

September 5, 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 Tuesday, September 5, 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
Jeremy Plank
Scott Tweedy
Tom Stalcup

ABSENT: Bill Dettmers

and that a quorum was present and in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 21, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
NAYS: None (0)

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilman Plank moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period August 17, 2023, to August 30, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
NAYS: None (0)

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Pastor Dave Landry wanted to let everyone know how much he appreciated how well the last Council Meeting went. He stated it was nice seeing everyone come together and something positive happening for Wood River.

Bill Rogers said he had some questions about the agenda. One item referenced "a certain property" and he wants to know which property. He is concerned that someone is trying to hide something. He also stated that if TIF funds are involved they need to show what benefit it will be to the town and the residents. Mr. Rogers stated he believes there is a state law that any property sold must be sold at 80% of fair market value. His other issue with the agenda is the item referencing the subdivision of Belk Park. He stated that the people have spoken, and Council needs to let the item die.

John Elmendorf stated that he lives by Belk Park, and that section of the town is treated differently than the rest of Wood River. He mentioned that there are no sidewalks or curbs, and the street is not taken care of properly. He stated that there are no speed limit signs and urged the Council to begin controlling these issues if they are going to add traffic by adding businesses to that area.

Rosalie Huebener stated that she had a few comments on agenda items #9 and #11. She stated that she hopes item #9 will be explained by Council as the agenda does not state which property is being considered. With item #11 being related to the Belk Park subdivision, she hopes that the Council will vote no to subdividing the parcel.

Mayor Stalcup stated the Riverbend Growth Association will hold their LeadHERship Seminar on Friday, September 15, 2023, and the City has two people from Wood River on the list of participants for the award that will be presented at the seminar. He congratulated Kristen Burns and Lindsey Herron for being on the list of participants and wished them the best of luck with their vote.

City Manager Steve Palen invited Steve Bryant from Good Energy, L.P. to the meeting to explain the electric aggregation program. City Manager Steve Palen stated the City has been using Good Energy, L.P. for electric aggregation for the last several years and asked Steve Bryant to come up to the podium to explain the program.

September 5, 2023

Steve Bryant from Good Energy, L.P. thanked City Manager Steve Palen for inviting him to the meeting and stated that he wants residents to understand their energy costs. The City of Wood River has participated in the aggregation program since its inaugural bidding process in 2012. The item was put on the ballot as a referendum and voted on by the citizens of Wood River and it passed substantially in 2012. At that time, the rates were around six cents with Ameren and the first aggregation rate that Good Energy, L.P. received was four cents, so the residents immediately seen a reduction of nearly 30% in their electric rates at that time. The City of Wood River participates in the program with a group of communities in the Metro East and was able to negotiate a rate of 4.39 cents in October 2020, while Ameren's rate was around five cents. At the end of December 2022, Ameren's rate had risen to 12.7 cents.

Mr. Bryant said when the Ukrainian, Russian war broke out, along with the new Clean Air Act by the State and Federal Government, they are requiring all coal plants to stop generating electricity through coal by 2030. So, all the coal plants have moth balled and started closing. He said unfortunately when their contract expired, Ameren's rates were at 12.7 cents. With new legislation and the political climate changes there has been an increase in rate volatility. When Good Energy, L.P. went out to bid on the new program, they were unable to find a supplier willing to bid on a fixed rate. As the market climbed higher, projections aimed the rate around 16 cents. Eventually Constellation New Energy submitted the only bid at 12.2 cents and at the time Ameren was at 12.7 cents.

He wanted to remind the residents that the aggregation program is not about the best price but rather the guarantee of the fixed rate. The aggregation with Good Energy, L.P. is a protection against higher rates. He stated that over the time span of the aggregation, historically, participants have not paid more than what they would have paid at Ameren's rates. While currently the aggregation rate is upside down, he believes it will flip again.

Good Energy, L.P. is trying to get the rate reduced; however, Constellation New Energy is reluctant to do so. Ameren has the authority to reset their rate each season and Good Energy, L.P. believes that Ameren's rate will continue to rise.

He stated that there is no fee to opt out of the aggregation program but did caution that the rate with Constellation New Energy is fixed until December 2024. If a resident chooses to opt out of the program, there is a utility hold, and the resident must stay with Ameren for 12 months.

He also mentioned that the law is designed as an opt-out program. He reiterated that this is an individual's choice, and this program is one of longevity.

ORDINANCE NO. 2871: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH MADISON COUNTY FOR THE STATE STREET SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT, AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a Subrecipient Agreement with Madison County for the State Street sewer separation project, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
NAYS: None

ORDINANCE NO. 2872: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE A PUBLIC HEALTH LOAN FROM THE MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE STATE STREET SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT, AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of documents necessary to receive a Public Health Loan from the Madison County Community Development Department for the State Street Sewer Separation Project, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
NAYS: None

September 5, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 2873: REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2841, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH BARWOOD HOLDINGS LLC FOR TIF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT 56 E. FERGUSON, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2841, an ordinance authorizing the execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with Barwood Holdings LLC for TIF Financial Assistance at 56 E. Ferguson, Wood River, Illinois 62095, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TIF INDUCEMENT FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY BEING CONSIDERED FOR A TAX INCREMENT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution approving a TIF Inducement for redevelopment of certain property being considered for a tax increment redevelopment project area, seconded by Councilman Plank

City Manager Steve Palen clarified that this item is in reference to The Eagles doing repair work to their building at 74 E. Ferguson.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED AGENT TO SIGN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND DOCUMENTS, AS SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution designating an authorized agent to sign Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund documents, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
NAYS: None (0)

DENIED – A REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER TO SUBDIVIDE PARCEL ID 19-1-08-24-00-000-011. THE PLAN COMMISSION HELD A PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 17, 2023, AND FORWARDS A NEGATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

Councilman Plank moved to approve a request from The City of Wood River to subdivide Parcel ID 19-1-08-24-00-000-011. The Plan Commission held a public hearing on August 17, 2023, and forwards a negative recommendation, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and denied by the following vote:

AYES: None (0)
NAYS: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

A REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER ENRICHMENT NETWORK TO CLOSE THE PARKING LOT RUNNING ALONG WHITELAW AVENUE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE ROUNDHOUSE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023, FROM 9:00AM TO 4:00PM TO HOST THE 5TH ANNUAL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request from the Wood River Enrichment Network to close the parking lot running along Whitelaw Avenue on the east side of the Roundhouse on Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 9:00am to 4:00pm to host the 5th Annual Food Truck Festival, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilman Ayres made a motion to amend the request by revoking the original request from the Wood River Enrichment Network to close Ferguson Avenue on Saturday, October 7, 2023, seconded by Councilman Plank.

September 5, 2023

The amendment was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
 NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED – AMENDED REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER ENRICHMENT NETWORK REVOKING THE ORIGINAL REQUEST TO CLOSE FERGUSON AVENUE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023, AND TO CLOSE THE PARKING LOT RUNNING ALONG WHITELAW AVENUE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE ROUNDHOUSE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023, FROM 9:00AM TO 4:00PM TO HOST THE 5TH ANNUAL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL:

Councilman Tweedy previously moved for approval of a request from the Wood River Enrichment Network to close the parking lot running along Whitelaw Avenue on the east side of the Roundhouse on Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 9:00am to 4:00pm to host the 5th Annual Food Truck Festival, which was seconded by Councilman Plank, and the motion, with the amendment, was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
 NAYS: None (0)

A REQUEST FROM LORENA AVENUE PTA TO SOLICIT AT THE INTERSECTION OF WOOD RIVER AVENUE & PENNING AVENUE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023, FROM 8:00AM TO 4:00PM, DUE TO THEIR ORIGINAL DATE BEING RAINED OUT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY POLICY:

Councilman Plank moved to approve a request from Lorena Avenue PTA to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue & Penning Avenue on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 8:00am to 4:00pm, due to their original date being rained out, in accordance with City Policy, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
 NAYS: None (0)

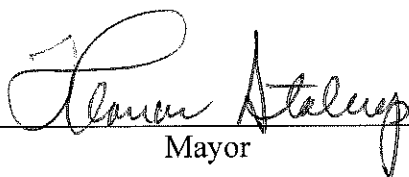
OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Plank asked what the status was on the review of the towing contract.

Chief Wells stated he met with both business owners. The one complaint that Steve Kainz brought up was that the tow truck was not licensed properly. Chief Wells received a phone call right after the last meeting from Bill and Joe's owner indicating that Steve Kainz was right, and he gave the story behind what happened. The owner stated that it was a new truck that he bought from Iowa. He received a temporary plate for 30 days. That plate expired and he received another temporary plate and used the truck how he thought it was plated. He had purchased tow truck plates for that but when the regular plate came in, it was called an H plate, which would not allow him to use the wheel lift on the back of the truck, so he ceased using the wheel lift. He said he could still use it as a cargo lift. Chief Wells stated that he inspected all the other trucks, and they were all licensed properly, and their permits are valid and up to date. He sees no discrepancies with using Bill and Joe's Towing Company for the City.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



 Mayor



 City Clerk