

September 20, 2021

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2021 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 N. Wood River Avenue, with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Deputy Clerk called the roll and reported that the following members were:

PRESENT: Leroy Duncan  
 Sonya Hagaman  
 Jeremy Plank  
 Scott Tweedy  
 Tom Stalcup

and that a quorum was present and in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 7, 2021, as printed, seconded by Councilman Duncan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
 NAYS: None (0)

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved for approval of the bills submitted for payment for the period September 3 to September 16, 2021, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
 NAYS: None (0)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Councilman Duncan moved to approve the Financial Statement for the period ending August 31, 2021, as printed, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
 NAYS: None (0)

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Betty Miser stated she should not still have to be discussing the issue of the Roundhouse. She was always told if she wanted her voice heard you were to go to the polls and vote. She stated the citizens of Wood River did just that. She feels the current council should know the people knew what they were voting for. She asked the council to do the right thing and listen to the citizens of Wood River.

Pastor Dave Landry stated he is angry, just like he was when the outgoing Mayor disrupted the incoming Mayor's ability to act out policies. He has watched what has gone on with council and feels like it's been a bunch of nonsense, and nothing is getting done. He stated its time to listen to the citizens of Wood River and what they want for the city. He hopes tonight that the council will vote yes to put the funds back in the budget for the Roundhouse. The Roundhouse has been a part of his life since he was a kid, and he has plans to use it in the future. He thanked Councilman Plank and the Mayor for bringing this issue back up. He stated now is not the time to battle over the cost of the Rec Center and that the citizens would be more in favor of having a swimming pool. He feels the Rec Center would not pay for itself and that people would not utilize the Rec Center just like no one uses East Alton's center.

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Bill Dettmers stated that tonight there would be a lot heard about the dissatisfaction of the Council for the last year to two years. He informed the Council that they would have the opportunity to restore the confidence the city has had in the past for the Council. He feels the \$180,000 should be put back into the budget to restore and make improvements to the Roundhouse. He wants the monies put to work to get the Roundhouse back into good operations. He stated the council should vote to make sure the Rec Center does not move forward and that the Roundhouse is preserved.

Sara Sladek started by thanking the council for getting the audio louder at the meetings. The people of the city were not uninformed and they voted to keep the Roundhouse and she wants the council to listen to what the people want. She referred to comments made by the Parks & Rec Director sometime in the past eluding to the city not being able to afford a Rec Center. She asked the council to think about what the citizens have said.

Delores Corder stated that 70% voted to keep the Roundhouse and that the city would not tear down the Roundhouse if it was structurally sound. She wanted to know how a few people can determine what's needed for Wood River when it was clear what was wanted. The Roundhouse is wanted and those who do not want it need to be voted out of council.

Mary Roberts wanted to reiterate what has already been said. She stated she put an ad in the newspaper and has received several comments about not tearing down the Roundhouse and not building a Rec Center. People want other things in the city fixed first, so she stated the council needs to put the money back in the budget to fix the Roundhouse.

Chuck Johansen stated that over the years he has come to know a lot of people in the community and that there is one common thread the people have an issue with, which is trust. He commented he was at the workshop for the Roundhouse and that several times in that meeting it was mentioned that the Roundhouse was not going to be torn down, but the design did not include it. He asked the council to listen to the community because they feel when they attend meetings they are not being heard and put on a time limit. He stated there was nepotism going on in the city which is what kills progress.

Mayor Stalcup stated the comments made caught him off guard. He believes the current council has done an excellent job in helping the community. His office doors have been open to anyone that would like to come in and discuss anything they needed. He stated there has not been discussion of tearing down the Roundhouse. The money approved in the final budget is going to be used to repair the roof at the Roundhouse. The repairs take a lot of time and budgetary planning.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND FY 21/22 BUDGET TO INCLUDE \$180,000 FOR ROUNDHOUSE RENOVATIONS - DENIED:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 21/22 budget to include \$180,000 as originally indicated in the proposed budget for repairs to the Roundhouse, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilwoman Hagaman stated the new budget will be started in December and she does not see a reason to amend the current budget now. The Roundhouse is not in disrepair. \$10,000 was budgeted to fix the hole in the roof and due to the busy seasonal programs for Parks & Rec the roof repair has not been completed at this time. Projects for this department are normally completed in the fall.

Councilman Plank stated its important to get moving on this now. He spoke on the length of time that it's going to take to receive materials for the completion of the golf course repairs. He believes now is the time for the Roundhouse repairs to be completed.

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Councilwoman Hagaman asked City Manager Jim Schneider if there was \$100,000 put into a contingency fund due to some city property being sold with the purpose of it being used for the Roundhouse, by the previous administration. City Manager Schneider agreed. Councilwoman Hagaman made the point that this money can be added to a line item in the new budget and that the building is solid and not anywhere near disrepair. City Manager Schneider agreed.

Councilman Plank stated that the Roundhouse is like any other building and if things aren't taken care of it gets to the point of being irreparable. With it coming up on the off season he feels it necessary for the funds to be added back into the budget

Councilwoman Hagaman asked Director Woody if the \$10,000 would fix the roof so the Roundhouse is functional. Director Woody stated a timeframe was not given on how long it would last but that it would only be a band-aid fix. The roof repair was roughly \$75,000 prior to 2020. Councilwoman Hagaman stated the emergency funds were discussed for the pump at the golf course because the course brings business, revenue, and tourism to our city. The Roundhouse is a cherished treasure, and she too has met many people there. The implication that the current council does not have connection to the Roundhouse, she feels, is an insult. The pump at the golf course needs to be fixed immediately and the repairs to the Roundhouse can wait.

Mayor Stalcup stated the golf course brings in its own revenue and has its own account. The pump will be paid out of the general fund and then in turn the golf course is paying that back.

Councilwoman Hagaman stated the council is getting ready to approve a \$450,000 playground to be placed next to the Roundhouse. Council would not move forward or choose to do this next to a building they no longer wanted there.

The ordinance was denied by the following vote:

AYES: Plank (1)  
NAYS: Duncan, Hagaman, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

ORDINANCE 2744 AGREEMENT 1301: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CHRIS JOHNSON AT 6 W. FERGUSON FOR TIF ASSISTANCE:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve authorizing the execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with Chris Johnson for 6 W. Ferguson for TIF Financial Assistance, as submitted by the TIF Committee, seconded by Councilman Duncan, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE 2745 AGREEMENT 1302: AUTHORIZING LINE OF CREDIT WITH CNB BANK AND TRUST FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance authorizing a line of credit with CNB Bank & Trust N.A. for up to \$2,500,000.00 at 1.99% for various capital projects, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Duncan.

Councilman Plank asked Finance Director Sobrino to provide an explanation. Director Sobrino stated the City anticipated receiving funding from the State revolving loan fund however the city is only refunded once the project is complete. The city does not anticipate using this line of credit but it will at least be in place to fill the gap until the project is completed, if needed.

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The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
 NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION 1948: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTING AN ILLINOIS DCEO GRANT FOR ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of a resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Notice of State Award for an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant in the amount of \$450,000.00 to purchase accessible playground equipment, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Duncan.

Councilwoman Hagaman mentioned that this is just one of the millions of dollars of grants that Director Woody has brought to the city and parks. She commended Director Woody on the improvements of the parks over the past 10 to 15 years and asked the citizens to not only look at what they believe needs to be fixed but to also look at the improvements that have been completed.

Councilman Plank asked Director Woody to explain which park this would be replacing and how it fits within the plan of the Rec Center.

Director Woody stated it is a complete replacement of the playground at the Roundhouse. It is an all-inclusive playground and is a larger playground than what the City has currently. It will be built around the Roundhouse and pavilion currently at Central Park.

Councilman Plank asked Director Woody if the addition of this playground was included in the design looked at in June for the Rec Center.

Director Woody stated there was not a specific design for the playground at the time so it was not to scale. This new playground essentially will be placed next to the Roundhouse.

Councilman Tweedy commended Director Woody on the work done to secure the grant for the new playground.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
 NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION 1949: AMEND THE CITY'S INVESTMENT POLICY:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved for approval of a resolution amending the City's investment policy, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
 NAYS: None (0)

BID ACCEPTANCE FOR EAST END DETENTION PROJECT – APPROVED:

Councilman Plank moved to accept the bid from Haier Plumbing & Heating for the East End Detention project in the amount of \$1,879,208.50, as recommended by the Public Works Director, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman.

Councilman Plank commented that he was pleased with the number of bids that were received and it was nice to see the bid chosen was under the original estimated cost for the project.

Mayor Stalcup stated this project should start soon.

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The bid acceptance was approved with the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
NAYS: None (0)

APPLY FOR THE OSFM SMALL EQUIPMENT GRANT FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT/FIREFIGHTER GEAR – APPROVED:

Councilman Tweedy moved to apply for the OSFM Small Equipment Grant for personal protection equipment/firefighter gear, as submitted by the Fire Chief, seconded by Councilman Duncan and approved with the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
NAYS: None (0)

REQUEST TO UTILIZE CITY SIDEWALKS IN FRONT OF WOOD RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR A YARD SALE:

Councilman Duncan moved for approval of a request from the Library Foundation to utilize the sidewalk in front of the Wood River Public Library for a yard sale on Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 8:00am-1:00pm, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)  
NAYS: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS:

None

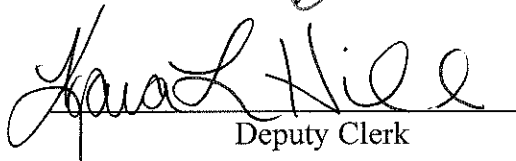
NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Deputy Clerk