

October 16, 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, October 16, 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 October 2, 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 Tweedy moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period September 28, 2023, to October 11, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers asked about the expense for Tri-City Recreation programs, Lil Kickers Soccer dues for 2023. He asked if this is where the City collects the dues and then forwards it on to another City for the expenses associated with the soccer program.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody said yes, it is the Tri-City program that the City does with Roxana and East Alton. Everyone pays those same dues to the Tri-City Organization, and then the Tri-City Organization pays those expenses.

Councilman Dettmers asked where the funds are held.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody said First Mid Bank and Trust.

Councilman Dettmers asked who has control over that.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody said everyone from each organization.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the water bill for \$8.14 was for Brushey Grove.

City Manager Steve Palen said yes.

Councilman Dettmers said he was not aware that the City was charged a water fee. He asked what that water fee is for \$8.14.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody said the City pays for their own water.

Councilman Dettmers questioned two items under the water department on Page 5. One for \$56.32 for Wells Fargo Vendor Financial Services, August 23 through September 23, 2023, and PW Lease and PW copies for \$67.00 and \$27.93. He asked what those bills are for.

City Manager Steve Palen said he believed that is the lease for the copier.

Councilman Dettmers questioned if that would be through Wells Fargo.

City Manager Steve Palen stated it is paid to Wells Fargo Bank.

The bills were approved by the following vote:

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

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023:

Councilman Ayres moved for approval of the Financial Statement ending September 30, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CITIZEN/CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Lauren Friese gave the Council a handout prior to speaking. Ms. Friese stated that she wanted to continue to bring to everyone's attention the fact that there are certain members of the City Council who are against a positive promotion of the City. She stated that one City Councilman is a member of an unsavory Facebook group that posts memes making fun of City Officials and the people on the page degrade teachers and speak badly about City employees and much more. The City Council member has single handedly created a monster with the people he is keeping company with and has even added people to join the trashy Facebook page so they can laugh behind everyone's back with false information and suggestive slander. She stated that there has to be some type of conduct that the elected officials have to abide by, and she is truly disappointed if there is not. She then stated that she noticed recently that there was a job posting for the Director of Public Works position with the salary in the range of \$104,000.00 a year. She said City Manager Steve Palen has been doing the job of City Manager and Director of Public Works. She said he has done a fine job of both even if she has not agreed with decisions he has made for the City. She asked why the City would add an additional salary to the budget right now. She said it is not uncommon for one person to hold both positions as she knows at least one former Police Chief who held the position of Police Chief and the position of Director of Public Works. She stated that it is like watching a witch hunt constantly play out on a bi-monthly basis. She has also noticed that the word conflict of interest has been thrown around many of times in the past few months, but she would like to lodge a formal complaint of conflict of interest about the Riverbender livestream that is promoting one Council member's personal business. She asked if this was offered as an advertisement opportunity for Wood River business owners and asked why the City is promoting the business of a Council member over Wood River businesses. She stated it seems like this Council member is using the City of Wood River to illegally promote his business for personal gain. She has also noticed that almost every single complaint or question that a Council member asks at the meeting has been pointed out or asked on the private Facebook page a week or so before the meeting, so it makes her wonder who is running the council seat. She asked if it is sad, angry residents that look to tear down our community or someone that sits up on the hill and thinks he is the dictator of the City. There is a certain Council member that does not attend any City events to her knowledge. She said it seems to her that the common denominator for the issues within the City sits on our own City Council. She stated that she would expect nothing less from a person who has led movements that stirred the townspeople up like "Save the Roundhouse" and "Save Belk Park". This narcissistic personality does nothing but drive a wedge between everyone and this Council member is on a crusade to destroy our town, not rebuild it and she feels like it needs to stop and the City Council member who is involved in these malicious acts needs to resign immediately. She said if the City Council member is not for the progress of our town, she is sure a neighboring town would be glad to have him, perhaps Edwardsville, since that is where he primarily spends his time and money. She said this Council member is bad for the community and the citizens want him out of office.

Pastor Dave Landry is a concerned citizen; he only wishes more citizens would get involved in Wood River politics holding the Council accountable for their actions. He thanked Councilman Dr. David Ayres and Councilman Jeremy Plank for working with City Manager Steve Palen, Mayor Tom Stalcup, and Councilman Scott Tweedy in passing the TIF Financial Assistance agreements and the TIF Committee. He believes in putting downtown first and putting in an Irish Pub, a restaurant, and an innovative office space is important for the development of Wood River's Downtown area. He stated Police Chief Wells has been working hard to bring Wood River back to being an economically sound, prosperous City to live in. He said he desperately wants to support our City leaders, but he has profound concerns about some troubling issues. He said to Councilman Dettmers when his actions were confronted with the legal consequences of not allowing a dispensary to go forth and be the only one to oppose it is troubling to him. He said because of this passing, he believes it ushered in four new businesses. Again, on October 2, 2023, that Council member was the only one on Council to oppose TIF money which does not burden our City but could bring upgrades to structural buildings and new revenue to the City on buildings that would have been torn down. Mr. Landry said it is unacceptable and irresponsible and shows that the Council member has no real concern for our City. He said it is time for this Council member to

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fulfill his office duties as well as lay his past indifferences and angry dispositions over City Manager Steve Palen and others that he wants to fire and destroy their careers. Mr. Landry believes it is just pure evil. He said this may be from what those people may have done or said, or they may have been in opposition to what that Council member believes is right or wrong. He said it is unforgivable, it is childish, and it is immature. He said the Council may think of him as unimportant, but he wants to support the entire City Council but this angry, evil, bigoted, vendetta needs to stop. He asked for a commitment from the Council that this is going to stop. He said the Council needs to all get along and be doing work for the City. He wants to support the Council and support the City he loves and has memories of. He does not support the evil vendetta against these City employees to destroy their families and their careers. He said he hoped to hear from the Council members and if he does not hear from them, then he will assume that the Council members still want to act out the childish agenda and not operate as adults with no forgiveness in their hearts. He stated that he, with many others, will expose the diabolical plots of evil from the Council members. He stated God inhabits the humble and those with a broken heart.

Mayor Tom Stalcup congratulated Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody and Manager Mickey Sabolo and his staff for the best monthly revenue report that the golf course has had in the last 30 years. He said he was at the golf course the other day and the golf course really looks good. He thanked Director Woody and Mickey Sabolo for their hard work.

Mayor Tom Stalcup said on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 1:00pm at Vaughn Hill Cemetery, the Wood River Daughters of American Revolution and the Kaskaskia Chapter of National Society of Daughters of 1812 invite the public for a dedication ceremony of the grave marking headstone replacement. These ladies have worked very hard on the restoration, the cleaning of the historic headstones, and the City thanks the ladies for all their hard work.

Mayor Tom Stalcup said the City received good news from Senator Erica Harriss that Wood River has been awarded a \$100,000.00 grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and it is for infrastructure projects within the City. City Manager Steve Palen has been the appointed contact person for this grant. He thanked City Manager Steve Palen for his work along with Senator Harriss' office for this grant.

Mayor Tom Stalcup said on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm on Ferguson Avenue, the Downtown Business Alliance will hold their 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff. He invited citizens to come sample some of the different chilis.

Mayor Tom Stalcup said on Monday, October 23, 2023, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Ferguson Avenue, the downtown businesses are sponsoring a Downtown Trick or Treat.

Mayor Tom Stalcup said on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 10:00am, the City will change the name of Old Alton Edwardsville Road and will dedicate it to Police Officer Tyler Timmons who was killed in the line of duty while working for the Pontoon Beach Police Department. Officer Tyler Timmins was raised in Wood River and started his police career with the Wood River Police Department.

Mayor Tom Stalcup said on October 28, 2023, at 10:30am, starting at 6th Street Park, the 38th Annual Halloween Parade will take place.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-20 AMENDING THE CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 112: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SECTION 112.25 LIMIT ON NUMBER OF LICENSES (G) CHANGING THE NUMBER OF RESTAURANT/BAR LIQUOR LICENSES IN DISTRICT 2 FROM FOUR TO FIVE:

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 (G) changing the number of Restaurant/Bar Liquor Licenses in District 2 from four to five, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers asked what the purpose for the increase was and for what business.

City Manager Steve Palen stated it was for the Hibachi Restaurant.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2880 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CAZIM ASANI FOR TIF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT 333 N. WOOD RIVER AVENUE, AS SUBMITTED BY THE TIF COMMITTEE:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with Cazim Asani for TIF Financial Assistance at 333 N. Wood River Avenue, as submitted by the TIF Committee, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers said this is a request for just under \$29,000 at fifty percent of the expenses that are being just under \$58,000.00 and it is a one-time payment. The expenses are associated with the parking lot and other building improvements, and he had the opportunity to speak with the business owner and wholeheartedly supports the TIF payment because the owner invested a significant amount of money in purchasing Mother's Catering and converting to the Cheesecake Lady and the owner intends to add the ability for people to come and buy cheesecakes by the slice and offer coffee and things of that nature. Councilman Dettmers believes there is a real opportunity for another place in Wood River for people to enjoy. He stated he is going to support this TIF Agreement.

Mayor Stalcup stated that he totally agrees with Councilman Dettmers and looks forward to it.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

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

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

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

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 in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Dettmers stated that he read the email that he received from City Manager Steve Palen about the glass situation at the Recreation Center and asked City Manager Steve Palen what happened.

City Manager Steve Palen said the General Contractor Limbaugh Construction Company, Inc. had subcontracted the glass portion of the project to a business that installed the wrong type of glass. There is a type of glass called Low-E.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the glass was already installed.

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City Manager Steve Palen stated the glass was installed, and after the fact, they discovered it was not the correct type of glass. He said the contractor was removed from the project and the General Contractor has hired someone else to come and remove the wrong glass and replace it with the correct glass.

Councilman Dettmers stated the email from October 2, 2023, read that Gonzales and Limbaugh called the glass supplier and said that the purchase orders for the glass was not issued for the Low-E glass. He asked whose error that was and asked if it was the General Contractor's error.

City Manager Steve Palen stated it was the Subcontractor purchasing from their supplier.

Councilman Dettmers asked if there was going to be an increase in cost for the City.

City Manager Steve Palen said no.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Dettmers asked what area of Downtown would be blocked off this weekend for the Chili Cookoff.

Mayor Tom Stalcup said it would be blocked off from First Street to Wood River Avenue.

Councilman Dettmers asked if there are any handicap accessible parking spots in that area.

City Manager Steve Palen said there is not handicap parking in the area to be blocked off but there is handicap parking behind the buildings.

Councilman Dettmers asked if there are any on Whitelaw or First Street in the 100 block or less.

City Manager Steve Palen said he believed there are a couple spots.

Police Chief Wells said there is one at Whitelaw and Ferguson.

Councilman Dettmers asked if there were any ADA requirements for buildings along Whitelaw and other commercial areas for designated handicap parking.

City Manager Steve Palen asked if he was asking for this event specifically or in general.

Councilman Dettmers said in general.

City Manager Steve Palen said any time something new is built or there is a major renovation to a building, they must bring it up to the current ADA accessibility code. Buildings that are grandfathered typically are not subject to new codes.

Councilman Dettmers asked if there have been any buildings that have been renovated in that area that would be subject to that requirement.

City Manager Steve Palen said there is one right now that is in the process at Whitelaw and Ferguson.

Councilman Dettmers asked if they would have handicap parking and how much time they have to get handicap parking.

City Manager Steve Palen said that business is still in the process, so the project is not completed. He said that is the one where they are thinking a Mexican Restaurant on bottom and loft living on top. He said that is ongoing right now.

Councilman Dettmers asked if a new business just opened on Whitelaw and asked if there was a new renovation in that area.

City Manager Steve Palen said yes, CP Pinball.

Councilman Dettmers asked if they have handicap parking there.

City Manager Steve Palen said he believed they had one.

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Police Chief Wells said there are not any handicap parking areas on the street. It must be designated in the parking lot.

City Manager Steve Palen said he would look into it.

Police Chief Wells said any designated handicap parking would have to go through the Traffic Commission which is for the City streets.

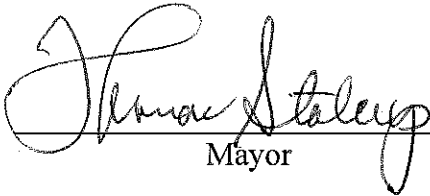
Councilman Dettmers asked if the City has any requirements if they do that. He said if the ADA requires it, how does the City monitor that those requirements are being met and satisfied.

City Manager Steve Palen said it is spelled out by code according to the number of spaces and the use of the building. There is a chart they go by that says they must have at least one or two.

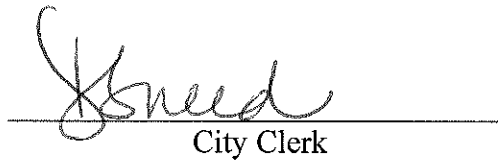
Councilman Dettmers asked when they must have one.

Police Chief Wells said he would have to look at the code. Chief Wells said they do not govern that part of it on the private lots, the code would govern that but as far as anything on the streets, those requests would have to come through the Traffic Commission.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk