanted to but because she needed a place to stay. Every time she has come back, she has learned something. She has been in jail for 10 years of her life and in active addiction for 6 years. She has been a menace to society since she was 15 years old. Starting Point is the only place that has taught her that she is welcomed and that she is loved. When she came to the meeting tonight, she wasn't going to speak but she was inspired by everyone who showed up and everyone who spoke. Starting Point does work no matter how many times you come back as long as you come.

Davis Asashel Cook of 3 North Euclid Avenue stated he is a recovering addict from Starting Point. He went directly from jail to Starting Point. He was there for 60 days when the director found out it wasn't enough clean time for him so she kept him 6 months. In that 6 months time, he got a job. He is coming up on 2 years of clean time and is still working the same job. He pays his bills today and has a bank account. He is living life on life's terms again. When his disease kicks in and it does kick in, he gets to call the people at Starting Point or he can go there. There is always a smiling face that says you are loved. He finds nothing but love at Starting Point. He is not from Winchester. He is from D.C. He was stuck out in the world for 25 years but now is coming up on 2 years clean time. "To your own self be true" is what Starting Point has taught him. Being true to himself lets him know he does not have to drink and drug anymore. He doesn't have to live the way he used to live. He lives a different way today, clean and sober.

Charles Rothrock of 311 North Braddock Street stated he is a town drunk. He is one of the people that have come back to Starting Point. If 71% of the people keep coming back, that is 29 people that Detox has saved out of 100. He came back so that is 30 people. People that come back usually make it at Detox. He can't say enough about Starting Point and is fond of the people there. Starting Point had a budget cut not too long ago. He thinks so much of Detox that he now cooks there since they had to let their cook go. He cooks up to 5 days a week because Detox has done that for him. They were there when he had nothing. When they used to send the cops out for him, they would have to send 5 of them.

It doesn't make any sense to him that you can put a price on planting trees and putting new stop lights in but not saving a life. Detox has saved many, many lives. There are a few of us that do come back but most of us get it after a time or two. He is a miracle as are a lot of the people in this room. Today, he can walk down the street and look everybody in the eye when he had to look away before. He really hopes there is something Council can do to help find funding if the city does not have it. He stated he does not have the education and is computer illiterate so he does not know the possibilities but he makes a living, pays his taxes, and helps his community. Detox is a life saver for many, many people. The city may not have the funding by maybe you can help find it through some grants or federal stuff. Council has the resources to do that. He asked Council to help put in the effort like he does. He puts his effort into Detox the best he can. He hopes Council will help them to find some way to keep Starting Point open. It is a benefit to the town of Winchester. He is a town drunk and was one of the people who sat down on the Old Town Mall bumming money and cigarettes. He would get arrested and get taken to Detox just to be back down in 6 hours doing the same thing. Detox gave him a place to go to change his life so he doesn't do that anymore. He thanked Council for taking the time since this was not on the agenda.

Karen Booth of 601 South Cameron Street stated her brother was a police officer in Beckley, West Virginia for 29 years. He has also worked in Berkley Springs, West Virginia and has been an officer in Barrow, Alaska since 1990. Her brother is very ashamed of her. He has tough love and has not spoken to her since 1999. She has been in and out of jail in West Virginia for drinking two times. Her lawyer advised her to get out of West Virginia or she will go to prison for 3 to 18 years. She came to Winchester and went through Chit-Chat in 1990 not knowing what an alcoholic was. She met another mood altering substance and has been in and out of jail 6 times since 2003. She made a decision the last time she was in jail that she did not want to just exist anymore. She did not want to be a menace to society. She did not want to take up police officers' time that they could be on a call saving someone's life. She wants to live today. She has a job today where she sits in front of a computer. She is a person who has the energy of 4 two years olds. She has waited tables, worked in the grocery store for 15 years and now sits at a computer raising money for charity. She gets paid for the gift of gab. She feels God has given her a second, third and fourth chance but today is her last chance and she wants to live. She went through Starting Point in 2003 instead of going back to jail for driving on a suspended license. She goes to Starting Point's Rap Sessions twice a week to talk to people. She has a cell phone full of people who love her unconditionally. If she gets it in her head that it is okay to do something bad, she tells herself no because it will be jail or death if she is lucky. She doesn't know a lot about politics but she knows enough that she doesn't want to cost society anymore money. She is a tax payer and is giving back and wants to continue to give back and live in this area. She can walk to Starting Point and to the people there who love her unconditionally.

John Alley of 304 Berryville Avenue stated he went to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting after work today. He traveled down Grey to Kern to Kent Street to get to the clubhouse on Loudoun Street. On the way, he did not see any crack dealers outside because there was a police car parked on the street with the officer out of it making his presence known. If the officer was at the jail for 4 hours, not 45 minutes, to check someone into the jail, he would have seen some crack deals because that still goes on in his neighborhood. He is a product of Starting Point. The other two points he wants to make are there are no Lexus or Mercedes Benz parked in the parking lot at Starting Point. It is a shoe string budget. The other point he wants to make is he goes to Detox before he drinks today. They are not hauling him in there drunk. He goes there so he does not drink and it is there for him 365 days a year. A lot of other people do that too. They would much rather he walks in sober before he drinks than after he drinks. He asked where they are supposed to go before they drink if Starting Point is shut down.

John Redman is a Frederick County resident but calls 317 South Cameron Street home. He stated he would hate to have Council's job right now. There are a bunch of drunks and alcoholics in the room respectfully asking for help. He has not been in the county jail for 10 years. He got out after serving 5 months and within 8 hours was back in there on a whole other charge. John Foreman picked him up when he was released with a pair of cut-offs, a t-shirt, and a pair of jail issued shoes. He gave him a chance that you don't get anywhere else. He has been in 4 states and countless programs, rehabs, and hospitals that did not work. Starting Point worked for him because of these people. This is support. This is not the jail where you meet your next crack dealer. This is where you meet someone you are going to go to before meeting the crack dealer. He has put the City of Winchester Police through hell for a long time. It wasn't one cruiser with one or two officers; they all had to come out. After a few years of sobriety, to have a sergeant or lieutenant come up to him and shake his hand is unbelievable. To build the piers around the playground at Timbrook was an honor. He has a family today. He has kids that he knew God was going to give him and He did because he stayed sober. If he feels like a drink, he can go to Starting Point and lock himself in a drunk tank. If he knocked on the door at the jail asking to be locked up because he feels like a drink, they would send him to the hospital. They would have him wrapped up. He has talked to people in the court services and is not real big on the budgets and all of that but if 2200 people pass through Starting Point a year, it is common sense to see what that will cost if you don't have Starting Point. There are only 3 Detox facilities in Virginia and Council should be honored and proud of Starting Point and what it is doing in the community. We will help in any way because this place can't close.

Sharon Martin of Frederick County stated she grew up here and has seen a lot of changes in the county and in Winchester. She is a recovering alcoholic and celebrated 10 years without a drink this past Sunday. She worked for a very prestigious law firm in Winchester and started there in January 1979. She worked there for 12 years but lost that job because she was heavily drinking. She has been

exposed to the people at Starting Point and does a lot of volunteer work at the local jail. Recently, an applicant volunteered to take a meeting inside the jail but was turned away because they don't have a place for meetings and have too many volunteers. That is really sad because a majority of people that are incarcerated are in there as a direct result of drugs and alcoholism. She does not know if Council has experienced in their families, work place or at dinners someone who has had too much to drink. There are some of us who can't have too much to drink and not drink anymore. There are some of us who just continue to have too much to drink. Alcoholism is a serious issue that ranges from Yale to jail. Just because a person is a drunk does not mean he is a low life but she has seen them treated that way. She has been treated that way even though she was from a respectable family here and worked for respectable people. She would just ask Council to consider that if they do pray at night to ask their Father what He would want them to do. She asked how you can put a price on a life. She is sober today by the grace of God. Although she did not go through Starting Point, she loves the people because she understands what it is like. Unless a person is an alcoholic, they don't understand. She asked Council to consider what is at stake here in Winchester. She might have been mistaken when she came in but it seems to her there was an application granted for another night club. There is a lot of drinking that goes on around Winchester. There was a lot of drinking that went around the War Memorial Building when she was 13 years old. She had her first drink out there which started her almost wasting her whole life being a drunk. She asked Council what they wanted to happen in Winchester, Virginia. She asked if they wanted it to be a historical, lovely place for people to come. The buildings can be lovely and Winchester is a beautiful place but if there is a lot crime, the windows will be knocked out and the buildings will be burned. The drunks won't be on some streets, they will be everywhere. They need an opportunity too just like she needed an opportunity even though she worked for very prestigious people. She couldn't not drink because she had a good job as a legal secretary and she couldn't not drink because she had two small children at home. She is an alcoholic and that is what alcoholics are programmed to do. She hopes Council will consider giving the people that need a second chance a chance to have a place to go that is safe. As she understands it, there are a few crack alleys around here that the police need to be monitoring instead of being tied up at the jail. This is a serious condition because for them to drink is to die. She hopes Council will remember that alcoholism affected people from Yale to jail and that is just a fact.

Reverend Kevin Wilson of 420 Millwood Avenue stated he was asked by a friend to come to the meeting tonight for support but he did not have a clue. As he has listened tonight, he has heard some profound things from individuals who have been impacted by this organization. Just from listening in the short time he has been here, he realizes how effective this group has been at changing people's lives. At one point, it sounded like the church was engaged in it because one word he heard very common from many individuals is they felt love. One of the major things that is missing in so many peoples lives is someone who is willing to love them in spite of themselves. He hopes Council will find it in their hearts to keep

this organization open. It sounds like it is a vital part of the community to keep running in the future.

With no further citizens to speak, the president closed the public hearings at 8:36 p.m.

6. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

6-1 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Major stated the Finance and Administration Committee did not have a report to present.

6-2 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Butler presented the following:

- First Reading, by title: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ADOPT SECTION 25-17 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE REGARDING THE COMPOSITION; APPOINTMENT; AND TERM OF MEMBERS OF THE OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD.
- Motion to approve the request of Goodfellows, LLC for a conditional use permit for nightclub use at 821 North Loudoun Street (Map Number 134-5-6) zoned Highway Commercial (B-2) District. CU-09-04

The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor.

Zoning Administrator Vince Diem stated that since the last discussion on April 28th, no police events have occurred at this location. In regards to the Fire Marshal visit and inspection, there were some issues that remain to be resolved. If Council approves the CUP, he would reiterate condition 12 that states the applicant must fully correct all past violations excluding the ABC violations by June 20, 2009.

Councilor Clark asked why the applicant is coming to Council if they are out of compliance and cannot follow the codes. He stated the business is in Ward 2 but he cannot support it because of the fire code violations.

Vice-Mayor Butler stated he agrees with Councilor Clark. He wants to support it but if something basic has not occurred, it is difficult to do so.

Fire Chief Frank Wright stated the violations include cooking equipment not covered by the extinguishing equipment, the fire alarm system has not been serviced, and the detectors have been painted black. During the visit on April 30, 2009, improperly terminated electric wires from the remodel were noticed.

Councilor McInturff asked if these were potential fire hazards. Chief Wright stated they are all violations of the fire code. Councilor McInturff asked if Council was obligated to not let this go forward. Chief Wright stated if the violations are not corrected pretty soon, they will go through the city attorney to be corrected.

Councilor McInturff stated that even before he was elected he has heard Council practically beg the applicants to get their act together because they want to see them succeed. He does not understand why they have not done so.

Vice-President Major asked how notices are sent out for violations. Chief Wright stated the notices are sent out at 30 days, 60 days, and 90 days.

Councilor Clark asked if the applicant has been given the notices. Chief Wright stated they have received several.

The motion to approve the CUP request was unanimously defeated by voice-vote.

- Motion to approve the request of Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc. for a conditional use permit for a museum at 608 South Kent Street (Map Number 213-1-M-17) zoned Limited High Density Residential (HR-1) District. CU-09-03

The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the development of a consortium assembled for the purposes of reviewing, revising and publishing the Historic Winchester District Design Guidelines for the City of Winchester.

The motion was seconded by Vice-President Major then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Motion to appoint Don Crigler as a member of the Board of Architectural Review for a four year term expiring April 30, 2013.

The motion was seconded by Vice-President Major then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Motion to direct the Clerk of Council to prepare a Certificate of Appreciation for Mark Lore as a member of the Board of Architectural Review.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Announce the term expirations of Jack M. Phillips and Hunter Hurt as members of the Board of Zoning Appeals and direct the Clerk of Council to advertise the vacancies. Mr. Phillips and Mr. Hurt are eligible for re-appointment.

6-3 PUBLIC SERVICES

Chairman Veach presented the following:

- Second Reading, by title, for adoption: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT CHAPTER 30 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE TREE COMMISSION.

Councilor McInturff moved to table the amendment. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then passed 8/1 with Vice-Mayor Butler voting in the negative.*

- Second Reading, by title, for adoption: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTIONS 29-11 AND 29-13 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE PERTAINING TO AN INCREASE IN WATER AND SEWER RATES.

The motion was adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Vice-Mayor Butler	Aye
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President Major	Aye
Councilor McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Veach	Aye
Councilor Willingham	Aye
President Buettner	Aye

6-4 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SERVICES

Chairman Minor presented the following:

- Motion to approve a resolution the financing for a lease purchase of a new rescue vehicle by the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Department.

The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Butler then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Motion to approve the reclassification request of Senior Codes Compliance Inspector to Senior Codes Compliance Inspector/Police Officer II.

The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Butler

Vice-President Major stated he will not be supporting this motion.

Councilor McInturff stated he does not see what it will hurt. Council can change it if it does not work.

Councilor Willingham stated he will vote against the motion and expressed his concern of one person reporting to two different people. It is very admirable but he would like a program to train the police officers on the zoning compliance instead.

The motion passed 7/2 with Vice-President Art Major; Councilor John Willingham voting in the negative.

6-5 HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

Chairman Willingham presented the following:

- Motion to re-appoint Sonny Shiley as a member of the Community Development Committee for a three year term ending December 31, 2011.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Motion to direct the Clerk of Council to prepare Certificates of Appreciation for Shelly Lee, John Crandell, and Tim Painter as members of the Parks and Recreation Board.

The motion was seconded by Vice-President Major then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Report of the Mayor.

Mayor Minor thanked City staff for the extra effort and personal sacrifices made during the past week for a successful Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival. She also thanked all of the festival volunteers who make this such a wonderful tradition.

Mayor Minor stated the Downtown Utility Infrastructure Improvements project that will replace the existing water, sewer, and storm infrastructure and the sidewalks on Braddock, Cameron, and Piccadilly in the downtown area has begun. The City will continue to update you through the media and as always you can see the City's website for progress reports.

Mayor Minor announced that almost a year after its grand opening, the Winchester-Frederick County Visitor Center and Civil War Orientation Center received top honors at the 2009 Virginia Tourism Summit. The 2009 Virgo Travel and Tourism Award for “Best Visitor Center of the Year” was presented to the Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau, which manages the center. She congratulated Natalie Wills and her staff on receiving the award while operating on a limited budget.

Mayor Minor announced next week May 17-23 has been designated as EMS Week. In 2008, Winchester personnel responded to over 4100 EMS calls with almost one-half of those calls requiring advanced life support interventions - skills administered by an EMT-Enhanced, EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic. Paramedics provide the most advanced level of emergency medical care available to the general public outside of a hospital setting.

Mayor Minor announced May is has also been designated as Adult Abuse Prevention Month. Older and disabled adults may be targets for abuse, which can occur in families and communities of all social, economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds. In order to reduce the incidence of adult abuse, there exist a number of adult abuse prevention programs locally that provide vital services to older and disabled adults including 24-hour hotlines, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, home based and community services, public education, and legal advocacy. If you know of someone who needs help, contact the Winchester Department of Social Services. Please take time to remember victims of adult abuse and their families, to promote the programs and organizations that serve them, and to participate in community efforts to improve the safety and well-being of all people.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Willingham moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Major then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Kari J. Van Diest
Deputy Clerk of the Common Council