

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Book

INVOCATION - City Manager Mike Flynn

PRESIDING :

Mayor JoEllen Reed

PRESENT:

Commissioner Kenny Book
Commissioner Shannon Cox
Commissioner Hannah Toole
Commissioner Kitty Strode

City Manager Mike Flynn, HR/RM Tammy Shelton, Deputy City Clerk Dianna Layne, and the City Clerk were present.

City Attorney William A. Dykeman was present via phone.

Upon determining that a quorum was present for the transaction of business, Mayor Reed called the March 21, 2023 special meeting to order at 4:00 pm in the Commission Chambers of City Hall.

WORK SESSION

**Winchester Work Plan
Mr. Tad Long , Kentucky League of Cities**

Mr. Tad Long and Ms. Sarah Stoll from the Kentucky League of Cities were present to assist the City Commission with a work plan for the coming years.

The Commission was asked what their vision was for the next 10 years - by 2033.

10 Year Vision:

- Work Force - Economic Development
- Completion of the High Side of Main
- Vibrant Community Spirit
- Veterans Memorial Parkway (Eastern Bypass) completed with infrastructure at the same time
- Growth of low income and wage based housing
- Drainage/Storm Sewers fixed
- Opportunities for young people
- Continue to work on drug issues in the community
- Staffing numbers up for both police and fire - want the City known as "a Safe Community"
- Continue to have ordinances to protect downtown building owners and residents
- Help homeless find safe and secure housing
- Have Winchester "a happenin' place"
- Make a place for tweeners - those residents between children and senior citizens
- Outdoor pool
- Investment in the Parks & Recreation for the community
- A possible feasibility study with the LFUCG for bike trails from Brighton in Lexington to Depot Street in Winchester and possibly into Mt. Sterling

City Attorney Dykeman noted there was a deed of recreational easement the City could collect from property owners at a later date if this became a project.

Immediate Needs and/or Priorities:

- Town Branch/Stormwater - project in progress for approximately \$3 million
- Winn Avenue and Barlow Drive Drainage - project getting started
- Fulton Road Extension - project in progress for approximately \$2 million

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- Seventh Street Truck Route - project in progress for approximately \$6.5 million
- Splash Pad - project in progress, received \$250,000 in matching Federal Land & Water Conservation Grant funds
- Quality of Life
- Retaining Wall on Lexington Avenue - next fiscal year
- Police, Fire, and Public Works - Fire Chief already has a Five-Year Plan

Fire Department:
 Staffing
 Apparatus
 Building Facilities
 Split of Fire/EMS

Police Department:
 Staffing
 Building Facilities for Police and Dispatch
 Build on new technologies

Public Works
 Finish Salt Building
 Personnel
 Equipment

- Continue to buy dilapidated properties, clean up, and work with others to create affordable housing
- Continue to pursue and complete the east side of Lincoln Street now that the west side has been completed
- Continue to promote the completion of the High Side of Main

Mr. Geoff Sebesta noted the inmates of the jail being over 400 and wondering what can be done about that.

Mayor Reed noted the City had no jurisdiction over the jail.

Police Chief James Hall noted there are federal and state inmates included in the number of jailed persons.

- Entertainment District in the downtown area
- Bypass beautification
- Taking over Main Street and making it a City street
- Having a grocery store downtown
- Expansion of transit service
- Expansion of the parks system - especially at the WMU NERB (North Eastern Retention Basin)
- Veterans Memorial in the downtown on City property
- Carol Road egress and ingress
- Winchester sign on Washington Street
- Build community trust
- Be a City of Inclusivity

Mr. Stephen Berry, CCGIS Director noted there needed to be work done on the pedestrian connectivity.

- Home ownership - affordable housing
- Continue to clean and build new neighborhoods
- Keep senior citizens in their homes
- Second chance employment for those in recovery
- Hire a full-time grant writer

First Priority :

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- Grocery store downtown
- Housing
- Stormwater

Second Priority:

- Housing
- Parks Expansion
- Lincoln Street Completion
- Family Entertainment Center

Third Priority:

- Family Entertainment Center
- Entrepreneurship
- Expansion of transit system
- Veterans Memorial downtown
- First Responders needs
- Parks & Recreation Expansion

Department Heads Top First Priority:

- Salaries
- Infrastructure
- Updated Equipment
- Personnel

What is impacted by the Budget?

- Housing
- Stormwater
- Family Entertainment Center
- Veterans Memorial
- First Responders
- Parks & Recreation

Critical for the City

- Look at the budget to see what the city can afford
- Infrastructure
- Become proactive instead of reactive
- Veterans Memorial Parkway - infrastructure needs to be developed as the roadway is developed.
- Identify industrial land to get build ready
- Get the City, County, and Schools to work together
- Get industries in the Industrial Park - 70 acres build ready fed by rail line

City Attorney William Dykeman spoke regarding making an effort for education in the workforce which will prove invaluable.

Mr. Long noted he and Ms. Stoll would work on the list of priorities that was provided and return to hold a meeting to make any corrections on the work plan before a final presentation to the Board.

Mayor Reed thanked Mr. Long and Ms. Stoll for their hard work on this important project.

ADJOURN MEETING

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With no further business, on motion by Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Book, and with unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

JoEllen Reed, Mayor

Joy L. Curtis, City Clerk