



WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025, 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. meetings

\$55K in relief funds approved for Downtown businesses

At its Tuesday, Oct. 7, meeting the Winchester Board of Commissioners approved more than \$80,000 in grant funding to support downtown businesses.

Of that funding, \$55,000 will go directly to businesses to help alleviate losses related to the High Side construction project.

The funds are part of the Downtown Development Investment Fund, which

**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, Oct. 21.

offers a variety of grants to downtown business and property owners to offset the costs of renovating downtown buildings and starting a business in the

downtown district.

The DDIF program, which was established in 2019, has distributed approximately \$300,000 to downtown business and property owners. The program is funded by public and private donations, including regular support from the City of Winchester, the Clark County Community Foundation and the Beer Cheese Festival

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Committee.

Recently, the commission approved a grant project aimed at providing relief for businesses impacted by the Main Street High Side project. The Main Street High Side Business Support Grant offers up to \$3,000 to businesses impacted by the construction project. To qualify, businesses must be within the DDIF district and provide a narrative explaining how the project directly impacted their operations.

The High Side project, which began in earnest in April and is expected to be substantially complete by Nov. 1, has presented challenges for businesses in the downtown district. Sidewalk closures,

limited access, reduced parking and loud noises are some of the disruptions detailed by downtown business owners.

"...each letter revealed perspectives and hardships I had not previously considered, along with ways in which more support could have been offered. Reading them underscored the resilience of our business community and the importance of listening closely to their lived experiences," Downtown Development Director Whitney Leggett wrote in a letter to commissioners accompanying the grant proposals.

The DDIF program is administered by the Downtown Development

Director and has a five-member board. Board members scored the grant applications on a variety of criteria, including dependence on walk-in traffic.

The following businesses were awarded Main Street High Side Support grants: The Hall, Maka Mia, Hamilton Brooks, Court Street Gifts, Harlow's Luxe Living, Pitmaster's BBQ, Eve's Uniques, Mason, Eklektic Alchemy, Brown Proctor Hair Design, Amy's Asian Kitchen, Whiskey & Wiles, The Fly Witches, Erika's Vocal Arts Academy, Winchester Opera House, Loma's, Laura's Mercantile, Your Sport and Spade and Archer Leather.

Funds are expected to be distributed to impacted businesses by Oct. 24.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the commission:

— approved the first reading of an ordinance accepting the 2025 tax assessment, imposing the following tax rates: 12.3 cents per \$100 of assessed real property value and 15.55 cents for \$100 of assessed personal property. Taxes will be due on Dec. 12, 2025.

— heard a presentation from Public Works Director Brian Sewell about a new app called "Fix It Winchester," which will allow residents to report city maintenance concerns (things like potholes, missing street signs, roadway obstructions, etc.) electronically. The app,

which is set to launch Oct. 27, will be available on Apple and Android devices. With the app, residents can report concerns, track progress on remediation and look at other concerns reported in the city.

— approved a resolution declaring October 2025 as City Government Month in Winchester.

— approved an order awarding a bid for replacement and installation of the Public Safety Radio Microwave System to Southern Communications for \$50,716.50.

— accepted a grant for \$827,436 from the Cabinet for Economic Development's

GRANT program. The money would be used as matching funds for a SAFER grant for which the city has applied. The SAFER grant would fund more staff at Winchester Fire-EMS. Results from the SAFER application are pending.

— approved a contract with Public Consulting Group for an emergency services agreement.

— accepted a bid for two EC units from Emergency Transportation Associates representing Frazer, Ltd. for \$780,550.

— approved change order No. 1 from The Allen Company for the Main Street High Side project.