

August 7, 2023

AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2023, 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: David Ayres
Bill Dettmers
Jeremy Plank
Scott Tweedy
Tom Stalcup

and that a quorum was present and in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 17, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)
NAYS: None (0)

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilman Ayres moved for approval of the bills submitted for payment for the period July 13, 2023, to August 2, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)
NAYS: None (0)

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Stalcup presented an Appearance Award for the month of August to:
Rachel & Co. Coffee House 84 E. Ferguson

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Pastor Dave Landry opened by saying he would like to address some comments that he heard were made on Riverbender. He listened to the propaganda on Riverbender. What a staged performance. He said to keep spending their money, Wood River citizens are not buying it. Bill and Dave did win the election with around 600 votes each but the majority of those who voted, which was a small turnout for that election, which was unfortunate for Wood River. Over 700 other voters voted against them and shared their votes with three other candidates. Pastor Landry stated that there were over 700 voters that the Council was not listening to which has now swelled to over 1,000 voices speaking against their agenda. They do not represent the majority of the voices of Wood River. Some citizens did not vote but wish they would have voted, some who voted against the new council members, and some that voted for the new council members but now regret it. He thanked the Council for the five minutes to speak out against their rogue and unjust agenda. He stated that Councilman Jeremy Plank prior to voting to increase the time limit, wanted to stifle the voices of the citizens at City Council Meetings. He stated that the citizens are addressing issues that the Council has proposed. He also stated that the Council claims they do not take citizen comments personally. He stated maybe they should take the comments personally and not ignore citizen voices but embrace them. He stated that the Council claims they are grounded but they only hear their own voices, not the people's voices. Pastor Landry stated that this could all be over with if the Council would stop their reckless and hateful agendas. He stated the Council wants to fire people for trying to do their job for the City. He also stated that the Council is blocking and stopping important projects. Pastor Landry told the Council to stop using nepotism as a weapon. He stated that the City is offering video transparency to the meetings. He stated he likes the Council but not their policies. The Council's reckless and angry agenda is wrong for Wood River. He told the Council to start helping City Manager Steve Palen, Mayor Tom Stalcup and Councilman Scott Tweedy to develop our City into a vibrant, more prosperous City with economic growth and family values. City Officials have managed to leap over the roadblocks and wade through the swamp that the Council has created. He stated he is saying this again because he does not think it is being heard, the City has 6 months of reserves to keep this City running in an emergency without the Council's help. According to the County Clerk, Wood River is worth 12 million dollars more than it was last year.

What they are doing is working while the Council is following their own agenda. The City is fixing the roads, sidewalks, making our parks great, building retention ponds, and eliminating costly flood issues. The City signed with the Army Corp of Engineers for a water and sewer separation project in Wood River. He told the Council to stop blocking these agendas. He stated this is what the City is doing without the Council's support and to think what the City of Wood River could do if the Council worked with the City Manager, Mayor, and Councilman Tweedy. He told the Council to stop making it about them and start helping. He said there is an overwhelming majority of citizens that want the dispensary and want to see the Recreation Center succeed. He stated that the Council needs to help and if the Council does not want to help, he asked the Council to do the City a great service and resign. Having a referendum on this dispensary after it was already approved is wrong and disruptive to our City. It is unfair to the overwhelming amount of people that support it and developers who have already started the process. Instead of the Council using stalling tactics, by not moving forward, the litigation of a possible lawsuit which he said the Council already knows about, will cause more reckless spending. He stated he wants to know where the Council's common ground is. He also stated that the Council's abuse of power is unnecessary.

Mayor Stalcup congratulated Missy Bell Yates and Rustic Roots for being chosen as the Rotary Club's Business of the Year. The Bell/Yates family has been in business and has been a business mainstay in Wood River for years. He stated Rustic Roots is leading the way to revitalize downtown.

Mayor Stalcup also congratulated Atomic Pinball Arcade. He stated the grand opening took place last Saturday, August 5, 2023. He stated Atomic Pinball has over 100 pinball machines, video games, shuffleboard, skee ball, and driving games. He wished Chuck and John, who made the major renovations to the facility, much success.

Mayor Stalcup announced that Friday, August 11, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Ferguson Avenue between 3rd and 4th Street, the Library's National Night Out event will take place. He invited everyone to come out and enjoy food, inflatable slides, a scavenger hunt, basketball, emergency vehicles, law enforcement and personnel, and more.

Mayor Stalcup gave a special thank you to State Representative Amy Elik and her office for helping the City get repairs to the state highways that go through the City of Wood River. Repairs included Phoebe Goldberg overpass, the curb and median repairs, and repairs to the east bound lanes of Highway 143 at E. Edwardsville Road. He stated that those repairs were desperately needed. Mayor Stalcup thanked State Representative Amy Elik for all her efforts.

City Manager Steve Palen asked Director of Parks & Recreation Jason Woody to explain the options for the Metro East Park District Grant. Director Woody handed out packets showing the two different options for the grant that he wanted to present to the Council. Director Woody opened by stating that at the last City Council Meeting, Councilman Plank brought this up as an opportunity to apply for the Metro East Park District Grant. Since the last meeting, Director Woody worked on two different options for the City to apply for. He feels that the two options are the most prominent to get the most done at one time. The first page of the handout explains what the grant is and what it entails. The City of Wood River is eligible to apply for the grant and falls under the first or eligible for grant round one in the green column which shows Wood River is second from the bottom of the list and that is because the City has received grants from the Metro East Park District in the past. He stated that most likely once the City applies for this grant, if we are accepted, we will get kicked over to the right side which is the blue column. Next year would probably not be an option for the City to apply for the grant if we get this grant. The project itself maximum grant is a \$100,000 and to be able to get \$100,000, the City would have to have a budget of a \$250,000 project. If the City goes for the maximum, it is a 60/40% match, which means for the City to get \$100,000, we will have to spend \$150,000 to get the maximum amount. The City does not have to go for the maximum amount, but he thinks it would be good since it will put the City in the other category even if we did not go for the maximum amount. We could get money but not have an opportunity next year depending on what that dollar amount is. The people on the grant round one, the application cycle is already open. It opened on July 12, 2023, and runs through August 31, 2023. On August 31, 2023, if there is money remaining, it is first come first-serve basis and all the people in the blue column could then apply. All the towns that get money that typically go after grant funds will be able to apply after the August 31, 2023, deadline for grant round one. He thinks that it is imperative if the City is going to go for this grant that we do so before the August 31, 2023, deadline. There is 1.5 million dollars still available right now which typically if you are not there on day one, there are no grant funds available. Typically, when the City applies for these grants, we are there on the day that it opens to put an application in. There was some confusion by Director

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day one, there are no grant funds available. Typically, when the City applies for these grants, we are there on the day that it opens to put an application in. There was some confusion by Director Woody because the City had applied for a \$300,000 grant for trails, so he thought that kicked the City over to the other side. The trail segments are a different portion of the Metro East Park District Grant so even if the City gets the \$100,000 grant for a park improvement it would not keep or prevent the City from applying for the \$300,000 maximum trail grant so the City can apply for both. Director Woody stated that a resolution is not required for him to apply for this grant but rather a letter of support from the Mayor. He told the Council that if they agree to apply and proceed, the City will not have to wait for the next Council Meeting for a resolution. Director Woody explained the two different options for the grant. Option #1 is paving and repairing certain parking lots at the different parks around the City. The lots would include the parking lot at 6th Street Park, the parking lot at 14th Street Park, and the parking lots on North and South Circle Drive at Belk Park. He received a quote of \$234,000 for all four parking lots. He would still apply for the maximum of \$250,000. The City would be allowed to apply for contingency within that. That does not mean you have to use it, but he would use the full amount which gives the City about 6.25% or approximately \$16,000 built-in in case we were to go out for bids and the bids come back higher than \$234,000. He stated that the cart paths at Belk Park are in bad shape, but golf courses are not applicable for this grant. Option #2 is workout equipment for the Recreation Center. The Recreation Center has two rooms that could potentially be used for cardio equipment and workout equipment. It is something the City heard a lot about that the City does not have in this facility. It is something the City would like to look at to see if it is possible to put in the facility and what would be provided in those spaces if they are turned into workout and cardio equipment facility rooms.

Councilman Dettmers asked what the anticipated use for those rooms are right now.

Director Woody explained that it is a multi-purpose room and the room on the left is an extension of the gymnastics room. Originally the gymnastics room would have allowed for multiple classes to take place at the same time but if it is used for a workout room, it would become a gymnastics room and a workout room.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the workout room would interfere with the gymnastic programs.

Director Woody stated that is not the intention and explained that the cardio area will be separate and will consist of treadmills, cross trainers, recumbent bikes, upright bikes, total body workout machines, stepper as well as a studio bike. The handout shows what could be in that room and on Page 3, there is an overview of it if the City were to create a strength room which would consist of everything shown in the picture including free weights, machines for each muscle group, multiple resistant bands, medicine balls, kettlebells, dumbbell sets, yoga blocks, mats, stability balls, jump ropes, and suspension trainers. He stated most of the equipment is Life Fitness for the cardio and Hammer Strength for the strength equipment. Both of those are made in the USA. They are both under Sourcewell Contracts. He stated that the estimated budget for this is about \$250,000 so both projects are similar in cost. He feels that this project would help the City offset costs and try to help the facility break even. He said it is important that the City has something like this to help that cause.

Councilman Ayres asked if Director Woody could include a proposal for finishing 14th Street Park. He stated that the Park has Pickleball Courts with no fences around them and no lighting.

Director Woody stated that the fencing for the Pickleball Court is going to be done soon. He said it is already in the budget to do the fencing.

Councilman Plank stated the deadline is August 31st and if the Mayor signs a letter of support, we would be able to apply based off the letter of support.

Director Woody stated that is correct.

Councilman Dettmers stated that the City has a couple options for this grant.

Director Woody stated yes and that he wanted to give Council a couple of options so there was not just one. He also stated that he would recommend Option #2 to help make the Recreation Center successful. He thinks the workout equipment is something that has been talked about throughout the community and throughout the campaigns but is something that the facility did not have so this is a

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way we can provide that to the citizens.

City Manager Steve Palen asked the council members to think about the options over the next week or so and let him know what option they want to go with.

Director Woody stated that he has a list of the equipment if the Council would like to see it.

Chief Wells stated he has been doing this a long time and has worked with a lot of towns over the years. He stated he worked with Rosalie Huebener at the Sheriff's Department together and worked a lot of who done it, homicides, and trying to catch the bad guys over night and day and things like that. He stated that two weeks ago something that we do not have happen often in our City happened. The City had a homicide and within just a couple of hours of the homicide happening the men and women of the Wood River Police Department had the bad guy in custody and he has been in custody since that homicide happened. Chief Wells thanked the Council for their support. He has worked with a lot of towns where they do not have the support from the Council, Mayor, and City Manager and that was one of the biggest things to him when he took this job was having the Council's support. He said the Council may not realize it sitting in those seats but working those long hours knowing he has the Council's support behind the Police Department is very important and he thanked the Council again for their support.

Councilman Jeremy Plank asked Chief Wells about the cash bail and asked if it would go into effect in September. Chief Wells said unfortunately it will go into effect on September 18, 2023.

Councilman Jeremy Plank asked how that would have affected the homicide situation. Chief Wells stated that it would have put the Police Department under a little bit more of a rush just to prove the probable cause. The defendant has a right to a hearing rather quickly and they also have a right to counsel at that time. The Police Department would have to have a lot of evidence ready to go. He stated that a lot of people who signed this bill and put this bill in place has never worked a homicide. He thinks it is an effort to get that "gotcha moment", but he stated the Police Department is flexible on this and they will figure out how to get those types of things done. He has mentioned before that the Police Department has been preparing this town by doing things over the last three or four years to get ready for this bill. He stated there are some downfalls to the bill, but the City of Wood River will be okay. Councilman Jeremy Plank asked what time frame the Police Department is looking at as far as developing the evidence and getting to court. Chief Wells said there must be a probable cause hearing in front of a judge and then at that point it is a detention hearing. He stated at that point, the judge would decide if you can go ahead and detain that person. He stated the Police Department has the right on violent offenses with homicide being one of them that the Police Department can go ahead and automatically detain them. Chief Wells stated that with this situation, the Police Department would have been able to keep the bad guy where he should have been for that time period. Chief Wells stated there will be more to come on the bill when it rolls out.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that there were a couple of bids that came in while he was on vacation. He stated both bids were a little high. He would like the Council to think about what they want to do with the high bids. The sealing of the City owned parking lot project was budgeted at \$60,000 and the lowest bid was \$94,400. Also, the water line project on State Street was budgeted at \$100,000 and the lowest bid was \$275,000. He stated that there is \$100,000 coming from the County CDBG money. He stated that the City could cut out some of the sealing of City owned parking lots to bring costs down for that project but that because of the scope of the water line project that was sent to CDBG to fund it, it is either do it or do not. He asked the Council to let him know what they decide so he can either put it on the next agenda or tell CDBG that the City is not doing it.

ORDINANCE NO. 2866: SUBDIVIDING PARCEL ID 19-1-08-23-00-000-001:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance subdividing Parcel ID 19-1-08-23-00-000-001, as submitted by the Plan Commission, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Mayor Stalcup asked City Manager Steve Palen to give the Council a rundown on this agenda item.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that this is what the City refers to as the Sumner Property. This is the property the City is obtaining to help keep the costs down on the 9th Street Detention Pond Project, which is the project that will alleviate people being in the flood zone in that area. It will remove 300 or so of the homes once the project is completed from the flood zone. He stated that getting this property will save the City quite a bit of money.

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Councilman Tweedy asked once the City gets the property when will the project start.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the City just recently found out that we are getting \$800,000 from the Federal Government with the new budget once the budget is approved. He stated that the City is probably looking at next year for the construction to start. He stated the City could start early if the ground is not frozen. Federal funds are supposed to be done in October, but he has not seen one done in October yet. He stated that the project will probably start early next year.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)
NAYS: None

APPROVED: REQUEST FROM WOOD RIVER ENRICHMENT NETWORK AND RUSTIC ROOTS TO CLOSE FERGUSON AVENUE FROM 1ST STREET TO WOOD RIVER AVENUE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023, FROM 7:00AM TO 5:00PM TO HOST THE 5TH ANNUAL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request from Wood River Enrichment Network and Rustic Rotos to close Ferguson Avenue from 1st Street to Wood River Avenue on Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 7:00am to 5:00pm to host the 5th Annual Food Truck Festival, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)
NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: RECOMMENDATION FROM MAYOR STALCUP TO APPOINT MIKE ANDERSON OF 217 SHAWNEE TO THE LIBRARY BOARD TO REPLACE STACY TIERNEY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 2026:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a recommendation from Mayor Stalcup to appoint Mike Anderson of 217 Shawnee to the Library Board to replace Stacy Tierney with a term to expire May 2026, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)
NAYS: None (0)

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of a recess to hold a closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Possible Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)), seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

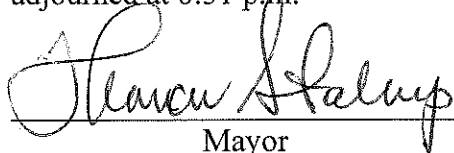
AYES: Ayres, Dettmers Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)
NAYS: None (0)

The Council recessed at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman Ayres stated that he would like the City Manager/Public Works Director to propose two items to the City Council. Since the Sumner property will be subdivided and there will be soil taken from the 9th Street Detention Pond Project to that property, he would like to see some of that dirt taken to Belk Park to the area of the ten acres that the Council has been discussing for a couple of months. He stated if the dirt is taken to Belk Park some of the property could be leveled out and made usable for recreational purposes. Second item, he would like to allow Wood River residents up to a half-ton pickup truck load of dirt at no expense to be used for home improvement purposes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk