



WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, 4:30 p.m. special meeting and 5:30 p.m. regular meeting

Joint ordinance will address signs in right-of-ways

A proposed joint ordinance of the City of Winchester and Clark County aims to reduce the number of signs placed in right-of-ways.

The Winchester Board of Commissioners passed the first reading of the ordinance at its Tuesday, Dec. 17, meeting.

The ordinance, if it receives a second vote by the city commission and approval by the Clark County Fiscal Court, would amend a pre-existing sign regulation. The new regulations would state that "no sign may be placed in or project into the public or private street right-of-way." Signs in violation of this amended regulation would be subject to immediate removal and destruction.

The right-of-way is the area owned and maintained by the city, county or a private property owner near a street. Signs in the right-of-way can obstruct the view of drivers, distract drivers or create other hazards for drivers and pedestrians.

The proposed revisions came after a public meeting hosted by the Winchester-Clark County Planning Commission in August.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!

The next meeting of the Winchester City Commission will be Tuesday, Jan. 7. There will be a 4:30 p.m. special meeting and a 5:30 p.m. regular meeting.

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MAYOR: JoEllen Reed

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

CITY MANAGER: Bruce Manley

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Commission addresses tree trimming by utility companies

The Winchester Board of Commissioners passed a resolution Tuesday night aimed at making sure property is left in good shape after utility companies trim trees.

The issue was brought to the commission at the Nov. 19 meeting when Rick Knowles, a resident of College Street, shared that a utility company planned to cut down a tree on his property and then leave the tree to be cleaned up by the property owner.

At that meeting, the commission requested a resolution to address the issues, stating that utility companies should leave property in as good or better condition than they found it at the time of work.

At Tuesday's meeting, the resolution was approved. It read: "The City of Winchester has deemed it in the best interest of its citizens to recommend the utility companies with assets in the City be involved with the maintenance of said assets. The City recommends the utility companies, when hiring tree-trimming companies inside the City limits, observe and protect property owners/residents during the clearing process."

Additionally, the resolution states that all hired tree-trimming companies should leave properties in a clean manner, "as when the property was before trimming began."

Knowles was present at the Dec. 17 meeting and thanked the commission for addressing the issue quickly.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission:

- approved requests for out-of-state travel for fire, EMS and police employees.
- approved the second reading of an ordinance to establish a Downtown Development Investment Fund board, and appointed Randy Brookshire, Will Grant, Allison Roberts, Ronda Simmons and Tracey Goebel to the board for various staggered term limits.
- approved a change of zoning classification for 3.744 acres at 175 Chatham Place from highway business (B-3) to residential townhome (R-6) zoning.
- appointed Graelin Menifee and Rosalinda Gay to four-year terms on the Housing Authority of Winchester.
- approved an order declaring three police vehicles obsolete and surplus, and transferred the vehicles to Clark County Public Schools to be used by school resource officers.
- authorized the purchase of a 2025 Chevy Silverado 2500 truck.
- approved an order acknowledging the roadway leading to the Cardinal Innovation Center is a private roadway named Marty Jackson Way in memory of police Sgt. William M. Jackson.
- appointed city commissioners Kitty Strode and Hannah Toole to the joint city-county EMS committee for two-year terms.

Proposed ordinance would make zoning violations a civil offense

The Winchester Board of Commissioners approved the first reading of an ordinance that would make violations to zoning laws a civil offense rather than a criminal offense.

The ordinance would be a joint city-county ordinance. According to the proposed

ordinance, a violation of the zoning ordinance will be liable to citation to the Administrative Hearing Board and, "subject to all remedies and fines associated," with the ordinance 2-381 to 2.410 and KRS 65.8801-8840. Previously, the ordinance stated that failure to comply

with zoning orders would constitute a misdemeanor and violators could face fines of \$10 to \$500.

The proposed revisions came after a public meeting hosted by the Winchester-Clark County Planning Commission in August.



Distinguished Young Woman recognized

During the Dec. 17 meeting, the Winchester Board of Commissioners recognized Clark County's Distinguished Young Woman, Caroline Harper. Harper, a junior at George Rogers Clark High School, won the honor in June, and will compete in the state competition in January. She is the daughter of Ben and Amy Harper of Winchester.



National Champion JROTC Raiders receive recognition

Mayor JoEllen Reed and the Winchester City Commissioners recognized a dozen George Rogers Clark High School students who are now national champions. The members of the male GRC Long Knife Raider teams competed in the second annual JROTC National Raider Challenge and won Challenge Division National Champions. More than 300 teams from across the country competed for the title.