



WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, 4:30 p.m. special meeting and 5:30 p.m. regular meeting

Commission exploring upgrades to city's fire-EMS facilities

In its Oct. 15 meeting, the Winchester City Commission heard results from a study into the Winchester Fire-EMS facilities. Staff advisor Mike Flynn presented the study, which proposed three phases of renovations and construction to improve the city's facilities.

The study was completed by GRW Engineering, which has completed similar studies and subsequent projects in Jefferson County and the cities of Harlan, Henry and Nicholasville.

During the study, GRW explored response times, which will inform suggestions for sites of a potential new station. Additionally, the firm looked at the existing facilities at Stations 1, 2 and 3, and made recommendations on phases of renovations.

GRW recommended renovations and an addition at Station 3, which was constructed in 1996; a feasibility study to look at a potential new site for Station 2, which was constructed in 1973; and limited renovations at Station 1, which was constructed in 1975.

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DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!

The next meeting of the Winchester City Commission will be Tuesday, Nov. 19. There will be a 4:30 p.m. special meeting and a 5:30 p.m. regular meeting. The meeting originally scheduled for Nov. 5 has been canceled for Election Day.

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MAYOR: JoEllen Reed

COMMISSIONERS: Kenny Book, Shannon Cox, Kitty Strode, Hannah Toole

CITY MANAGER: Bruce Manley

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Tim Smith honored as Hall of Famer



The Winchester City Commission honored Tim Smith, longtime voice of WWKY Radio, during the Oct. 15 meeting. Smith was recently inducted into the Kentucky Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Pictured from left are Commissioner Hannah Toole, Commissioner Kenny Book, Smith, Mayor JoEllen Reed, Commissioner Kitty Strode and Commissioner Shannon Cox.

World champion fisherman recognized



The Winchester City Commission honored George Rogers Clark High sophomore Bryce Alfrey during the Oct. 15 meeting. Bryce, along with his fishing partner, Elijah Coleman from Montgomery County High School, won first place in the 15th Annual High School Fishing World Finals and Championship and set a world record in the process. Pictured from left are Commissioner Hannah Toole, Commissioner Kenny Book, Alfrey, Mayor JoEllen Reed, Commissioner Kitty Strode and Commissioner Shannon Cox.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The commission:

- conducted a public hearing and approved the second reading of an ordinance setting ad valorem taxes for 2025 of 12.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real estate and 13.63 cents per \$100 of assessed value on personal property. These rates are down from 12.6 cents and 15.3 cents, respectively, in 2024. The change reflects accepting the compensating rate plus 4 percent.
- approved travel requests for training purposes for Winchester Fire-EMS personnel.
- declared property obsolete and surplus.
- accepted a proposal from Palmer Engineering for the Seventh Street new roadway alignment shift for \$305,711.88 and accepted the completion of the original design for the Seventh Street extension project.
- approved funding from the Downtown Development Investment Fund for properties located at 21 E. Broadway St., 68 S. Main St., and 63 S. Main St.
- adopted a new pay classification plan that aligns with the recent compensation study.
- reclassified Landon Colson, Manuel Gamez, Zachary Groves, Noah Whaley and Josh Berry with the fire department.
- promoted Matthew Moses, Dalls Gross and Huner McFarland from firefighter III/EMT to lieutenant/EMT.
- granted longevity salary increases to certain personnel.
- approved an order hiring Michael Martin to fill the role of EMS brigade chief (pictured at right)
- approved an order hiring Nathan Zachary to fill the role of EMS lieutenant (pictured at right).
- promoted Amber Ball, David Hacker, Melissa Parker and Kristopher Vallance from full-time single-role paramedic to EMS lieutenant (pictured on the next page).



ABOVE: Michael Martin receives his badge after being hired to fill the role of EMS brigade chief for Winchester Fire-EMS.



ABOVE: Nathan Zachary receives his badge after being hired to as an EMS lieutenant for Winchester Fire-EMS.

Firefighters promoted during pinning ceremony



Pictured clockwise from top left are Amber Ball, David Hacker, Kristopher Vallance and Melissa Parker receiving their badges after being promoted from part-time single-role paramedics to EMS lieutenant.



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Recommended changes include:

- Station 1: Renovations to the offices and dorms and new bay doors
- Station 2: Selection of a site for new construction
- Station 3: Renovations including HVAC, electrical, room upgrades, upgrades to equipment storage, ADA upgrades and adding a back-up generator.

Flynn noted that repairs have been made over the years, but there is a need for comprehensive upgrades to the facilities to improve usability.

"Things have been patched to get you through, but at some point, we need to reconstruct and bring things up to standard," he said.

Mayor JoEllen Reed agreed.

"Over time, we've used all the Band-aids in the box. The time is now to make these changes," she said.

Flynn recommended the commission approve Phase A of the project, for an estimated \$118,515.

"I think it goes along with the strategic plan. I think it goes along with your budget and I think it goes along with your financing plan," he said.

Reed asked City Manager Bruce Manley to add further discussion and approval to the next meeting agenda. The Commission meets again Nov. 19.