

July 17, 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, July 17, 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 Ayres moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 3, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilman Plank moved for approval of the bills submitted for payment for the period June 29, 2023, to July 12, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Dettmers

Councilman Dettmers stated there were a couple of expenses under the Home Rule Sales Tax for a Bob Cat Rental. He asked if the expenses were for the work on East End Detention Pond and if any more expenses were expected.

City Manager Steve Palen stated the expenses were for the East End Detention Pond and that the City's Bob Cat was not working and therefore the City had to rent a Bob Cat to complete the work.

The bills were approved by the following vote:

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING JUNE 30, 2023:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of the financial statement ending June 30, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Pastor Dave Landry opened by stating that he wanted to speak about the statement Jeremy Plank made on Riverbender, "There is a handful of disgruntled people who are being led and organized by four failed candidates for City Council." He stated he wanted to clarify that it is not a handful, it is at least a 1,000 and is rapidly growing. Pastor Landry was told by Councilman Dettmers that he would not support a cannabis store in Wood River that could increase revenue. Pastor Landry feels that wanting citizens to vote is just a stalling technique. He stated the "reckless angry three" did not show up for the tour of the new Recreation Center. He feels their agenda needs to be turned around and working for the people and for the City of Wood River and feels the "reckless angry three" are taking the City down the wrong course. He asked the Council if they would want 1,000 or more people storming City Hall with five minutes to blast the reckless policies. He does not feel all the citizens are being heard and that the Council members are trying to silence the citizen's voices. There are more than six months of reserves in the City account and according to the County Clerk, the City is worth \$12 million more this year than last year. None of the "reckless angry three" had anything to do with building the reserve. It was the City Manager Steve Palen, Mayor Tom Stalcup, Councilman Scott Tweedy, and previous Councilwoman Sonya Hagaman who plowed through the muddy swamp to move the City forward. He asked the "reckless angry three" to stop their rogue agenda. The rogue agenda is what has citizens mad. The statement that the 1% sales tax lawsuit cost

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the City hardly anything because insurance paid for it is the kind of thing that drives insurance costs up. According to the FOIA report, it cost the City thousands of dollars in attorney fees. He asked for the resignation of the three council members as their reckless, angry agenda is wrong for Wood River.

Kristen Burns stated she was able to participate in the Cycle Across Illinois benefiting Illinois Concerns of Police Survivors which is near and dear to their family because her brother-in-law was killed in the line of duty. The ride was 368 miles from Springfield to Chicago. She thanked Chief Wells for the opportunity. She stated she and her husband were able to meet other survivors and share stories. There was a presentation at a dinner in Ottawa for an officer that was killed last year. During the presentation, The City of Wood River was mentioned. Chief Wells started doing ornaments for every officer killed in the line of duty. Every year the Christmas tree is put up at The Wood River Police Department and the ornaments are placed on the tree and ornaments are also sent out to the other Police Departments. She was able to watch the presentation of the ornament. Kristen presented a couple of challenge coins to Chief Wells. She thanked all of those that supported her.

Mayor Stalcup congratulated Kristen on her ride and thanked the Police Department for their support.

Lauren Friese stated there was a recent letter addressed to the editor that was posted in the Riverbender that addressed a few issues that have come up in recent City Council meetings. One of the items addressed was the withdrawal of a female from the Planning Commission. The council member, in the article, stated he reached out to the individual's husband to express his disappointment that she had withdrawn her name and that he hoped she would consider being a part of other community activities in the future. The term "misogyny" has been thrown around during recent Council meetings and it is not a term that she likes. This is the kind of 1950's, 1960's thinking that female citizens are advocating against. Also in the article is a comment on how the council member believes certain comments need to be gavelled. She urged the council member to brush up on constitutional rights and freedom of speech as there is a hefty fine involved when a person is suppressed from expressing themselves whether in person or on social media platforms. If community members are not using derogatory language, they are well within their rights to stand up for how they feel. This council person spoke out on multiple occasions against the former Mayor, calling for her resignation many times. This started a City-wide initiative to save the Roundhouse and to stop the reckless three. Most states require a 183-day policy to determine residency for individuals. She stated there is one city council member who claims residency although he is never at his home. In the last 90 days of the 183-day policy, the individual's car has been seen one time. If you are not living in Wood River but deciding the future of the town, she urged the council member to immediately resign from the public office. She addressed the disappointment she feels as a resident in Wood River regarding the treatment of a female individual who lost the election. The FOIA requests and the attacks on her name are over the top. She feels this individual has done many positive things in the few years she has resided in Wood River than the multiple lawsuits that two council members have had against the City. She does not understand why the Recreation Center is not being supported and why only two council members took the tour this past week. Every single member ran because they are passionate about what happens to the City and to see the good in Wood River. She asked that the egos be put aside and to act in the best interest of Wood River.

Councilman Plank asked the Mayor if the gavel would be used on things that do not relate to the City.

Mayor Stalcup asked for clarification.

Councilman Plank explained that comments of personal nature, for example, watching people's houses and asked if the gavel will be used when comments of that nature are made.

Mayor Stalcup stated if it is out of line then yes; however, citizens have the right to voice their opinion.

Councilman Plank stated that in a public forum, comments should be restricted to City business.

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Amy Davis stated she has never claimed to live in Wood River, but she served on the School Board for ten years. She stated that the entire time other citizens were speaking, people in the back were making fun of someone crying over their dead brother-in-law. She has served on boards and has never seen so many people elected writing letters to the editor and sending out half-truths. People now have five minutes but that is not just so they can agree with certain council members. Council members need to take everyone into account, not just the people who voted for them and not just the people who agree with them. Elected officials are held to a higher standard than everyone else. There were plenty of things that she did not agree with when she was on the School Board, but when that happened, she supported it because she did not want the district to fail. She feels this is what should be done with the Recreation Center. She does not understand why everyone wants something to fail. She agrees with prior comments regarding freedom of speech. If laws are not being broken, there is no reason opinions can be stopped. She does not understand the attacks on Kristen when she puts time and energy into the community, and she wants things to succeed. One of the sitting council members had previously spoke out and asked for the resignation of a prior Mayor and then when someone does it to them, they write letters to the editor. It is not personal; it is called politics. She finds it interesting that there is so much scrutiny about where she lives but not where a council member lives. She feels when you look at everything, it feels as if they do not want women to speak. She then asked for the resignation of the three council members.

Bryan Mallory spoke regarding the splitting of approximately 10 acres of Belk Park near Rock Hill Road to donate, not sell, not bid, but to donate the land to a for profit developer to build a wedding venue. The proposal goes before the Planning Commission on Thursday, July 20th at 7pm. He urged citizens to be present at the meeting to at least learn of the greedy Councilmen and Mayor's backdoor and almost hush hush deal to privatize a portion of Belk Park. This means you will no longer be able to enjoy a portion of the park, go fishing in peace, or play catch with your children. The City Council and Mayor have plans to give away the park only to get a hotel near 255 and 143 as the developer has demanded and without one or the other neither will happen. These are all reasons why you, as a citizen, should be present.

Mayor Stalcup read a letter of commendation from Police Chief Wells regarding Officer Kenneth Lutz. He commended Officer Lutz for his brave actions.

Mayor Stalcup stated the Ice Cream Social was very successful. They dipped approximately 750 bowls which was 70 gallons of ice cream. Mayor Stalcup thanked Director Woody and his crew for a wonderful afternoon.

Mayor Stalcup explained there was a walk-through that took place at the new Recreation Center with the Park & Recreation Board, AAIC Architects and Project Manager Tom Dohack from Gonzales Companies LLC. The project is planned to be completed in late fall. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, July 25th at 11:00am at Central Park for the new playground and the public is invited.

City Manager Steve Palen introduced and welcomed the new City Attorneys. Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP is the firm and Mr. Michal McGinley and Mr. John Hackett will be present for the meetings. He also stated that Chief Wells brought an idea for renaming Old Alton Edwardsville Road to either Timmins Lane or Timmins Drive for Officer Tyler Timmins. He asked the Council to consider this and to let him know their thoughts on the suggestion.

Councilman Ayres stated in the past few weeks he has had requests for pothole repairs. One from a business and one from a resident. He stated both have been remediated. If an individual is adjacent to an alley and has an issue with the alley, he requested the individual call the Public Works Department. He hopes that soon the Public Works Department will do a survey of the alleys and do repairs as necessary.

Councilman Tweedy thanked Director Woody for the tour of the Recreation Center. He stated it was his first Parks and Recreation meeting following the tour and he believes Director Woody and his staff are doing a good job. He thanked Director Woody for the patio at the clubhouse at Belk Park golf course, the new playground equipment at the Roundhouse, the repairs at the Roundhouse, and the repairs coming to East End Park.

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Councilman Dettmers thanked Director Sobrino for his assistance helping an individual who had some problems with their water bill. The individual had not received their water bill for three months and Director Sobrino is working with the individual to help rectify the situation and adjust their water bill.

Councilman Plank asked Director Woody if the City applied for the Metro East Park District Grant this year. It is his understanding that the window to apply is still open.

Director Woody explained that he would have to look at the requirements. The City has an outstanding Metro East Park District Grant for the baseball field, and he is not sure if the City can apply for the same grant until the baseball field project is completed.

Councilman Plank stated he spoke to an individual who is part of the Board and was told that the City could apply for the grant again and could specifically use it for the bike trail as well. The City is still in the Tier 1 Level even though a grant was applied for last year.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-17: AMENDING THE CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 112: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SECTION 112.25 LIMIT ON NUMBER OF LICENSES, (I) CHANGING THE NUMBER OF GAS STATION LIQUOR LICENSES IN DISTRICT 2 FROM THREE TO FOUR:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance amending the City Code 90-7, Title XI: Business Regulations, Chapter 112: Alcoholic Beverages, Section 112.25 Limit on Number of Licenses, (I) changing the number of gas station liquor licenses in District 2 from three to four, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2864: SUBDIVIDING THREE PARCELS INTO TWO PARCELS LOCATED AT PARCEL ID'S 19-1-08-25-00-000-009, 19-1-08-25-00-000-009.001, 19-1-08-25-00-000-009.002:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance subdividing three parcels into two parcels located at Parcel ID's 19-1-08-25-00-000-009, 19-1-08-25-00-000-009.001, 19-1-08-25-00-000-009.002, as submitted by the Plan Commission, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST TO SEEK BIDS FOR SEALING OF CITY OWNED PARKING LOTS:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a request to seek bids for sealing of City owned parking lots, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Plank asked for clarification on which parking lots.

City Manager Steve Palen stated it is normally the Fire Department parking lot, Wastewater Treatment parking lot, the Downtown parking lots, and possibly the City Hall parking lot.

The request was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY TO CLOSE FERGUSON AVENUE FROM 3RD STREET TO 4TH STREET ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023, FROM 5:00PM – 9:00PM TO HOST A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request from the Wood River Public Library to close Ferguson Avenue from 3rd Street to 4th Street on Friday, August 11, 2023, from 5:00pm – 9:00pm to host a National Night Out Event, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Dettmers 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 Plank

Councilman Dettmers spoke regarding an email he received dated June 28, 2023, in which he did not read until July 1, 2023. He stated it is from the City Manager regarding a legal opinion written by the former City Attorney regarding the dispensary. On June 5, 2023, and June 19, 2023, votes were taken regarding the dispensary and the whole time there was a letter from the City Attorney regarding potential liability regarding the cannabis dispensary, which Council was not provided a copy of. He asked who was responsible as Mr. Palen stated he thought the Mayor was sending the City Attorney's legal opinion to the rest of the Council and asked if it was the Mayor's responsibility.

Discussion ensued regarding who was responsible for sending the City Attorney's legal opinion and the other council members were asked if they were made aware of the legal opinion that was sent to the Mayor and City Manager Steve Palen on May 31, 2023.

City Attorney Michael McGinley encouraged Councilman Dettmers to not go through the memorandum that was sent by the previous City Attorney in an open session.

Councilman Dettmers made a motion to amend the approval of a recess to hold a closed session to add an item to be discussed during the closed session, Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1)) for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee, seconded by Councilman Ayres.

The amendment was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank (3)
 NAYS: Stalcup (1)
 ABSTAIN: Tweedy (1)

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Dettmers previously moved for approval of a recess to hold a closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Possible Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)), which was seconded by Councilman Plank

Discussion ensued regarding the length of time that had lapsed between the previous City Attorney sending a legal opinion to the Mayor and City Manager and when the legal opinion was sent to the council members.

Councilman Dettmers also stated that there was another request he had sent to the City Manager and previous City Attorney regarding what statutes are in place for the various Boards and Commissions and he never received a response from anyone. He feels that anytime certain council members request information, they are being stonewalled and he has serious concerns about City Manager Steve Palen's abilities.

The motion, with the amendment, was approved by the following vote:

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

The Council recessed at 7:43 p.m. and reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

Councilman Ayres made a motion to go back into open session, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

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OLD BUSINESS:

APPROVAL TO REMOVE OFF THE TABLE THE APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT DONATED PROPERTY LOCATED AT PARCEL ID 19-2-08-28-08-205-011, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2 E. FERGUSON, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095 FROM WOOD RIVER REVIVAL LLC:

Councilman Ayres moved to remove off the table the approval of an ordinance authorizing the City to accept donated property located at Parcel ID 19-2-08-28-08-205-011, commonly known as 2 E. Ferguson, Wood River, Illinois 62095 from Wood River Revival LLC, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of demolishing 2 E. Ferguson, which is \$75,000, and more discussion ensued regarding if the funds can come out of the \$300,000 downtown grant that the City applied for.

The removal was approved by the following vote:

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

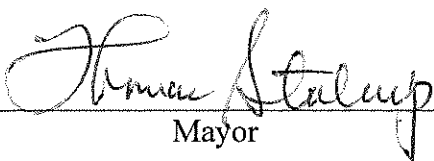
ORDINANCE NO. 2865: AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT DONATED PROPERTY LOCATED AT PARCEL ID 19-2-08-28-08-205-011, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2 E. FERGUSON, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095 FROM WOOD RIVER REVIVAL LLC:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the City to accept donated property located at Parcel ID 19-2-08-28-08-205-011, commonly known as 2 E. Ferguson, Wood River, Illinois 62095 from Wood River Revival LLC, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk