

March 7, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING  
MS4 PERMIT

Mayor Stalcup called a public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. to receive citizen comments on the City's MS4 Permit.

Public Services Director Steve Palen explained the MS4 Permit group consists of Madison County and 30 municipalities and townships in the urbanized area of the County. The purpose is to be able to share common resources, adopt practices and enforce regulations involving the six minimum controls to reach the goal of clean water. The MS4 Permit is good for five years and an annual report is submitted to the EPA. This public hearing is part of the report.

There being no further comments, the public hearing adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 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 February 22, 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 February 18 to March 3, 2022, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank moved to remove the Gonzalez bill from the approval of bills. He feels the additional funds do not need to be spent on the Recreation Center. Seconded by Mayor Stalcup and 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 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT:

Councilman Duncan moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Investment Report for the period November 1 to January 31, 2022, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

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CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Sharon Kadell explained she is a former councilmember. The 1% sales tax was developed to help pay for needed City updates. This option was considered the least burdensome to taxpayers. The East End project is to bring business opportunities to town. The 9<sup>th</sup> Street detention project is to save homeowners from flood insurance. The State Street Sewer project is mandated by the government. Sidewalks, sewer lines and water lines need replaced. The Rec Center was not at the top of the list. A feasibility study is necessary. The Mayor called for it but was rejected. People will move to Wood River for jobs and schools and sewer lines not backing up.

Pastor Dave Landry explained he is a Vietnam Veteran. We all have freedom and the right to vote and have a say in the government. This City Council chose bonds without consulting the voters. The voters spoke; they do not want a Rec Center. People are appalled. Inflation is up, food prices are high or not available. People are hurting. He was out walking to talk to citizens and fell twice on City sidewalks. The City needs sewers, sidewalks, roads and the water plant fixed.

Peggy Hagaman has lived in Wood River most of her life. She was on the Plan Commission, Board or Zoning Appeals and Appearance Board for over 20 years. Her mother was previously on City Council and her uncle was a former City Manager. She wants people to understand how their property taxes are assessed. She brought handouts from the tax assessors office for anyone to take home. She explained that her tax bill has ten taxing districts. She pays \$499 a year to the City; that is \$1.37 per day for a lot of services. The school districts are the top two taxes and she encouraged citizens to question why those taxes are so high. She thanked the City for keeping her taxes low. The 1% sales tax was promoted for four projects. The City needs more commercial development. The Rec Center has a \$2.5 million grant from the State. She researched and found that the grant awarded to the City was 10% of the total amount awarded by the State. She spoke recently to the Mayor and the Parks Director. There is also a \$450,000 grant for a new playground at the Roundhouse. The Roundhouse is not being torn down.

Terri Yerkes spoke in support of the Rec Center. She believes the 1% was passed to help with large capital projects so not to burden the taxpayers. It is estimated that 60% of the 1% revenue comes from non-Wood River residents. The Rec Center will give families a fun and safe place to go with many options. New businesses would also benefit from the Rec Center by bringing people to town. People have previously mentioned the East Alton facility. That is a community center not a rec center. She also has memories at the Roundhouse when it was Jiveland. The option to tear down the Roundhouse was not the final option. Some citizens comments are taking a threatening tone. Everyone should be respectful.

Bill Dettmers gave Council a verbatim handout of his comments. He has started a campaign "Say NO to the 'Rec'-less 3". He has spoke to many concerned citizens. He believes the only proposed option to save the Roundhouse has been to make it an open air pavilion. Gymnastics is a successful program through the City. He thinks the City should buy a building downtown, renovate it and hold gymnastics there until a long term solution for a rec center is developed. He reminded Council that he believes the 1% sales tax cannot be used for a rec center. He stated that Council cannot change what the voters approved or violate state law.

Mary Roberts has been walking town and talking to people. Most people are not in favor of a Rec Center. The sewer and roads are more important projects. She stated that Director Woody did make statements that the Roundhouse will be torn down.

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Sue Lile has been a resident for 60 years. She loves the City but does not love what is going on. The City installed a new sign downtown that just brings people to bars and burned buildings. The Roundhouse is enjoyed by her kids and grandkids. The Rec Center is being put above everything else. The buildings downtown need help. The City needs to make Wood River great again. Jiveland is a good memory and people should not hold grudges. Having a pool would be OK but she is completely against the Rec Center. The City needs to repair roads, plumbing and streetlights and downtown old buildings need torn down.

Chuck Johanson addressed the concerns about taxes. The schools need to be consolidated. The City is nickel and diming the citizens with increases in water/sewer rates. If City Council would come forward to get the schools consolidated it would make it easier on everyone. The 1% sales tax was to help keep taxes down. He believes this is a back door referendum on the Rec Center. He thinks there is a trust issue with those in charge. He previously met with Director Woody. In that discussion Director Woody said the Rec Center should be located on the east end of town and that he wanted the Roundhouse torn down. The YMCA would be a better option. They can run the programs for the City. The City needs growth and to control the flooding.

Chris Slusser stated the Rec Center causes him concern from a financial aspect. He believes that Director Woody does a great job. The cost will exceed \$12 million and interest rates are rising. There were three council that voted against a feasibility study. He does not understand why they are against taxpayers having a voice. The former mayor was completely for the Rec Center and she was not reelected. He stated the general fund will have to subsidize this project. Pension debt is 25% of the City's budget and with growing retirees will get worse. The crisis must be addressed immediately. He encourages council to tap the brakes on the Rec Center.

Mayor Stalcup moved for approval to vote on item #12 now due to the Girl Scouts waiting in the hallway to be recognized, seconded by Councilman Plank and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

PROCLAMATION – GIRL SCOUT WEEK – APPROVED:

Mayor Stalcup moved for approval of a proclamation declaring the week of March 6<sup>th</sup> through March 12<sup>th</sup> as Girl Scout Week, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE 2770 AGREEMENT 1322 - AUTHORIZING A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL ROAD ENERGY FOR THE SOLAR PROJECT AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved for approval of an ordinance authorizing a service agreement with Central Road Energy for the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits pertaining to the solar project at the Police Department, 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)

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ORDINANCE 2771 AGREEMENT 1323 - AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH TYLER SCHMITT FOR FARMING CITY PROPERTY ALONG 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of an ordinance authorizing a lease agreement with Tyler Schmitt for farming City owned property along 9<sup>th</sup> Street (Parcel ID 19-1-08-22-12-201-001), seconded by Councilman Duncan and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION 1968- CLOSE ACCOUNTS AT CITIZENS EQUITY FIRST CREDIT UNION (CEFCU):

Councilman Duncan moved to approve authorizing the Finance Director to close all accounts at CEFCU, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman

Mayor Stalcup explained that closing and opening new accounts is about gaining better interest rates and service.

the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION 1969- OPEN ACCOUNTS AT CARROLLTON BANK:

Councilman Duncan moved to approve authorizing the Finance Director to open accounts at Carrollton Bank, seconded by Councilman Tweedy and approved by the following vote:

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

SEEK BIDS: SOUTH 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET PROJECT:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve a request to seek bids for the South 6<sup>th</sup> Street project from Route 143 to the south City limits, 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)

RECEIPT OF BUDGET:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve receipt of the City Manager's Proposed Budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, seconded by Councilman Duncan

Councilman Plank clarified this vote is only acknowledging the receipt of the proposed budget and not approving it.

receipt of the proposed budget was approved by the following vote:

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

CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved for a closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Personnel (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)), seconded by Councilman Tweedy and approved with the following vote:

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

The Council recessed at 7:43pm and reconvened at 8:11pm.

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APPOINT INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

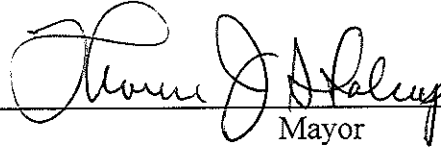
Councilman Plank moved to extend the appointment of Interim City Manager Wade Stahlhut until further notice, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman and approved with the following vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:13p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk