

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
IN SPECIAL SESSION
MAY 29, 2007**

A special session of the Winchester Common Council was held on Tuesday, May 29, 2007, in the Council Chambers, Rouss City Hall. President Charles T. Gaynor called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

PRESENT: President Gaynor, Vice-President Griffin, Mayor Minor, Vice-Mayor Buettner and Councilors Butler, Clark, Coyne, Helm, Major, Masters. (10)

ABSENT: Councilor Nelson. (1)

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- **Public Hearing: TO PROVIDE INTERESTED CITIZENS AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND STATE THEIR VIEWS ON APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED BIENNIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2008 AND JUNE 30, 2009.**

Rick Brown, 125 Armistead Street, Winchester, VA 22601 was present to address Council. Mr. Brown stated that he the money used for the scholarship program for Handley High School students could have better use for the City. Mr. Brown also expressed his concerns for the amount of money set aside for the Housing Fund. He said that it was like "giving someone a free lunch with them being able to pay it back." He stated that he felt they could use that \$75,000-\$100,000 for many other uses. President Gaynor informed Mr. Brown later that at the previous Council Meeting, they had decided to hold off on the scholarship program for a year to improve on it.

Vince DiBenedetto, 944 Woodland Avenue, Winchester, VA 22601 was present to address Council. Mr. DiBenedetto wanted to let council know that he appreciated them having the Public Hearing a month before the final decision. He stated that the money for the Housing fund was a worthy goal but that the City could not afford it. His suggestion was to scrap the money set aside for it at least until the City can afford it. He stated that he "did not think citizens should have to pay a few extra pennies for someone else to afford housing."

President Gaynor declared the public hearing closed at 5:42 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Chairman Butler presented the following:

- **First Reading, by title: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1-15 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE TO INCREASE THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COURT COSTS FOR COURTHOUSE SECURITY.**

- Motion to adopt a resolution to approve \$1.5 million refinance for Shawnee Volunteer Fire Station. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Buettner and unanimously approved by a voice vote.*
- First Reading, by title: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 27-23 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE TO PROVIDE FOR INCREMENTALLY INCREASED ELDERLY TAX CREDITS THROUGH JANUARY 2009.

Vice-Mayor Buettner explained that the ordinance would allow anyone with a net worth of 200,000 or lower, excluding primary residences, would be eligible for the program. He said that there were multiple tiers of exemptions and they were trying to make it a bigger relief for the elderly citizens

Mayor Minor presented a proclamation for Judges Athletic Association Day on October 6, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss, President Gaynor moved that the meeting adjourn. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor and unanimously approved by voice-vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.*

Cody A. Doland
Deputy Clerk of the Common Council