WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, special meeting

Commissioners accept police chief's retirement, promote new chief to start Feb. 1

The City of Winchester is starting the new year welcoming a new chief of police.

At the Jan. 9 special-called meeting of the Winchester Board of Commissioners, the commission accepted the resignation of Chief James Hall and appointed Sgt. Travis Thompson as the new Winchester Police chief

Hall's retirement will be effective Jan. 31, with Thompson taking over the role Feb. 1.

Hall has been chief since 2022, when

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Sgt. Travis Thompson will become Winchester police chief Feb. 1.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!

The next meeting of the Winchester City Commission will be Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. There will be a 4:30 p.m. special meeting and a 5:30 p.m. regular meeting.

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WINCHESTER

MAYOR: JoEllen Reed
COMMISSIONERS: Joe Chenault, Shannon Cox, Kitty Strode & Hannah Toole
CITY MANAGER: Bruce Manley

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he was promoted to fill the role after former Chief Kevin Palmer's retirement. Hall, who has more than 20 years of experience in law enforcement, was previously over the department's criminal investigations unit.

Thompson joined the Winchester Police Department as an officer in 2005, while living in Lexington. He moved to Winchester with his wife, Cenchrea, in 2007, and has called the community home since then. The Thompsons have two children, Tucker and Addison.

Thompson served the WPD from 2005 to 2012, when he purchased Doyle's Lawn and Landscaping company. He took a hiatus from his time as an officer and ran the business for more than five years, but returned to the force in the fall of 2018, and has served since then.

In addition to his time as an officer, Thompson also served one term as the second district magistrate on the Clark County Fiscal Court from 2019 to 2022.

Thompson, who said working in law enforcement

See photos of Thompson's promotion ceremony on page 3.

was an interest of his from a young age, said he is passionate about helping the victims of crime.

"There's nothing more rewarding than returning someone's stolen property or helping the victim of a crime seek justice in the situation," he said.

He said the idea of being chief is still "surreal" but he was proud to take the department over from good hands and continue the work already in place.

"My goals are to continue to protect and serve the community," he said. "The support of our community for local law enforcement is incredible. Even in the darkest times of law enforcement, the community stands behind us."

Additionally, Thompson praised the officers he will have the opportunity to lead.

"They are the best," he said. "I would put them up against any law enforcement officers in the world. They are caring and compassionate and they work hard."

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission:

— accepted and approved a bid for $415,739.98 for the Jackson Street bridge removal and waterline relocation to H&B Construction of Winchester.

— approved the second reading of a joint ordinance with Clark County amending zoning requirements related to sign regulations. With the updated ordinance, signs placed in right-of-ways will be subject to immediate confiscation and termination.

— approved the second reading of a joint ordinance with Clark County amending penalties related to the Winchester-Clark County Zoning Ordinance. With the updated ordinance, violations of the zoning ordinance will constitute a civil offense rather than a criminal offense, and will be cited to the Administrative Hearing Board.

— approved the first reading of an ordinance eliminating the Winchester Licensing Board. Duties of the licensing board would now be conducted by the Administrative Hearing Board. The ordinance will require a second reading.

— designated Commissioner Kitty Strode as mayor pro-tem for a two-year term.

— appointed Commissioner Joe Chenault to the Winchester Municipal Utilities Commission for a two-year term.

— appointed commissioners Shannon Cox and Hannah Toole to two-year terms on the Revenue-Sharing Committee.

— appointed commissioners Shannon Cox and Hannah Toole to the Insurance Committee for two-year terms.

— appointed commissioners Kitty Strode and Joe Chenault to the Public Works Committee for two-year terms.

— appointed Commissioner Kitty Strode to the Clark County-Winchester Heritage Commission for a two-year term.

— appointed Commissioner Shannon Cox to the Clark County Generations Center Board of Directors for a two-year term.

— reappointed Cassandra Riddell to a four-year term on the Winchester-Clark County Board of Adjustments.

— appointed Roni-Anne Denham to the Winchester Board of Ethics for a three-year term.

— accepted and approved a memorandum of agreement with the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the City of Winchester Stream Restoration Project on Fifth Street for $350,000.

— approved requests for out-of-state travel for employees of the finance department and the Winchester Police Department.

TOP LEFT: Winchester Police Chief James Hall listens as the Winchester Board of Commissioners accepts his retirement, which will be effective Jan. 31.

TOP RIGHT: Incoming Police Chief Travis Thompson is pinned by his wife, Cenchrea. Thompson will take over the role Feb. 1

ABOVE: Thompson poses with Winchester Police officers and his family, including his wife, Cenchrea, and children, Tucker and Addison.

LEFT: Thompson poses for a photo with the commissioners, Chief James Hall and former Chief Kevin Palmer.