



WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Tuesday, March 4, 4:30 p.m. special and 5:30 p.m. regular meetings

Commission hears proposed policy changes for parks

At the Tuesday, March 4, meeting, the Winchester Board of Commissioners approved the first reading of proposed changes to a policy involving conduct in local parks. The policies are part of a joint city-county ordinance.

The first amendment to the policy would establish open hours for parks from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. from March to November and from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. from December to February.

The policy also addresses

prohibited behaviors in parks. The first change would prohibit the use of “verbal and non-verbal” profanity in parks. Another change would prohibit the use of tobacco products within 50 feet of any playground, seating area/shelter, park, building entry or facility entrance.

The policy previously prohibited bringing pets into parks at all. The new policy would allow pets in local parks but require all pets to be leashed. Winchester-Clark

County Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Lewis told the commission it is easier to enforce a leash law and install “pet stations” with waste clean-up products than to enforce a no-pets policy.

The policy also states that operating flying vehicles, including drones, is not allowed in any airspace in or over park property or facilities. Additionally, the policy now prohibits any open fire or flames in parks

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DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!

The next meeting of the Winchester Board of Commissioners will be Tuesday, March 18. There will be a 4:30 p.m. special meeting and a 5:30 p.m. regular meeting.

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except in designated grills and requires all fires in grills to be extinguished before leaving the park.

The final amendment addresses adults in local parks. According to the amendment, any person 18 or older is not permitted within 50 feet of any park, playground or facility intended for exclusive use by minors unless they are accompanied by a minor.

The complete policy also addresses things like alcoholic beverages, gambling, motor vehicles, sales, signage, weapons and noise, but these portions of the ordinance were not amended.

Lewis also presented a list of rules for using parks and recreation's pickle ball courts.

The Winchester Board of Commissioners approved the first reading of the amended policies. It will require a second reading. Lewis said the Clark County Fiscal Court is in the process of reviewing the changes as well.

Castle promoted to Fire-EMT lieutenant



During the March 4 meeting of the Winchester Board of Commissioners, Heith Castle was pinned and promoted from firefighter III/EMT-A to lieutenant EMT-A.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the commission:

— heard a presentation from Andy Obringer, senior utility arborist for Kentucky Utilities, regarding maintenance and removal of trees in utility lines.

— noted that advertisements for bids for the Main Street High Side project went out Feb. 22. Bids will be accepted until 2 p.m. March 17.

— approved the second reading of an ordinance amending the noise and noise abatement ordinance to include engine brakes commonly referred to as “Jake Brakes,” which when used, create a loud rumbling noise. The amendment makes it illegal to use these types of brakes in residential areas in the city limits between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

— approved a request for out-of-state travel for several Winchester Police officers to attend National Police Week in Washington, DC, to honor Sgt. Marty Jackson at the annual Candlelight Vigil and National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

— approved requests to close Depot Street May 16, June 13, July 18 and Aug. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. for the annual Rock the Block Concert Series.

— approved requests to close Depot Street April 25, Aug. 16 and Nov. 1 for cruise ins and car shows.

— approved a resolution entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for a \$500,000 grant for the Jackson Street Bridge project.

— approved an order appointing Debbie Barnes to a four-year term on the Clark County-Winchester Heritage Commission.

— accepted Roni-Anne Denham's resignation from the Winchester Board of Ethics.

— approved an order establishing a new open records policy for the city. Previously, open records requests were handled through the city manager's office. With the new policy, open records requests will be handled through the city clerk's office.

— approved orders employing Lance Henry, Micah Whiteley, Andrew Barnett, Corey Rush, Owen Hellard and Xavier Riley as firefighter I/EMT. This group makes up the 2025 recruiting class for Winchester Fire-EMS.

— approved an order adopting a job description for an assistant chief of police position.

— approved the second reading of an ordinance amending parking violation fines. The following penalties were instated:

- Over two hours: \$20
- Double parked: \$20
- Blocked driveway: \$20
- Blocked sidewalk: \$20
- Street sweeping: \$20
- Yellow line: \$20
- Loading zone: \$20
- Fire hydrant: \$75
- Fire lane: \$75
- Handicapped: \$200
- Other: \$20