



WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, special meeting

Commissioners revisit, update strategic work plan

The Winchester Board of Commissioners has a vision for the city, outlined in its Strategic Work Plan.

Developed in 2023, the plan identifies the city's project goals and budget priorities for the next three to five years. The mayor and commissioners participated in three work sessions with the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) to develop and refine it.

As the commission approaches the three-year mark since the plan's creation, KLC officials returned during the Aug. 5 commission meeting to discuss successes,

areas needing more work, and new priorities.

John Buchanan, community and economic development advisor with KLC, facilitated the work session, during which the current plan was reviewed and modified.

In 2023, the commission's top four goals were:

- Housing
- Parks and recreation
- Infrastructure
- Quality of life

Ongoing projects from 2023 include the Seventh Street Project, the Splash Pad (expected

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DON'T MISS
THE NEXT
MEETING!

The Winchester
Board of
Commissioners will
meet at 4:30 p.m.
and 5:30 p.m. on
Tuesday, Aug. 19.

What's Inside?

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to open this summer), park maintenance, the Main Street High Side project (expected to be unveiled later this year), and the east side of the Lincoln Street project.

Completed projects include the Town Branch Stormwater Project, Fulton Road Extension, the west side of Lincoln Street, and upgraded and expanded Public Works facilities.

Looking ahead, the commission aims to focus on staffing for essential city services, converting dilapidated properties into affordable housing, and strategic use of Opioid Abatement funds.

The four top goals were

expanded into seven strategic areas: infrastructure, quality of life, parks and recreation, housing, downtown, safety, and education/workforce training. Within the plan, each area is assigned a list of priority goals.

Some key priorities include:

- Completing road projects and extensions (infrastructure)
- Expanding entertainment opportunities for young people and families (quality of life)
- Increasing and improving community events (quality of life)
- Completing the Splash Pad (parks and recreation)
- Funding a feasibility study for upgraded equipment, paving,

- and maintenance at local parks (parks and recreation)
- Strengthening enforcement of downtown ordinances (downtown)
- Partnering to recruit a downtown grocery store (downtown)
- Exploring and implementing second-chance employment programs (education/workforce training)

The Strategic Work Plan, available at winchesterky.com, outlines the direct budget impacts of each goal and sets a projected timeline for completion.

This work session is one of several planned to update and guide the future of Winchester.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the commission:

— approved an order modifying the Downtown Development Investment Fund eligibility map to include the Historic District Overlay and the TIF district.

— approved a resolution authorizing filing a Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) program for up to \$827,436 in funds with the Cabinet for Economic Development.

— approved a joint ordinance with Clark County amending a zoning ordinance regulating first-floor residential dwellings within the B-2 Zoning District (downtown Winchester). According to the ordinance, residential units may be located on the first floor of a building within this district if the unit is located behind a commercial/professional storefront, the front façade and character of building are not altered and the unit is a minimum of 200 square feet or 50% of the floor's total area, whichever is greater.

— approved a joint ordinance with Clark County amending the zoning ordinance as it relates to development plans. Updated Kentucky Revised Statutes states that planning and zoning staff may approve development plans meeting the minimum requirements outlined in the ordinance.

— approved an order accepting Elizabeth Morton's resignation from the Winchester-Clark

County Planning Commission and appointed Garry Taylor, III to fill the unexpired term.

— approved an order appointing Preston Albritton to a four-year term on the Winchester-Clark County Board of Adjustments.

— approved an order approving an agreement with Summers, McCrary and Sparks PSC for auditing services.

— approved an order awarding a bid for asbestos inspection on properties for Phase II of the Lincoln Street CDBG Redevelopment Project. Commissioners Shannon Cox and Joe Chenault recused themselves from the vote because of conflicts of interest.

— approved an order approving funding from the Downtown Development Investment Fund for new business stipend and kickstarter grants for Thoroughbred Innovations, located at 5 Cleveland Ave., Ste. 202.

— approved an order approving funding from the Downtown Development Investment Fund for an upper-story residential grant at 24 N. Main St.

— approved a Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program separate deed restriction for the Eugene Gay Splash Park.

— approved an order accepting the Jackson Street Bridge removal and water line relocation and making a final adjustment for \$46,033.95.