

October 18, 2021

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:08 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 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.

Mayor Stalcup asked for a moment of silence for Neil Neunaber who was a longtime volunteer on the Police and Fire Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Duncan moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2021, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy 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 October 1 to October 14, 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 FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Councilman Duncan moved for approval of the financial statement ending September 30, 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:

Sara Sladek stated that serving on the City Council is an honor given by fellow citizens. It can be a challenge but the community has selected you to serve in an honorable manner during good times and bad. She asked council to conduct themselves in a manner so when they look back at their time on council it is done so with pride. She stated that the citizens spoke to no Rec Center and to maintain the Roundhouse. She feels Council owes it to the community to follow through on citizens wishes.

Don McReynolds stated he lives in the first brick house on the right side of 9th Street going up the hill. He explained that between the pumpstation and his house there is a concrete ditch or culvert that is overgrown and filled with mud and trash. He stated that he has tried to keep it maintained but it's now out of control and feels a backhoe will be needed to clean it out. He was recently told that this parcel of land had been sold and now the new owners may be responsible to maintain it. He stated that it is an eyesore and makes the city look bad and he asks the Council to have something done about the issue.

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Bill Dettmers informed council that last Thursday he met with the Mayor and the City Manager and he informed them that he had filed a lawsuit against the City for failing to provide documents subject to a FOIA request. He believes the City has been withholding documents, however, he doesn't blame the City Clerk for this. He knows she's honest, hardworking, and trying to do her best and it's regrettable that she is caught up in this crossfire. He has no doubt that she was directed not to release certain documents. He stated that on October 4th, 2021 he asked Council to hold a town hall meeting similar to what was done in 2018, which is up for vote tonight. At a meeting last Thursday with the Mayor and City Manager he was told that the City Attorney advised there is no authority or state statute for town hall meetings, they may be illegal and there is a question of whether the vote can even be held tonight. He stated the City does not need a state statute to hold town hall meetings. He reminded the Mayor and City Manager that they said the 2018 town hall meetings were not sanctioned by the City but organized by the former Mayor. He stated that each council member and department head attended those meetings. He was told that they attended voluntarily and not in their official capacity. Mr. Dettmers then held up flyers that were sent out by the City stating that the Council held the meetings as well as public notices announcing the meetings and posted by the City Clerk. He then referred to a FOIA reply given to him stating there were no minutes kept at those meetings. This is a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Dettmers then stated he was told that the City Attorney told the City Manager he has the authority to put something on or remove something from the agenda. Mr. Dettmers does not believe the City Manager has that authority. He is concerned with the way the City operates its business and that is because no one has been watching until now. Eventually the luck will run out and someone may face charges for violating the law. He asks them to take time and review their practices.

Joe Reames wanted to follow up on some of Mr. Dettmers comments. He stated he does not know what was advised legally concerning town hall meetings nor did he have time to research the municipal code. He did a quick google search and found other municipalities that have held town hall meetings. He then referenced several that he found on his google search. He believes the City can hold a town hall in a more free flowing question and answer session then the formality of a council meeting.

Chuck Johansen stated he spoke to Springfield and the City violated election laws by having the city clerk send a letter stating vote for the 1% sales tax, signs in the building to vote for the 1% sales tax, employees placing signs while they were working saying vote for the 1% sales tax. He attended the meetings at Belk Park and it was a dog and pony show. There is a trust problem here. He has insight of other projects through the Wood River Levee District. These things will not happen as quick as everybody thinks they will. The City owes it to the people behind the hospital to get the project done. He grew up at Elble and State and there was a lot of sewer problems. It hinders the selling of property in this area. The State Street sewer separation needs to get done before the Rec Center. He reminded the Council that the township went around the voters to build the hospital and look what happened to the hospital. The bonds plagued property owners because they still had to be paid off. Roberts Rules of order allows you to suspend meetings and move on to something else. He is not sure why the Council thinks they cannot hold a town hall meeting. Maybe Council is just scared.

Mayor Stalcup commended Patrol Officers Hawkins and Gallaher. Both officers responded to a burglar alarm at a residence on October 3rd. The officers arrived and the owners were not aware of the alarm but realized that a 13-year-old autistic child who was visiting had left the home. Both officers took quick action and were able to find the child and return him safely.

PRESENTATIONS:

On behalf of the entire council, Mayor Stalcup presented a Proclamation to the Wood River Masonic Lodge #1062 for 100 years of service. He thanked them for everything they do for the City of Wood River.

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ORDINANCE 21-08 AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XV: LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 157: ESTABLISHMENT OF OCCUPANY PERMITS:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve an ordinance amending city code 90-7, Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 157: Establishment of Occupancy Permits, seconded by Councilman Duncan

Councilman Plank clarified that this is just updating the language.

Mayor Stalcup stated yes

the ordinance was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE 2748 AMENDING ORDINANCE #2746 (REMOVE 535 6TH ST. OUT OF TIF #3) BY CORRECTING THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve authorizing the ordinance amending ordinance #2746 (remove 535 6th St out of TIF #3) by correcting the legal description, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020-2021 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to accept the 2020-2021 Treasurer's Report 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)

ACCEPTING RECEIPT OF THE 2020-2021 AUDIT REPORT:

Councilman Plank moved to accept receipt of the 2020-2021 audit report as prepared by C.J. Schlosser & Company LLC, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Duncan, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

RETAIN PMA SECURITIES AS A MUNICIPAL ADVISOR REGARDING FINANCING OF THE RECREATION CENTER: APPROVED:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to retain PMA Securities as a Municipal Advisor regarding financing of the Recreation Center, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Duncan

Councilman Tweedy moved to amend the motion to seek bank loan rates only and not bond rates due to the timeline. A bond referendum would not happen until the primary election in June next year and the bids for the Rec Center will be completed much sooner hopefully by year end, seconded by Duncan

Mayor Stalcup feels the municipal advisor should provide information on both loans and bonds.

Councilwoman Hagaman asked if the Finance Director can anticipate how long the municipal advisor would take to return their findings on the best options. She also asked if Council would then vote based on the findings.

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Finance Director Sobrino indicated the process could take two to three months. He also explained there are different types of loans.

Mayor Stalcup explained that after consultation with the Finance Director Council would vote on the best course to take. He feels council owes it to the citizens to look at the full spectrum of options.

Councilwoman Hagaman agrees that waiting is not the best option with the cost of everything rising but she does not want to keep the advisor from presenting all options. She does understand Councilman Tweedy's point in asking for the amendment. She asked if there will be a huge difference between bonds and loans and if Council would be handicapping the advisor if loans are the only option.

Finance Director Sobrino explained councils sometimes give advisors direction and sometimes they do not.

Mayor Stalcup wants an advisor to give all options so Council can make a decision with all the information available.

Roll call taken to amend the motion to have the advisor only provide bank loan options and not bonds.

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Tweedy (3)
NAYS: Plank, Stalcup (2)

Councilman Tweedy then moved to retain PMA Securities as a Municipal Advisor regarding financing of the Recreation Center, as submitted by the Finance Director, with the amendment to only seek bank loan options and not bonds, seconded by Councilman Duncan

Councilman Plank asked for clarification if this means the municipal advisor will only be looking at bank loans and completely ruling out the bond market.

Councilwoman Hagaman asked if there are other loan institutions that might be overlooked such as credit unions if the motion is only bank loans.

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to retain PMA Securities as a Municipal Advisor regarding financing of the Recreation Center, as submitted by the Finance Director, with a second amendment to only seek financial institution loan options and not bonds, seconded by Councilman Duncan

Councilman Plank stated that bonds are still being excluded entirely. He thinks citizens should be able to have a voice if bonds are the best option per the municipal advisor.

Councilwoman Hagaman asked for clarification on bond referendums.

Quick discussion ensued regarding bond referendums.

Mayor Stalcup still disagrees with the amended language. The municipal advisor should be able to provide a full spectrum of options and after they return their findings then Council can pick which direction to go with financing.

Roll call taken for the 2nd amendment to the motion to have the advisor only provide financial institution loan options and not just banks.

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The 2nd amendment was denied by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Tweedy (2)
 NAYS: Hagaman, Plank, Stalcup (3)

Councilwoman Hagaman clarified that when all options are presented by the municipal advisor then Council will still have a vote on which option to proceed with.

The Deputy Clerk reread the original agenda item.

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to retain PMA Securities as a Municipal Advisor regarding financing of the Recreation Center, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Duncan asked the cost of retaining the advisor.

It was stated that the cost is \$12,000. However, the savings from the municipal advisor's advice should offset the cost to retain them.

the motion to retain PMA Securities as municipal advisor as originally presented on the agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

APPOINTMENT OF VAUGHN HILL CEMETERY COMMISSION MEMBER:

Councilman Plank moved to approve the recommendation from Mayor Stalcup to appoint Dianne Blasa of 1018 Poplar to the Vaughn Hill Cemetery Commission with a term to expire May 2023, seconded by Councilman Tweedy and approved by the following vote:

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

TOWN HALL MEETING - DENIED:

Councilman Plank moved to approve setting a Town Hall meeting at a future date and time, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman

Councilman Plank explained the intent was to relax the rules for citizens asking questions and receiving answers. This will let the citizens be heard.

Councilwoman Hagaman stated she is not in favor of town hall meetings. She explained that Council is available at all times to speak with citizens. Each of their phone numbers and emails are listed online. The opportunity for an in-depth conversation is available. There would still be rules on speaking times even in a town hall setting. Rules are necessary because everyone that wants to speak should be heard. There are 10,000 citizens and if half show up to speak you could not give unlimited time. The ordinance for the time limit is to allow everyone that wants to speak the opportunity. The more people that speak the more time that takes at each meeting. One of the individuals that is asking for more time has had 108 minutes to speak over the last two years. Another individual has had 27 minutes. That is plenty of time. Council is here at City Hall every first and third Monday. There is plenty of time to speak with each of them. In a town hall meeting, the Council may not have all the answers to the questions presented.

Councilman Plank stated the City of Alton gives speakers five minutes. The problem in the past has been that citizens ask questions but no answers are ever given. Citizens feel they are not heard.

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Councilwoman Hagaman explained that Council meetings are set up to transact the City's business and not a give and take. If the town hall precedent is set then where would it end. She also asked how Council would set up a town hall, who must attend, what rules would be in place, how often should council hold them.

Councilman Plank stated council should hold them as needed and allow citizens to ask questions and receive answers.

Mayor Stalcup explained that he speaks to citizens on a regular basis and feels he has gotten the answer to all questions asked of him.

Councilman Plank thinks there is a place in between rigidity and no rules at all. He wants something that gives citizens the opportunity to speak in a public setting.

Councilwoman Hagaman stated that Council does not always have the answers on the spot. They must also research the questions being asked. She stated that town hall meetings should be held when there is a very specific issue that needs to be discussed. The examples of town halls given in the citizen comments were referencing very specific issues going on at the time of those meetings. She does not feel that a precedent should be set for open ended town hall meetings where Council will not know what is going to be discussed.

Councilman Plank stated there could be rules established and specific topics set for discussion.

setting a town hall meeting was denied by the following vote:

AYES: Plank, Stalcup (2)
 NAYS: Duncan, Hagaman, Tweedy (3)

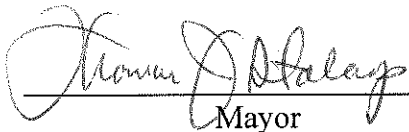
OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



 Mayor



 Deputy Clerk