

June 6, 2022

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022 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:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 2022, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

Mayor Stalcup requested the minutes be amended with the following changes

1. Line 4 on page 2 - \$7,000 should be \$300,000
2. Line 3 on page 2 - \$700,000 budget it should be \$700,000 deficit budget
3. Line 4 should public works department and not police department
4. Line 6 was from the sewer plant not the police department

Mayor Stalcup moved to approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 2022, as amended, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 26, 2022, 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:

Councilman Duncan moved for approval of the bills submitted for payment for the period May 13 to June 2, 2022, 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 thanked everyone who participated in the Memorial Day Program. She questioned the new line of succession of Mr. Palen as City Manager and what qualifications make him the candidate. She thought the city would look outside the city for someone to fill the City Manager position. She stated she had two encounters with Mr. Palen that she will never forget. One was regarding the smell coming out of the sewer on the corner where she lives. He came out and put something down into the sewer; however, it was not effective and still stinks. She can smell it a block away from her home. Another encounter with Mr. Palen was regarding asphaltting. She asked for someone to come down and look after the asphaltting was completed but was instructed nothing was going to change. Later that fall she was riding her bike and hit a spot on the sidewalk and had to have hip surgery. She does not blame the City but is concerned about residents' issues just being passed off. She hopes Mr. Palen can communicate and converse with the public.

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Dave Landry stated there is a deception of darkness trying to influence the nation. He feels that after the special meeting on Thursday the Council owes Wade Stahlhut, Brad Wells, and Steve Palen a public apology for putting them in the position they were in. Policeman and fireman would be fired for not backing up one another. City council should hold together. He asked the question of what constitutes an illegal quorum with the council and what happened to meeting together and finding compromise. He stated the country needs moral and godly boundaries back to find compromise.

Scott Ostrawski stated he was with Coe-Equipment and was a bidder at the recent bid opening on June 1st for a combination sewer cleaner. He thanked the council and stated they have been serving the City since 1986. The Vacto product is an Illinois made product and has been used by the City for over 40 years. The truck has not been in their shop since 2017 and it has been a cost effective piece of equipment for the city. When the bids came through there was not a line item for trade in price. At the bid opening the final bids were read and the other competitor bid included a trade in price. The trade-in price was not requested in the bid specifications so one was not provided. The bid exceeded the proposal to provide a combination sewer cleaner. In summary, it was \$30,000 lower if accounting for the trade-in. There have been no major expenses and minor modifications on current equipment through Coe-Equipment.

Councilman Plank asked Scott Ostrawski if he attended the bid opening. Scott stated he did not but there were two other salespeople present. Councilman Plank asked if there were other bids opened and Scott stated there was one other bid opened.

Councilman Plank stated that the City Council received an email from Mr. Marty Coe. Mr. Coe made a reference about the trade-in value and that the City's specifications were written towards a competitor's machine. Councilman Plank stated his concern about this issue.

Scott Ostrawski stated that Mr. Coe is the owner of Coe-Equipment and that there were certain specifications for the one manufacturer and that manufacturer is the only provider of a dual engine machine. The specifications that were sent out to the potential bidders had language proprietary to only one specific bidder. He feels in general the specifications were met or exceeded.

Chuck Johansen stated that after last meeting he received emails that people are watching the council meetings live and want to know what is happening in Wood River. In the history of City Managers, we have had 16 and in the 80's some only lasted one month. It is not a great job to have. Bill Watkins was here for 3 months. He asked council to take a step back from the urgency and to go outside and speak with those who have experience from other locations. The "it's what's been done before" is not working, downtown is not working, and people are leaving Wood River. He stated elections are going to change and that he has always been an advocate for getting rid of City Manager position which will be on the November ballot.

Kristen Burns thanked everyone for coming to the Wood River Library Gala. The Gala raised over \$10,000 for the Wood River Library which was her goal and she feels it was a great event.

Bill Dettmers stated the current nepotism policy was passed a few years ago because of Jim & Nancy Schneider. He does not feel it should be changed to make accommodation for another similar situation. In addition, hiring full time employees and immediate family members onto council should not be allowed and this provision was made because of Fred and Gale Ufert. He also stated he is not in favor of the Assistant City Manager position because he does not see a need for it. He feels the motion to appoint an interim City Manager is in violation of the Open Meetings Act because proper procedures were not followed to remove the current Interim City Manager and appoint a new one. Due to the ongoing issues regarding nepotism, the Round House, the Rec Center, no bid contract, current contractor who has not been required to submit a bid, he has chosen to run for City Council and hopes to turn things around.

Councilwoman Hagaman reminded everyone to sign up for the Bike Ramble which is on Friday, June 10th, 2022.

Mayor Stalcup stated the cost is \$3/person or \$6/family and registration is at the Roundhouse. He also thanked the sponsors First-Mid Bank, Mike Fahnestock from State Farm, Wal-Mart, Dairy Queen, and Wood River Enrichment Network.

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Mayor Stalcup thanked everyone who attended the Memorial Day Tribute held at Central Park. He thanked Mary Roberts, Park & Recreation Department, Representative Elik for her speech, and all who helped that day.

Mayor Stalcup congratulated the Wood River Library Foundation and Kristen Burns for the Gala that was held at the Wood River Library. The money that was raised will go towards a lighted sign that will be placed in front of the Library. A special thank you to major contributors Werts Welding, First-Mid Bank, and Bill Dettmers.

Mayor Stalcup thanked Director Woody and the Rotary Club for a successful Color Run. There were around 60 runners.

Mayor Stalcup thanked Director Woody and Staff for the Youth League Parade. The kids seemed to have had a good time as well as those lined on the side of the road.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Stalcup presented the Appearance Award for the month of June to:
Jane Emerick 600 N. 3rd

ORDINANCE 22-04: AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, ARTICLE 7; TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 75: TRAFFIC SCHEDULES, SCHEDULE III: STOP STREETS:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance amending City Code 90-7, Article 7: Traffic Code, Chapter 75: Traffic Schedules, Schedule III: Stop Streets to add a stop sign on Eaton at Second Street, as recommended by the Traffic Commission, seconded by Councilman Duncan, and approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE 22-05: AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, ARTICLE 7; TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 76: PARKING SCHEDULES, SCHEDULE VII: DESIGNATION OF A HANDICAP PARKING SPACE:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve of an ordinance amending City Code 90-7, Article 7: Traffic Code, Chapter 76: Parking Schedules, Schedule VII: Designation of a Handicap Parking Space at 128 E. Acton, as recommended by the Traffic Commission, seconded by Councilman Duncan, and approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE 22-06: AMENDING 96-14 ZONING CODE TO REZONE PARCEL ID #19-1-08-24-00-000-003 FROM B-3 HIGHWAY BUSINESS DISTRICT TO AGRICULTURAL:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approved of an ordinance amending Ordinance 96-14 Zoning Code to rezone Parcel ID #19-1-08-24-00-000-003 from B-3 Highway Business District to Agricultural - A, as recommended by the Plan Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE 2790: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRE CHIEF:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign an employment agreement with the Fire Chief, seconded by Councilman Duncan, and approved by the following vote:

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

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RESOLUTION 1973: DECLARING EXTERIOR PREMISES AT 155 S CENTRAL AVENUE AS A HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE ISSUE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND RESIDENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PROCEED WITH LEGAL ACTION:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution declaring the exterior premises at 155 S. Central Avenue as a health, safety and welfare issue for first responders and residents and authorize the City Attorney to proceed with legal action, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED – ACCEPTING BID FROM EJ EQUIPMENT, INC FOR \$418,479.00 FOR A COMBINATION SEWER CLEANER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve accepting the bid from EJ Equipment, Inc. for \$418,479.00 for a Combination Sewer Cleaner to be utilized by the Public Services Department, as submitted by Public Services Director, seconded by Councilman Duncan.

Councilman Plank asked Public Services Director Steve Palen about the 2 bids that were opened at the most recent bid opening. Director Palen verified that there were 2 bids received and opened. One bid from EJ Equipment and the other from Coe-Equipment. Councilman Plank explained that in an email he received Coe-Equipment did not know that a trade-in value was part of the bid specification.

Palen stated Coe-Equipment did not meet the bid specifications regardless of whether there was a trade-in value included. Councilman Plank proceeded with reading a portion of the email from Coe-Equipment regarding specifications being written strictly to a competitor's machine. Councilman Plank questioned how anyone can meet specifications trademarked to one bidder.

Director Palen stated the bid was open to the public and anyone could submit their bid. He had Vactor and Vac-Con down for demos performing the same process. Director Palen stated he relied on his employees during this process because they will be the ones utilizing the equipment. Majority of Public Services employees preferred the Vac-Con because of the dual engine capacity.

Councilman Plank questioned the reason for doing the bid process at all if the machine wanted was already decided upon. Director Palen stated the City Attorney suggested proceeding with the bid process.

Councilwoman Hagaman stated she felt Councilman Plank's statement was strictly speculation because the specifications were sent out to the bidders. She also clarified that the City is getting the machine needed for \$20,000 under budget and Director Palen agreed.

Mayor Stalcup requested Chief Wells to clear Council Chambers due to continuous talking from the audience. He requested that Department Heads please stay in the Council Chambers.

Councilwoman Hagaman asked if there was anything violated within the bidding process. City Attorney stated she does not believe so especially if specifications were not met.

Mayor Stalcup stated that Department Heads are totally responsible for equipment and bid processes. We trust our Department Heads to make the correct choice. Mayor Stalcup questioned why there were only 2 bids. Director Palen stated the companies that bid are the top 2 competitors.

Director Woody stated he is going to have the same situation coming up when it comes to replacing playgrounds. He is trying to write specifications for 16 different playground companies. There are certain types of playgrounds that are better than others and he wants council and citizens to be happy, but he has concerns about the bidding process.

Councilman Plank stated that Director Woody should make it broad enough for multiple companies to bid.

Councilwoman Hagaman stated that council needs to depend on the Department Heads. Department Heads are the experts in their fields and know what equipment they need and need to be trusted.

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Councilman Tweedy stated that input from employees is huge because they're the ones using the equipment and the ones who need to be happy with it. Everyone knows that the lowest bid is not always the best bid.

Approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: PURCHASING AN ASPHALT ROLLER FROM LUBY EQUIPMENT SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT \$64,500.00:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve a request to proceed with purchasing an Asphalt Roller from Luby Equipment Services in the amount \$64,500.00, 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)

APPROVED: REQUEST FROM THE GREATER MADISON COUNTY FEDERATION OF LABOR TO HOLD THE ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve a request from the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO to hold the Annual Labor Day Parade on Wood River Ave from the Roundhouse to the North City limits on Saturday, August 27, 2022, beginning at 10:00 am, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL:

Councilwoman Hagaman moved for approval of a recess to hold a closed session to discuss matters of Personnel, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

The council recessed at 7:52 pm and reconvened at 8:54 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 22-07: CHANGING RULE 4.1-5 OF THE PERSONNEL MANUAL (NEPOTISM):

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve an ordinance changing rule 4.1-5 of the personnel manual (Nepotism), seconded by Councilman Tweedy,

Councilwoman Hagaman requested to make the following amendment to the nepotism policy:

Section D: A committee shall be formed, comprised of the Human Resource Officer, Mayor, and City Attorney, to review any issues, including but not limited to, discipline of any employee subject to supervision of an immediate family member as defined by the Personnel Manual. Said committee shall have final decision as to any issues or discipline.

Said amendment was seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

Councilwoman Hagaman moved to approve an ordinance changing rule 4.1-5 of the Personnel Manual (Nepotism) with the amendments, seconded by Councilman Tweedy.

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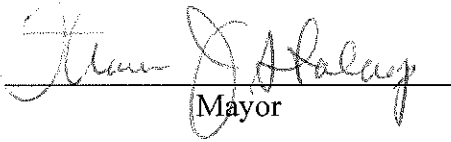
ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 31.94 TO THE CITY CODE BY CREATING AN ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER POSITION: DIED FOR LACK OF MOTION

Councilman Tweedy moved to appoint Steve Palen as Interim City Manager, effective immediately, seconded by Councilwoman Hagaman, and approved by the following vote:

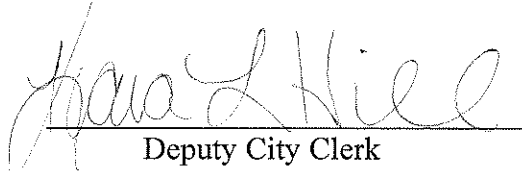
AYES: Duncan, Hagaman, Tweedy (3)
NAYS: Plank, Stalcup (2)

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.



Mayor



Deputy City Clerk