

March 21, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING
FY 22/23 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mayor Stalcup called a public hearing to order at 7:00p.m. to receive citizen comments on the City Manager's 2022/23 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget, as required by City Code and State Statutes. Copies of the proposed budget have been on file in the City Clerk's Office and at Wood River Public Library.

Interim City Manager Wade Stahlhut gave highlights for the Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 22/23. He explained this proposed budget is being presented based on decisions and assumptions made by the previous City Manager Jim Schneider who retired on February 4, 2022. No changes have been made to his proposal. Total expenses proposed are \$40.3 million, which represents an increase of 64% from fiscal year 21/22. This is due to proposed capital expenditures from the Non- Home Rule Sales Tax fund and Recreation fund. Of this total, operating expenses are \$16.6 million and capital expenses are \$23.7 million. The General Fund has a projected ending of four and a half months of operating revenue. Reserves will be used to offset expenditures in excess of projected revenues due to increased costs to manage the City, fund capital projects and provide necessary infrastructure repairs. The proposed budget is balanced in that revenues plus reserves will be used to offset expenditures.

City Attorney Bassett-Butler encouraged those citizens wishing to speak that comments should be brief in order to give all those present the opportunity to be heard. Comments must be kept directed to the budget topic only. She asked all speakers to address the Council as a whole and to be courteous and respectful. Specific questions should be submitted in writing to City Hall. Every attempt will be made to answer submitted questions at a later time.

Kristin Burns' family owns a business in town. She thanked everyone for working hard to put a budget together. She asked why nothing is allocated for marketing or economic development. She feels those items are an integral part of the growth of the City. She would like to see the City promote growth and business development. She is happy to see money budgeted for Roundhouse repairs.

Councilman Plank asked about the money in the proposed budget allocated for economic development and what will the money be used for.

Mayor Stalcup explained there is a committee that was started by individuals in town. Some are pooling their own funds on economic development and they want to know they have support from the City. This committee has bought a building downtown with two potential tenants in place. They want the City to help keep the development going. The economic development budget is not only for downtown but that is the main focus right now.

Dave Landry asked how much money is allocated towards fixing up the parks.

Mayor Stalcup explained there is money for improvements at 14th Street Park including pickleball courts. He believes it is approximately \$80,000, with multiple projects on the horizon in 2022. The City received grant funds for an inclusive playground at Central Park and also funds for a major ballfield renovation at 6th Street Park.

Mary Roberts asked if there is money allocated towards the Roundhouse

Mayor Stalcup stated \$160,000

Bill Dettmers is disappointed in the change in format of the public hearing. He wants to know what projects are anticipated to be paid from the 1% Non-Home Rule Sales Tax fund.

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Mayor Stalcup summarized the projects – East End Detention, Old Alton Edwardsville Rd Reconstruction, 9th Street Detention, State Street Sewer Separation, Recreation Center and Roundhouse repairs.

Mr. Dettmers asked if the \$1.5 million for Old Alton Edwardsville Rd is a new project

Mayor Stalcup explained that the City is using IEPA funding for the East End Detention project and the road is not an allowable expense.

Mr. Dettmers stated that at the recent town hall meeting the Mayor mentioned the water treatment plant is outdated.

Mayor Stalcup stated it is close to ten years over its projected life. The City will look at repairs and replacement for the future.

Mr. Dettmers asked what happens if the City's plan fails.

Mayor Stalcup stated if the plant goes down the City would deal with it at that time.

Mr. Dettmers asked how the City would fund repairs.

Mayor Stalcup explained that the IEPA would help and grant funds would be applied for.

Councilman Plank asked if this discussion is about the water or sewer plant

Mr. Dettmers stated he is referring to the sewer plant.

Mayor Stalcup explained the sewer treatment plant is the old plant.

Mr. Dettmers asked why updating the sewer plant is not included in the 1% Non-Home Rule Sales Tax fund projects.

Mayor Stalcup explained the City has done some repairs but replacement is in the future.

Councilman Plank asked what will happen if the City must make emergency repairs.

Public Services Director Palen explained that the City has \$3 million in funds that are available to make major repairs.

Councilman Plank asked if any single repair would cost that much

Director Palen stated the City would apply for the State Revolving Loan if needed and the State Infrastructure Bill will be announced soon.

Dan Donohoo stated the State of Illinois will be getting \$17 billion from the federal government infrastructure bill. Those funds will be allocated out to departments such as IDOT and IEPA and cities will just need to apply to receive funds. There will be a need for some matching funds.

Plank inquired if he could ask questions.

The City Attorney explained the public hearing is supposed to be for citizen comments on the budget.

Councilman Plank asked about the projected deficits in the General, Water, Refuse, and Sewer funds. He is concerned with having no operational expense projections and an increasing expected cost of construction for the Rec Center. He wants to know the plan to address deficit spending. He stated a new personnel position is being added to the Recreation Department and this will put more pressure on the General fund.

Mayor Stalcup explained that a full time Parks Maintenance employee retired last year and was never replaced. The potential manager of the Rec Center would replace that employee in the Parks budget.

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Discussion ensued regarding the shifting of employees between the budgets for Park and Recreation and Parks Maintenance.

Councilman Plank wants to know what is being done to address deficit spending. Why does the Sewer fund subsidize General fund expenses? He also questioned if four months of reserves are enough with all the capital spending that is happening.

Interim City Manager Stahlhut will get back to Councilman Plank with answers to his questions.

Mayor Stalcup explained he has been on City Council for six years and in past years there has never been more than three months reserves. He is grateful the Finance Director has gotten it to four months.

Councilman Plank questioned if the projected reserves are enough due to the increase in capital spending. His concern is not having enough for unexpected repairs or surprise expenses. He is uncomfortable with discretionary spending at 44% of budgeted expenditures. He does not feel the City should be adding a Rec Manager to the budget when there are union negotiations coming up and inflation is at more than 7%. The City has just started the development of a comprehensive plan and it would be best to wait and see the plans suggestions for the future.

There being no further comments, the public hearing adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:22 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 N. Wood River Avenue, with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. The 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 Plank moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2022, 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 March 4 to March 17, 2022, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank moved to remove all bills for any payments regarding the Rec Center, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman

Councilwoman Hagaman asked why the Council should remove bills for payment on services already rendered

Councilman Plank feels there are a lot of unanswered questions and these bills should be renegotiated.

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Discussion ensued regarding vital services.

The motion to remove the bills was denied by the following vote:

AYES: Plank (1)

NAYS: Duncan, Hagaman, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

the bills were then approved, as printed, by the following vote:

AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

NAYS: Plank (1)

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Councilman Duncan moved to approve the Financial Statement for the period ending February 28, 2022, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mike Young has been a resident since 1967. He believes City officials are trying their best to deliver projects that will make the community better. He believes all the projects are important for growth. The Parks and Recreation Department is vital and important to the community. Many of the department's programs are neglected due to a lack of space to have them. Wood River currently must combine with other communities to offer many of its programs. He believes it is a great opportunity right now with the grants the City has received. Director Woody is fantastic at offsetting costs with grant funds. Citizens voted on the 1% Sales Tax to have a Rec Center. He strongly encourages officials to vote for the Rec Center. The City needs a positive change and a place for gatherings.

Brenda Donohoo grew up on 1st street. She and her older siblings enjoyed the Roundhouse. They walked to the Roundhouse every day. They played all day and swam in the pool. They went home for dinner and then back to the park. Nowadays, kids have no place to hang out or make their own memories. She was on the Jiveland Board and they even had sleepovers at the Roundhouse. She believes former Parks Director Leroy Emerick would approve of a place like the Rec Center for kids to just be kids. She wants the squabbling to end and use the free money from the State to get the Rec Center built for the future. She thanked Director Woody for his dedication.

Greg Stimac is the business manager of Labor Local 338. They support the Rec Center. It would be a great service to the City and provide job opportunities. It is possible with the success of the loan and sales tax. The Rec Center is good for the kids.

Mary Roberts said she has walked through the City and handed out flyers. Citizens are dissatisfied with the Council. She lived at the Roundhouse when she was younger and there is no reason kids cannot go there right now. The City does not need a new Rec Center.

Kristin McCutchen stated her mom attended Wood River and hung out at Jiveland. Everyone used to go to the pool. She is concerned that everything is being taken away. She is concerned that the AAIC website already has the Rec Center listed as a project and the new plan is there for all to see. She believes there are other projects that need completed first. Sewer separation and water retention need to be done first. She wants everything to be inclusive and no one wants a splashpad. She does not want Council to approve the bids. She wants more answers.

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Bill Dettmers provided a handout of his comments to Council. He feels the City Manager duties and responsibilities are not being fulfilled. He explained the City stopped hiring professionally educated individuals and started hiring from within. This has caused decay in oversight and management of the City. He sees numerous activities as questionable or illegal: town hall meetings held in support of the 1% Sales Tax initiative without agendas or minutes, political signs on city property, an ordinance changing the use of the 1% Sales Tax monies, going outside the chain of command to publish information, etc.

Betty Miser finished Mr. Dettmers comments: He does not agree that the bids for the Rec Center should be on the agenda tonight and the Interim City Manager should not give in to the demands of other employees or politics. He wants Council to hire a professional City Manager or do away with the City Manager form of government.

Arron Weber has lived in Wood River all his life and has worked at the Police Department for 23 years. He is here on his own behalf. He enjoys his city and agrees that something is needed for the youth. Director Woody and his staff are great. His concern for the Rec Center is the projected costs keep going up. He knows there will be overruns just like during the construction of the new police department. He knows there is concern from others that if the City does not go through with the project it will lose the grant money. The City never had the grant money to begin with. He knows the construction of the new Police Department only cost the City \$750,000 because the money for construction costs was donated by BP. He is concerned how the City will pay for this project. There are union wage openers upcoming. He is concerned that employees mean nothing and without increases other cities will steal good employees. The City does need and deserves a Rec Center but the question is at what cost.

Pastor Dave Landry tried to rent out the park building at East End Park. He was told he could not because it needs repairs. He is confused because Alcoholics Anonymous currently uses the building. Councilwoman Hagaman is not interested in comments by citizens. He stated she is proud of how our parks look. He explained there are many others that need to be fixed and he wants to know why they are not being fixed. He stated that Mayor Stalcup said the City has many other issues and Councilman Plank agreed. He is not against the Rec Center but other issues need fixed first. He said the City wants to pay for the Rec Center with the 1% Sales Tax. He thinks without securing the funding the citizens will be burdened.

Sara Sladek is a long-time resident. She has spoke several times over the last two years. She believes a good council is highly competitive and trustworthy, accountable for decisions, open and transparent and acts within the law. She has not seen that with this council. She said a good council can communicate. This council is not transparent and it is very sad. She googled Wood River Rec Center and found a picture online. She is concerned because citizens have not seen that picture. She will be 71 years old. She thinks there is a misappropriation of funds. She stated that breaking ground is breaking the law.

Chuck Johansen has lived here his entire life. He has an issue with the location of the Rec Center. He thinks it should be put on the east end of town. The City could add on to the building in the future but not if it is built in the proposed location. He comes from a family of unions. He believes the city is underfunding the unions. The City cannot use contingency funds or file bankruptcy on funding this project. All municipalities are like this but not all have a Rec Center. He believes the unions should get a fair contract. The City needs to get further down the road before building a Rec Center.

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Dan Donohoo would like Council to answer the question if the Rec Center is built will the Roundhouse be torn down or gutted. He believes the City can fund numerous projects at once including water detention and sewer separation. The recent flyer handed out failed to mention that the feds will be giving money for projects. The Rec Center will improve quality of life and the sales tax will bring in more than enough money. He explained how the sales tax will increase over time as rates increase. He also explained the definition of infrastructure and gave council a handout. He addressed many of the things that another citizen has criticized over time. He stated that hundreds of local kids participate in organized sports. This center is an opportunity.

Councilwoman Hagaman asked to add to the record over ninety letters of support for the Rec Center that Council has received.

Councilman Tweedy added that this Council is not tearing down the Roundhouse or turning it into a pavilion.

ORDINANCE 22-01 AMEND CITY CODE SECTION 113.42 APPLICATION; FEE TO INCREASE THE VIDEO GAMING TERMINAL ANNUAL LICENSE FEE:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of an ordinance amending City Code 90-7, Title XI: Business Regulations, Chapter 113: Amusements, Section 113.42 Application; Fee to increase the annual license fee for each video gaming terminal to \$125, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman

Mayor Stalcup explained the State Statutes now give municipalities the option to raise the fee to \$250 annually. This council will do so in increments.

the ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE 22-02 ANNEX LOT 1 OF IVY TERRACE:

Mayor Stalcup moved for approval of an ordinance annexing Lot 1 of Ivy Terrace (Parcel ID 19-2-08-26-02-201-019) into the City as requested by the property owners, Adam & Gina Tassinari, seconded by Councilman Duncan and approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE 2733 ESTABLISH RATES AT BELK PARK GOLF COURSE FOR THE 2022/23 OPERATING SEASON:

Councilman Duncan moved for approval of an ordinance establishing rates at Belk Park Golf Course for the 2022/23 operating season beginning April 1, 2022, as submitted by the Parks & Recreation Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank asked if the changes are increases.

Director Woody explained that to stay competitive with other courses the City needs to increase a dollar or two over the more than sixteen different rates.

the ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

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APPROVED: SEEK BIDS FOR THE 2022/23 MFT STREET MAINTENANCE MATERIALS PROGRAM:

Councilman Duncan moved for approval to seek bids for the 2022/23 MFT Street Maintenance Materials Program, as submitted by the Public Services Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

TABLED: ACCEPT BID FOR REC CENTER BID PACKAGE #1 – SITE WORK:

Councilman Duncan moved to accept the bid from Rooters American Maintenance for \$646,220 for Bid Package #1 – Site Work (base bid only, no alternate) for the Rec Center project, as recommended by Gonzalez Companies and the Parks & Recreation Director, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman

Councilman Plank would like to know the projected revenue for the center as well as the rental fees and monthly membership fees. He wants to know if there will be a discount for seniors or minors and if there will be a family package. He does not want to put more strain on the General fund. He stated that all rec centers he has researched are losing money. He wants to know the expected operating expenses and personnel costs. He explained that Fairview Heights is losing money based on their audit figures and Fenton, Missouri has a failing center.

Director Woody explained that fees could only be estimated at this time and he would set them based on council recommendations. The center is program driven and not based on membership fees. The rooms and gyms can be rented out and the rec department will increase sports leagues available to the community. He also explained that the revenue and expense projections will be similar to the golf course. The city will need to adjust as the center progresses.

Councilwoman Hagaman explained this rec center will not be like Fairview Heights. This is not a gym with a membership. It will be more like the Keasler Complex in East Alton.

Discussion ensued regarding how much to charge, how much to budget for this complex and concerns over draining the General fund.

Mayor Stalcup stated that Council knows there is enough money in the 1% Sales Tax fund to construct the Rec Center. The issue is if there is enough money to run the center. He is not against the Rec Center but the City needs to be responsible with tax dollars. He does not want Director Woody to be attacked.

Councilwoman Hagaman stated the \$2.5 million grant has changed the project for the better. She does not want to compare this facility to others as the other centers mentioned are much larger. She feels the Rec Center is a service to the community. She knows that Parks and Rec puts money back into the General fund each year.

More discussion ensued regarding the potential pressure this center will put on the General fund.

Director Woody suggested that Council use the \$2.5 million grant for operational expenses instead of paying down the debt. Due to the low interest rate that could be a positive for the City. This would eliminate the burden on the General fund.

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Councilman Plank asked if the grant would allow that. He is also concerned with not talking about all the options and with how items are placed on the agenda. If Council does not know the revenue stream, how can they vote to approve the bids.

Mayor Stalcup explained the project went out to bid and now the council needs to decide whether to accept them. It is a matter of procedure.

Councilman Plank is concerned with the operating expenses as compared to other facilities he has investigated. He is concerned with the number of employees it will take to actually run the facility.

Councilwoman Hagaman explained she called officials at the city of Fairview Heights and also East Alton to inquire about the cost to run the Keasler Complex.

Councilman Duncan called for a vote, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank is concerned with not getting answers ahead of time before a meeting and he has more questions. He believes the State Statute limits what is considered infrastructure.

Councilwoman Hagaman asked if the approval of financing for the Rec Center will be in place within two weeks. She also asked if anticipated revenue numbers could be gathered within two weeks.

The Finance Director and Parks & Recreation Director both stated they could have something in two weeks.

Councilman Plank moved to table accepting the bid for the Rec Center project Bid Package #1 – Site Work, seconded by Mayor Stalcup, and tabled with the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

TABLED: ACCEPT BID FOR REC CENTER BID PACKAGE #2 – STRUCTURE:

Councilman Duncan moved to accept the bid from Limbaugh Construction Company for \$6,129,000 for Bid Package #2 – Structure for the Rec Center project, as recommended by Gonzalez Companies and the Parks & Recreation Director, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman

Councilman Plank moved to table accepting the bid for the Rec Center project Bid Package #2 – Structure, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and tabled with the following vote:

AYES: Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

NAYS: Duncan (1)

TABLED: ACCEPT BID FOR REC CENTER BID PACKAGE #3 – INTERIORS:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to accept the bid from Limbaugh Construction Company for \$1,784,000 for Bid Package #3 – Interiors for the Rec Center project, as recommended by Gonzalez Companies and the Parks & Recreation Director, seconded by Councilman Duncan

Councilman Plank moved to table accepting the bid for the Rec Center project Bid Package #3 – Interiors, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and tabled with the following vote:

AYES: Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

NAYS: Duncan (1)

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TABLED: ACCEPT BID FOR REC CENTER BID PACKAGE #4 – MECHANICAL:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to accept the bid from Langhauser Sheet Metal Company for \$1,229,000 for Bid Package #4 – Mechanical for the Rec Center project, as recommended by Gonzalez Companies and the Parks & Recreation Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank moved to table accepting the bid for the Rec Center project Bid Package #4 – Mechanical, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and tabled with the following vote:

AYES: Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

NAYS: Duncan (1)

TABLED: ACCEPT BID FOR REC CENTER BID PACKAGE #5 – ELECTRICAL & ALTERNATE BID #2 - GENERATOR:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to accept the bid from Pyramid Electrical Contractors for \$413,555 for Bid Package #5 – Electrical & \$159,150 for Alternate Bid #2 - Generator for the Rec Center project, as recommended by Gonzalez Companies and the Parks & Recreation Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank moved to table accepting the bid for the Rec Center project Bid Package #5 – Electrical & Alternate Bid #2 - Generator, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and tabled with the following vote:

AYES: Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

NAYS: Duncan (1)

TABLED: ACCEPT BID FOR REC CENTER BID PACKAGE #6 – FIRE SUPPRESSION:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to accept the bid from L&K Fire Protection for \$123,000 for Bid Package #6 – Fire Suppression for the Rec Center project, as recommended by Gonzalez Companies and the Parks & Recreation Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank moved to table accepting the bid for the Rec Center project Bid Package #6 – Fire Suppression, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and tabled with the following vote:

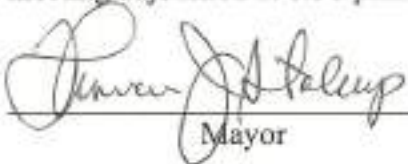
AYES: Hagaman, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

NAYS: Duncan (1)

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.


Mayor


City Clerk