

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
July 16, 2013
City Council Chambers – Rouss City Hall**

PRESENT: Councilor Jeff Buettner, Evan Clark, John Hill and John Tagnesi; Vice-Mayor Les Veach; President John Willingham (6)

ABSENT: Mayor Elizabeth Minor; Vice-President Milt McInturff; Councilor Ben Weber (3)

1.0 Call to Order – President Willingham called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

2.0 Public Comments: (Each person will be allowed 3 minutes to address Council with a maximum of 10 minutes allowed for everyone.)

Kathleen Erickson Nord of 9 West Jubal Early stated the subject she would like to talk about is extremely important to anyone who owns a business, particularly small businesses. There are ordinances and regulations in this town that are counter-productive to the promotion of good business. Recently, she was told to take down her signs which she did to comply with the ordinances. She has lost a lot of money and traffic, about 60%, because her signs are down. The ordinances are too specific and too micro-management for a business to be productive. They don't like the signs in the road, don't like the texture of the signs or the size of the font. This was not created in the best interest of the business community. She was told after a couple of discussions that this was about the beautification of Winchester. She asked Council to take a look at the parking meters out there that are going up all over town. They don't look good either and do not have historical significance. George Washington never paid a fee to park his horse but the meters have a noble cause because they earn money for the town. The signs earn money for the business people who come in every day and work 12-16 hours behind their desks. The business people take a pay cut when the signs are taken down. She needs signs and a lot of people like her need signs. She strongly suggested that Council rewrite all of the ordinances and rules to make it business friendly, promote business, and bring more businesses to town. She is in an industrial, commercial area and can't hang signs up. If she was in a bedroom community or an entrance to an estate, she could understand why they didn't want signs but she is not. She is in an area where there is manufacturing, beauty salons, lawyers' offices, doctors' offices, and bakeries so it doesn't make any sense. Even though it doesn't make sense, it is not doing her any good because she has recently lost a lot of business. Today, she had nobody in her office. Two days ago, she had three people. She would have 20 people on a normal day so this is serious. She is not just speaking for herself because she knows there are other small businesses hurting too when they are threatened to take down their signs because in someone else's eyes they don't look good. The people who came to her business liked her signs and commented on them. They found her business because of the signs by

the road and would not have come in if they had not seen the signs. She asked Council to seriously consider, at least temporarily, allowing her to put at least 3 of her signs back up until she can reorganize her thoughts on what might be appropriate and get some funds to do that because she is not getting any revenue right now to reorganize her signs. To have signs made, it is about \$3,000. When Council passes an ordinance, they are also passing the bill to the person responsible for the sign which is the small business people. She needs help and she needs help now or she will suffer severely.

Mayor Minor arrived at the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

With no further citizens to address Council, President Willingham closed the public comments at 6:04 p.m.

3.0 Items for Discussion:

3.1 Presentation: Weldon Cooper Study of School Population

Dr. Quan Cai, Director of Demographics and Workforce, presented the results of a School Population study performed by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. Dr. Cai stated the two major findings were determined to be the population is becoming more diverse and the population is becoming younger. The composition has changed due to the growth that is increasingly driven by the number of Hispanic births. The change in the Hispanic population is driving the school enrollment.

City Manager Dale Iman reminded Council and the public about the Salute to the Troops celebration. This event is tied to two major events in history. At 10:00 a.m., a dedication of the Korean War Memorial will be held in the park and a ceremony honoring the 60th anniversary of the end of the war. At 1:00 p.m., the parade will begin downtown marking the 100th year of the 3 week encampment of Buffalo Soldiers in Winchester.

President Willingham announced that each ordinance title will contain easier language for better understanding of what is being amended.

**3.2 O-2013-20: UPDATE – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 26-33 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE PERTAINING TO SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO LOUDOUN STREET MALL
*(Regulations for Delivery Trucks on the Old Town Mall)***

Downtown Manager Jennifer Bell stated in the new revisions, the deliveries would remain the same except they would be prohibited from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Vice-Mayor Veach asked what Ms. Bell's thoughts were on delivery hours of 7:30 – 10:30. Ms. Bell stated most of the businesses open at 10:00 and the merchants want the 10-11 hour for deliveries.

Councilor Clark asked at what point is the infrastructure damaged. Utilities Director Perry Eisenach stated it is not the structural strength of the concrete but of the bricks. Vehicles are fine and a few of the 30-35,000 pounds trucks would be okay. The infrastructure underneath would be fine.

Vice-Mayor Veach moved to amend the time from 6 a.m. – 11 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark.

President Willingham asked if the hours of the Splash Pad would mimic the hours of delivery. City Attorney Anthony Williams stated Council can restrict it as deemed appropriate and he would encourage it for health, safety and welfare.

President Willingham stated it would be helpful to see how things are operating in 3 months as a part of the quarterly updates.

Vice-Mayor Veach's motion passed 5/2 with Mayor Minor and Councilor Tagnesi in the negative.

3.3 O-2013-22: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ADOPT SECTION 10-51 OF THE CITY CODE TO INCLUDE AN EXCEPTION FOR BLASTING OPERATIONS RELATED TO CEMETERY BURIAL OF DECEASED HUMAN REMAINS (*Reduction of insurance requirement for blasting at cemeteries*)

Fire Chief Allen Baldwin presented the request to drop the insurance requirement for blasting operations down to \$2 million dollars from \$5 million dollars.

Councilor Clark moved to forward O-2013-22 to Council. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Veach then approved 7/0.*

3.3 R-2013-32: Resolution – To allow Buettner Tire Distributors to enter into a contract with the City of Winchester for automotive services

Finance Director Mary Blowe presented the resolution to allow Buettner Tire Distributors to enter into a contract with the City for automotive services.

Councilor Buettner announced he will not be participating in the discussion or the vote.

Councilor Clark moved to forward R-2013-32 to Council. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Veach then approved 6/0.*

3.4 R-2013-33: Resolution – To amend and re-adopt sections 7.2 and 7.4 of the Winchester Comprehensive Employee Management System (“CEMS”)

Human Resources Director Joel Davis presented the resolution to amend the items which are grievable in the Winchester Comprehensive Employee Management System.

Vice-Mayor Veach moved to forward R-2013-33 to Council. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then approved 7/0.*

4.0 Liaison Reports

Vice-Mayor Veach stated the School Board held its reorganization meeting to appoint the chair and vice-chair.

5.0 Monthly Reports

5.1 Fire & Rescue Department

5.2 Police Department

6.0 Adjourn

Councilor Buettner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Veach then approved 7/0.*