

November 6, 2023

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 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 October 16, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Stalcup presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Karen Weber for her 10 years of service on the Wood River Library Board of Trustees.

Mayor Stalcup presented Certificates of Appreciation to Woodrow Peterson, Woody Peterson, Kiyu Stilts, Michael Hausman, Alex Bushrow, and Latwon Everage for their efforts in participating in a community cleanup.

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Dettmers moved for approval of a recess to hold a closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)) for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy (4)
NAYS: Stalcup (1)

The Council recessed at 7:07 p.m. and reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Pastor Dave Landry stated he is very angry on the inside. He is so upset with the constant, angry, and bigoted vendetta against certain groups of people and City employees. It is just pure evil, and it needs to stop. He said when you see the face of evil, like the City did on October 2, 2023, it is ugly. He thanked Councilman David Ayres and Councilman Jeremy Plank for their recent support of the ongoing projects in Wood River. He said he spoke directly to Councilman Bill Dettmers about his constant opposition in supporting Wood River's ability to bring positive change to Wood River. Pastor Landry said he asked the Council if they could commit to stopping these unwarranted attacks of wanting to destroy people's lives and their families for simply doing their jobs. He said Councilman Bill Dettmers asked for a closed session at that same meeting and he later found out that the closed session was about Kristen Burns. He said that in itself should raise an eyebrow on how much of an evil agenda these guys are pursuing. He said he was not going to go down the list of her accomplishments because there are just too many, but she gives her own time and has her own expenses to help Wood River grow. He said Kristen Burns has been a blessing to Wood River. Pastor Landry said she is very popular within the community. He said to Councilman Bill Dettmers and Councilman David Ayres that they ought to be ashamed of themselves and their actions. He stated we do not need puppets in our City that pull their strings and they follow like they have no

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mind of their own. He stated we need leaders who will do the right thing for the City of Wood River. He said Councilman David Ayres has a unique opportunity and the number of times that he has served the City of Wood River, he could leave Wood River with accomplishments, and people could say a well and deserved job that he did, or he can leave Wood River as one of the most hated men in politics in the City of Wood River and he said the same goes for Councilman Jeremy Plank. He stated he thinks it is time for Councilman Jeremy Plank to take a look and begin to ponder how he will be remembered with his actions. He told Councilman Bill Dettmers it is obvious how deep his anger is. He stated that Councilman Bill Dettmers does not care about the opinions and how it hurts people and destroys lives. He said he knows this personally. He said that when his term is over, he will fade into his world. He feels that it is important for the Council to acknowledge that they are no longer pursuing this kind of vindictive anger and hate. He said if they stay silent tonight, they are only confirming to the Wood River citizens, the Council's real agenda. He truly wants to support the Council but not at the expense of destroying other people's careers. He asked the council members how they want to be remembered. He said in closing he would like to read a scripture. Hebrews 4:12 says the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Mary Roberts invited everyone to the Veteran's Day Ceremony that will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the East Alton-Wood River Community High School Memorial Gym. There will be a bagpiper and a young lady from Alton High School will be singing the National Anthem. William Steiner, a Junior at EAWRCHS, will play the taps. This year, Pastor Tim McGee, a United States Army Veteran from Bunker Hill will be involved with the Ceremony. They will also have Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops in attendance. They are going to present 19 Quilts of Valor this year to the Veterans in this area. She said they hope everyone can come and celebrate and show honor and respect for our Veterans.

Mayor Stalcup thanked Mary Roberts and said he knows Mary worked very hard on this for the third year now and it is always a great event and he invited everyone to the Ceremony.

Rosalie Huebner stated she is a member of the Wood River Kiwanis and she wanted to report that this past Saturday, down at Cleary's Shoe Store, they gave away 102 pairs of shoes to children from five different schools in Wood River Township. They had a lot of smiles and a lot of gratefulness from some of the people. She said this is a yearly event and they cannot do it without all the people coming in and buying barbecue. She said that little event cost almost \$7,000.00. Cleary's is fantastic, they had all their staff there, and they got the kids fitted and got them out of there. The parents were happy. She said the biggest family they had was a family of ten and every one of those kids got a brand-new pair of shoes. She said they had one little guy who picked out magic shoes and when he put them on, his feet started dancing. She said he had a lot of laughs, and they really enjoyed it. She thinks the community is just fantastic for supporting the Kiwanis. She stated they have sold out at every barbecue for over a year now. She invited everyone to come out next year and said they will see everyone in April.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period October 12, 2023, to November 1, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers stated that on Page 1, item 6195, Kristen Orban-Burns submitted four bills for \$600.00 each. Councilman Dettmers made a motion that these bills be put off until she has some time to provide documentation to support the hours that she has reported. He asked for a second.

Mayor Stalcup stated due to a lack of a second, motion dies.

Councilman Dettmers asked about item 4388 on Page 2 for Jack Schmitt Chevrolet, 50% sales tax reverse over base \$14,750.30.

City Manager Steve Palen said the City has a redevelopment agreement with Jack Schmitt Chevrolet and the terms of the redevelopment agreement are that they have a base sales tax that they have to pay to the City every year. When this agreement started, any increment above that was paid to the City up to \$500,000.00. Now that the \$500,000.00 has been paid back, anything over and above the base sales tax until the term gets to 20 years is split 50/50 with the City and Jack Schmitt Chevrolet.

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Councilman Dettmers asked about item 5250 from Page 3 for St. Louis Ballfields and Turf, infield renovation for \$6,249.75. He said he is assuming that is the work done on the ballfields.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody said yes, it is for the renovation of Dwiggins Baseball Field at 6th Street Park.

Councilman Dettmers asked about item 6302 for Siteone Landscape Supply, Infield Mix – Ballfield Reno. He asked if Reno was the name of the field. He said the bill was for \$22,499.64.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody said Reno is short for Renovation and that is for the material for the same baseball field at 6th Street Park.

Councilman Dettmers asked about item 6058 on Page 5, November 2023 – Health Insurance for \$103,837.20. He asked if that was the City's normal insurance premium payment. He asked how many employees the City has covered.

Finance Director Karen Weber stated that the City has about 70 full-time employees but the employees have the option of adding dependents and spouses. She said certain employees do pay a percentage of that back with their deductions, but this is the full payment from the City not including the net.

Councilman Dettmers asked if that was a fully insured plan or if it was self-funded partially.

Finance Director Karen Weber said that the City is in a government pool but it is self-funded.

Councilman Dettmers asked if it was insurance or if it was just pooling and the City was just sharing the expenses.

Finance Director Karen Weber said it is through United Healthcare.

Councilman Dettmers said it is insurance.

Councilman Dettmers asked about an item on Page 6, Shepherd Morgan and Schwab, State Street Waterline for \$3,025.75. He said this expense is under water distribution. He asked if this was a budgeted expense for the State Street Sewer Separation Project.

City Manager Steve Palen said it is the water line improvement project that the City approved about a month ago for Phase 2 from Elble to Haller. That is the project that will eventually go all the way up to Eaton so the City can get the 12-inch loop around to that side of town.

Councilman Dettmers asked if this is for the sewer separation project.

City Manager Steve Palen said no.

Councilman Dettmers said he did not want to talk about the sewer separation project right then, but he will bring it up under old business.

Councilman Dettmers asked about an item from Page 7 under Sewer Capital Trust, Capital Gains Inc., July 1 through August 30, 2023, Management Fees for \$830.17.

Finance Director Karen Weber said the City has some investments with Capital Gains. She stated that is the name of the investment firm.

Councilman Dettmers said okay because there are a couple of entries under that.

Finance Director Karen Weber said yes.

Councilman Dettmers asked about an item from Page 8 under Capital Improvements and Development, Community Title and Escrow, Homebuyer Program for \$5,000.00. He said he knows about the Homebuyer Program, but this is the first time he has seen this come up. He asked if the City has had many people taking advantage of the program.

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Finance Director Karen Weber said the City has had six or seven since the program started.

Councilman Dettmers said he hopes the people of Wood River realize that the City budgeted \$50,000.00 for this program. He also said he would like to see the City budget more money in the next budget for the program.

Councilman Dettmers asked about an item from Page 9 under Non-Home Rule Sales Tax, Fence - Pickleball Courts for \$5,500.00. He asked if that was for the fencing.

City Manager Steve Palen stated yes, that is correct.

Councilman Dettmers asked about Gonzales Companies, May 28th through June 30th for \$34,716.00 and asked if that was for the Recreation Center.

City Manager Steve Palen stated yes, that is correct.

Councilman Dettmers said there was another expense for \$24,224.20, \$67.50, \$97.50, and \$83.60. He asked if these are all for the 9th Street Detention Project.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that they are all for different projects.

Councilman Dettmers questioned the expense for Stutz Excavating, Sidewalk/Curb Repair for \$10,525.00.

City Manager Steve Palen said yes, the City had Stutz Excavating do a project in front of the Atomic Pinball on Whitelaw where the sidewalks and curbs were in pretty bad shape.

Councilman Dettmers asked about the expense for AAIC for September for the Recreation Center. He asked if the City is about to be done with payments to Gonzales and AAIC.

City Manager Steve Palen said he will look and see where the City is percentage wise with each of those companies. He told Councilman Dettmers that he would get him the numbers.

Councilman Dettmers asked about Illinois EPA, amalgamated Eastside Detention Pond payment for \$39,060.35.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that was the payment for the loan on that project.

Councilman Dettmers asked if that was the normal loan payment.

City Manager Steve Palen said it was either the first or second payment on the loan.

Finance Director Karen Weber said she would have to look into which payment it was.

Councilman Dettmers questioned if the following expenses under the Recreation Center Fund are for the Recreation Center Project including Rooters American Maintenance for \$19,249.29, Limbaugh Construction Co., Inc. for \$295,114.80, and Langhauser Sheet Metal Co. for \$58,900.00. He also asked how close they were to getting that done.

City Manager Steve Palen said they are looking at potentially opening in January. He said he thinks they are waiting on an elevator.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody said it will be closer to February.

City Manager Steve Palen said they are waiting for some materials and delivery of some items.

The bills were approved by the following vote:

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

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CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Trisha Shrewsberry from CJ Schlosser & Company LLC gave a brief synopsis of the audit report. The audit report is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

Councilman Plank asked if the actuary was the same this year as prior years.

Ms. Shrewsberry said yes.

Councilman Dettmers reviewed the pension section of the audit with the auditor and stated he is not comfortable with where the City is with pension liabilities.

ORDINANCE NO. 2881: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE FROM SUMNER FAMILY TRUST 2 TO PURCHASE PART OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT PARCEL ID 19-1-08-23-00-000-001, COMMONLY KNOWN AS SUMNER LANE, WOOD RIVER, IL 62095, FOR THE 9TH STREET DETENTION POND PROJECT, AND OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract to purchase real estate from Sumner Family Trust 2 to purchase part of the property located at Parcel ID 19-1-08-23-00-000-001, commonly known as Sumner Lane, Wood River, IL 62095, for the 9th Street Detention Pond Project, and other public purposes, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2882: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A FULLY AUTOMATIC MAILING SYSTEM, AS SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of an agreement with GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation for a fully automatic mailing system, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2883: DECLARING PARCEL ID 19-2-08-21-11-202-059, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 876 STATE STREET, WOOD RIVER, IL 62095, AND ZONED R-2 SINGLE FAMILY AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance declaring Parcel ID 19-2-08-21-11-202-059, commonly known as 876 State Street, Wood River, IL 62095, and zoned R-2 Single Family as surplus and authorizing request for proposals, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2884: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMY & CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON FOR TIF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT 10 W. FERGUSON, AS SUBMITTED BY THE TIF COMMITTEE:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with Amy & Christopher Johnson for TIF Financial Assistance at 10 W. Ferguson, as submitted by the TIF Committee, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers stated that this is a project with an estimated cost of \$8500.00, requesting fifty percent for almost \$4300.00, as a one-time payment. He also stated that he has asked in the past that this information be added to the agendas so that people can be aware of more detail about the TIF agreements.

Mayor Stalcup asked Councilman Dettmers if he was referring to the total cost.

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Councilman Dettmers said yes so that he does not continue to get requests for that information.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)
 NAYS: None (0)
 ABSTAIN: Dettmers (1)

ORDINANCE NO. 2885: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH KENT BRIGMAN FOR TIF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT 68 E. FERGUSON, AS SUBMITTED BY THE TIF COMMITTEE:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with Kent Brigman for TIF Financial Assistance at 68 E. Ferguson, as submitted by the TIF Committee, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers stated that this is an agreement in the amount of a little over \$2200.00 requesting for a one-time payment at fifty percent totaling \$1100.00. He stated that he has the same comment as the previous agenda item.

Mayor Stalcup stated that the detailed information regarding the TIF agreements will be added to the agenda items moving forward.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

ACCEPTING RECEIPT OF THE 2022-2023 AUDIT REPORT:

Councilman Ayres moved to accept receipt of the 2022-2023 Audit Report as prepared by C.J. Schlosser & Company LLC, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2022-2023 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mayor Stalcup moved to accept the 2022-2023 Treasurer's Report, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A \$350,000, ZERO-INTEREST LOAN FROM THE ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE TRUCK AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT, AS SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a \$350,000, zero-interest loan from the Illinois Finance Authority for the purchase of a new fire truck and authorizing the execution of a loan agreement, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024: AUTHORIZING THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY TO FILE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO INTERVENE IN THE PROCEEDING BEFORE THE MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW BY BOOS PLAZA, LLC, AND DESCRIBED AS PARCEL NUMBER 19-1-08-23-00-000-009.C00, AND LOCATED AT 300 WESLEY DRIVE, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a resolution authorizing the Prosecuting Attorney to file the necessary documents to intervene in the proceeding before the Madison County Board of Review by Boos Plaza, LLC, and described as Parcel Number 19-1-08-23-00-000-009.C00, and

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located at 300 Wesley Drive, Wood River, Illinois 62095, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023: AUTHORIZING THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY TO FILE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO INTERVENE IN THE PROCEEDING BEFORE THE MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW BY PEANUT, LLC, AND DESCRIBED AS PARCEL NUMBER 19-1-08-23-00-000-006.001, AND LOCATED AT 1907 VAUGHN ROAD, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the Prosecuting Attorney to file the necessary documents to intervene in the proceeding before the Madison County Board of Review by Peanut, LLC, and described as Parcel Number 19-1-08-23-00-000-006.001, and located at 1907 Vaughn Road, Wood River, Illinois 62095, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022: APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM, AS SUBMITTED BY THE FIRE CHIEF:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution approving the execution of an intergovernmental agreement for participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, as submitted by the Fire Chief, seconded by Councilman Dettmers

Mayor Stalcup asked Fire Chief Wade Stahlhut to brief the audience on this agenda item.

Fire Chief Wade Stahlhut gave a brief synopsis of the PowerPoint Presentation that he handed out to the Council members prior to the meeting. He explained that the revised MABAS Agreement is a revision that takes place every so often to help improve the terms of the agreement and the assistance that the City of Wood River gets from neighboring communities.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: RECOMMENDATION TO RENEW THE CITY'S PROPERTY, LIABILITY, WORKERS' COMPENSATION, AND CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE WITH IML/RMA, AS SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a recommendation to renew the City's property, liability, workers' compensation, and cyber liability insurance with IML/RMA, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: ACCEPTING THE BID FROM CHARLES E. MAHONEY CO. FOR \$112,512.35 FOR THE PARKING LOT AT EMERICK SPORTS COMPLEX, AS SUBMITTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve accepting the bid from Charles E. Mahoney Co. for \$112,512.35 for the parking lot at Emerick Sports Complex, as submitted by the Director of Parks & Recreation, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Mayor Stalcup stated this is for the parking lot directly across from the baseball diamonds at 6th Street Park where the lot is currently all gravel.

Councilman Dettmers asked if this is the project that the City got the grant for.

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City Manager Steve Palen stated yes, and Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody stated it is the Metro East Park District Grant that the City applied for recently.

The acceptance of the bid was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST TO SEEK BIDS FOR FENCING FOR DWIGGINS FIELD AT EMERICK SPORTS COMPLEX, AS SUBMITTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request to seek bids for fencing for Dwiggins Field at Emerick Sports Complex, as submitted by the Director of Parks & Recreation, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER ENRICHMENT NETWORK TO HOLD THE WOOD RIVER CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT ON THE CITY OWNED PARKING LOT ALONG MADISON AVENUE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a request from the Wood River Enrichment Network to hold the Wood River Christmas Tree Lighting Event on the City owned parking lot along Madison Avenue on Friday, November 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman Plank

Mayor Stalcup asked if anyone was in the audience from the Enrichment Network. No one was in the audience. He asked which particular lot they were requesting to have the event in, and conversation ensued regarding where it would be held. Mayor Stalcup will follow up with the Enrichment Network to confirm the exact location.

The request was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER BUSINESS ALLIANCE TO CLOSE FIRST STREET FROM FERGUSON AVENUE TO MADISON AVENUE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023, FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M. TO HOST THE WOOD RIVER HOLIDAY MARKET:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request from the Wood River Business Alliance to close First Street from Ferguson Avenue to Madison Avenue on Friday, November 24, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to host the Wood River Holiday Market, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Mayor Stalcup asked Kristen Burns to explain the event.

Kristen Burns explained that they would like to close the road between Von Dell Gallery and Rachel & Co. to have a Holiday Tradition Market. There will be multiple vendors, carriage rides, Santa, and various kid activities. She also stated that they have talked to the business owners that the street closure will affect, and the businesses are excited to be a part of the event.

The request was approved by the following vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Dettmers stated that in the Council packets there were some copies of minutes from some of the committees and he noticed that the Traffic Commission and the Appearance Board were unable to have their most recently scheduled meetings due to lack of a quorum and he thinks the Council should go back and address this issue with the Boards and Commissions. He stated he appreciates all the efforts of the current board members; however, he believes it would be in the

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best interest of the Council to make some of the committees smaller. He then stated that having fewer people on the committees would require a smaller portion of the committee to attend the meetings to reach a quorum, rather than expanding it and keep running into the same issues of not having a quorum.

Mayor Stalcup stated he has a list of interested volunteers and he will fill those holes this week and he does not want to diminish or shrink those committees right now, but he will keep Councilman Dettmers suggestions in mind.

Councilman Dettmers asked where the City is with the sewer separation project. He stated he knows that the bids were rejected, and they would try to go back and get things worked out but is unsure where the City is with the project.

City Manager Steve Palen stated he had a meeting today with the Army Corp of Engineers and they talked about some value engineering that they can do to try and drive down the cost of the project. City Manager Steve Palen stated that they have not officially rejected the bids yet, they were in negotiations with the two lowest bidders to see if they could get them at an awardable rate. An awardable rate was not able to be negotiated, so by the end of the week he expects that the bids will probably be rejected. Some of the ideas that were discussed today between the Corp and the City's Engineers may help drive down those costs and they are hoping to open the new bids before Christmas.

Councilman Dettmers asked if this is another delay.

City Manager Steve Palen answered yes.

Councilman Dettmers asked what kind of changes they are making that are going to be done now that they did not do before.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that there are some requirements that the Corp has that drove some of the cost up. They are looking at not necessarily waving some of those requirements but maybe being a little more flexible with some of their requirements.

Councilman Dettmers asked what the difference is.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that it saves the City some money hopefully in the long run by looking at some different construction materials.

Councilman Dettmers asked if they would be low quality materials.

City Manager Steve Palen stated no, an example would be looking at HTP as opposed to reinforced concrete in areas that are outside the pavement areas. He then stated that all of Wood River is sand so using that as backfill instead of hauling all of that out and bringing in rock around the pipe was another idea on how to drive the cost down.

Councilman Dettmers asked how much money will be saved by doing these things.

City Manager Steve Palen stated potentially 2 million dollars could be saved. The total project was right at 20 million dollars, the awardable rate is 17.5 million dollars, the Government's estimate was 14.5 million dollars, and the City's estimate was 17 million dollars and he thinks the City will get close to that and the next bid will be awardable.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the Army Corp of Engineers takes the City's estimate and asked who developed the estimate.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the City's engineers developed the City's estimate, and the Army Corp of Engineers developed their own estimate and to get to an awardable amount you can only go 125% over the Government estimate and it has to be within that range for it be awardable.

More conversation ensued regarding what the bids came in at. The low bid was 20 million dollars, the second low bid was 23 million dollars, and the third bid was in the 30 million dollar range. City Manager Steve Palen explained that there are not a lot of Army Corp of Engineers projects done to

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this magnitude in this area so the contractors were a little uncomfortable with some of their wording and their requirements and those were things that were talked about in the meeting today and if they can clean up the language, it will help save some money with the contractors who are bidding the project.

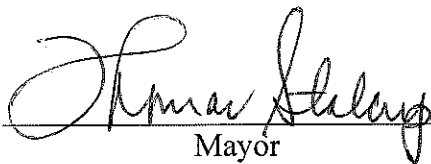
Councilman Dettmers asked who is going to be developing the numbers this time.

City Manager Steve Palen stated he is unsure if the Government will redo their estimate or not, but the awardable rate will be based off of their numbers.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he is not happy about all the infrastructure projects because he knows people are clamoring for infrastructure to get done and the City keeps getting delay after delay and the costs keep going up which is something he stated he has been talking about for years and that is why he objected to the Recreation Center.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Mayor

City Clerk