

November 20, 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 20, 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 November 6, 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 Dettmers moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period November 2, 2023, to November 15, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2023:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of the Financial Statement ending October 31, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Plank, 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 Nick Aguinaga for his 10 years of service on the Wood River Library Board of Trustees.

CITIZEN/CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mary Roberts thanked everyone for coming to the Veterans Day Ceremony. She thanked Councilman Plank for being on her Veterans Day Committee and being the MC. She thanked Mayor Stalcup, Councilman Ayres, and Councilman Dettmers for coming to the Ceremony. She also thanked Girl Scout Troop 224 and Brownie Troop 1133. She thanked Pastor Tim McGee from Bunker Hill, and Marissa Jones, a senior from Alton High School that is on the junior ROTC and the Army National Guard, for singing the National Anthem. She also thanked Jan Copeland for bringing the quilts and William Steiner, a Junior from East Alton Wood River High School, for playing the taps. She then thanked Boy Scout Troop 777, Chris Apps the Bagpiper, and all of the girls that helped with the quilts which were Girl Scout Troops 130, 252, 325, 792, 11, and 11. She thanked the Veterans Day Committee, Sara Sladek, Vicky Parsons, Rosalie Huebener, Deana Schultz, the Marine Corps Ladies Auxiliary, Director Jason Woody & Wood River Parks and Recreation Department, and East Alton Wood River High School. She also thanked Superintendent Mr. Rob Miller, his assistant Carla Guthrie, and the custodians Brent and James. She then thanked City Clerk Danielle Sneed for always being there when she needs something. Ms. Roberts mentioned she has been trying for over a year to get the Hometown Heroes banners on the streets and the City was told by Ameren in the past that the City cannot hang banners on the poles. She said they have been throwing ideas around on how they can do it. She said Councilman Plank and Councilman Dettmers are going to talk to the engineering department at Ameren to see if there is something the City could do to be able to put the banners on the poles.

Mayor Stalcup thanked Mary Roberts for the great job that she did for the Veterans Day Ceremony. He explained that Ameren has told the City in the past that the City cannot put the banners on their

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poles. He said they have always come to a standstill with Ameren because they own the fiberglass poles downtown which is where they are wanting to put the banners. Mayor Stalcup is open to any avenue available to try and get the banners on the poles. He said they want the banners to be put up in a nice spot in town where they will get the attention they deserve. He apologized to Mary Roberts for the delay and said they will work it out.

Sara Sladek asked what the correct procedure is for getting assistance with her sewer stinking. Who is she supposed to call. She stated that she called the Street Department office several days to inquire when she could get someone to call her back and she got no reply. She stated that several days had passed again so she called the secretary and told her that she needed to talk to someone about getting something to put down her sewer drain for the smell. She said this was in October and again she got no answer. She then went to the Public Services Department and talked to the secretary and told her that she needed some help with the situation. She said she was told that City Manager Steve Palen would not treat it. She asked for someone to call her and she never got a call. Several days passed again so she called City Hall and got no return once again. She asked who was in charge of this issue. She understands that this is not an emergency. However, certainly someone is available. She said she could not believe that she was told that everyone was asphaltting, and no one could help her. Nobody got back to her, and more time passed. She said she understands that this is not a big problem, but it stinks, her house stinks, and her car stinks. She asked who she needed to call about this. She said just because she lives in an older established part of town does not mean that she cannot have something to breathe that is not going to kill her. She asked someone to give her a call. She said she also wanted to talk about the Quilts of Valor Program that they had on November 11, 2023, at the High School. She said everyone that attended got to witness and hear real life stories of heroism and sacrifice, their love for America was and remains the very fabric of our Country. She encourages Wood River to commit to the Hometown Heroes Program to assist her, Mary Roberts, and the others to make this honor to the Veterans. She said a Hometown Hero is the soldier who gave the supreme sacrifice of their life, as well as those who lost limbs, and those who suffer lifelong disabilities, as well as all who answered the call during war. World War I, World War II, Korea, sons and daughters who answered the call during Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. She said there is even a member of SEAL Team Six from our community. She said Wood River has always proudly stepped up during times of war and conflict. Men left their jobs and families to fight for our freedom. She asked for the means to initiate the move forward for the Hometown Hero program. She thanked Mr. Kenny Kutter who displays his flags in our City. She said he is a caring Veteran of this City who loves America and our flag. She said she would like to request the City to purchase American flags for display. Our City has expanded to the east and the City needs to display our red, white, and blue to all areas, not just Ferguson and Central Park. She said an American Flag is critical to a City's image and pride of all the residents. In this state, in this county, and in this town, we can make a difference.

Councilman Dettmers thanked Mary Roberts and Sara Sladek for their devotion and dedication to our Veterans. He is committed to bringing the Hometown Heroes home for them and all the other heroes that we have had from Wood River over the decades. He said he told Ms. Roberts he was going to call Ameren and see if there was something they could work out. He said he knows that Councilman Plank is also committed to do it as well. He hopes they can work something out. He thanked everyone associated with the Veterans Day Ceremony Saturday night. He said the event has really mushroomed over the last three years and it is inspiring to witness what goes on in this dedication to our Hometown Heroes and he cannot thank the women enough who put this together.

Mayor Stalcup stated he agreed. He said he was glad Ms. Roberts pushed to have it at the High School because it worked out very well. Ms. Roberts said hopefully they can have it there next year too. She said a lot of the guys there said it meant so much to them to be in the High School because they graduated from there.

Mayor Stalcup congratulated all the businesses that were chosen as the top three of the Best of the Best. He said that Wood River has some of the best businesses in the Riverbend area and it shows. He stated that the award banquet is December 1, 2023, and they would like to wish all the businesses of Wood River good luck on their nomination. Mayor Stalcup stated on November 9, 2023, the City was recognized and awarded as the outstanding community partner at the Heartlands Conservancy Annual Dinner. He thanked everyone that worked on and volunteered for the bike and pedestrian plan for Wood River which was organized by Heartlands and the award is on display. Mayor Stalcup stated on November 13, 2023, the Wood River Police Department and the Wood River Knights of Columbus supplied coats to the East Alton, Wood River, and Hartford School

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Districts for students in need. He thanked the Knights of Columbus and the Wood River Police Association for working together to help the kids in our community. He stated on November 24, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Wood River Business Alliance will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> annual holiday traditions nights market on 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Downtown. He said they have a great event planned with carriage rides, the Downtown Christmas Tree lighting, Santa, s'mores, and over 50 vendors. He said he heard that the Fire Department is helping Santa get Downtown this year which will be fun for all ages. He stated on November 25, 2023, is the small business Saturday and the Wood River Police Association will be hosting Downtown Santa from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sweet Tooth Candy Shop on Ferguson. He invited everyone to come down and get pictures with Santa while they shop at the Downtown small businesses. He congratulated the Roxana Shells football team for their 12-1 season and advancing to the third round of the State Playoffs. Their luck ran out this past Saturday with a loss to Mt. Carmel, but they had a great run, breaking several school records throughout the season. He said he knows they would rather be playing this weekend but congratulations for a great season to the Shells.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-22: AMENDING THE CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XIII: GENERAL OFFENSES, CHAPTER 142: KRATOM:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance amending the City Code 90-7, Title XIII: General Offenses, Chapter 142: Kratom, seconded by Councilman Dettmers

Councilman Dettmers asked for Police Chief Brad Wells to explain this ordinance.

Police Chief Brad Wells explained the Kratom Ordinance was put in the ordinances shortly after he took over as Police Chief. He said that it is a synthetic substance that can be harmful. It has been banned in numerous areas. It is not something that is endorsed by the DEA and the City adopted an ordinance banning the sale of Kratom in the City of Wood River along with other communities that have also banned the sale of Kratom. The amendment to the existing ordinance is to clean up the language. Chief Wells sent this ordinance and the ordinance for #8 on the agenda tonight, our synthetic cannabinoid control ordinance, to the City Attorneys and they cleaned up the language that needed to be changed to make it more prosecutable in today's times as those cases go through court. He explained these are not new ordinances, they are amendments.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-21: AMENDING THE CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XIII: GENERAL OFFENSES, CHAPTER 136: SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID CONTROL:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance amending the City Code 90-7, Title XIII: General Offenses, Chapter 136: Synthetic Cannabinoid Control, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2886: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR FARMLAND WITH TYLER SCHMITT FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT PARCEL ID 19-1-08-22-12-201-001:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of a lease agreement for farmland with Tyler Schmitt for City owned property located at Parcel ID 19-1-08-22-12-201-001, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers said this is property over by where the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Detention Pond is going in. He asked if this would have any impact on the implementation and start of that infrastructure project and if it would have any impact on the ability to complete. He said he knows there will be a lot of moving of dirt and he is curious how this will work.

Discussion ensued about how the City will keep in close contact with Mr. Schmitt and if the project starts, he will not be able to farm that ground. There is no set start date for the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Detention Pond Project yet. The City is waiting until February to see about potential grant money and if the project starts before that then the City will not be awarded the grant money and it is a 3.5 million

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dollar grant. Once the project is done, Mr. Schmitt may or may not want to farm that ground.

Councilman Dettmers asked if Mr. Schmitt has the option to opt out of the agreement.

Discussion ensued about the terms of the agreement and how long the agreement is. It is a 1-year agreement.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND REVITY CREDIT UNION FOR MEDIA, DIGITAL, SOCIAL, AND ONSITE MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER, AS SUBMITTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a contract between the City of Wood River and Revity Credit Union for media, digital, social, and onsite marketing in support of the Wood River Recreation Center, as submitted by the Director of Parks & Recreation, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers said the amount of the sponsorship is \$4500.00 dollars a year for five years. He asked if the net ten percent is deducted from the total payment or if the City would have to pay another \$450.00 for the consultant.

City Manager Steve Palen stated it will be another \$450.00 for the consultant.

Councilman Dettmers said this is the gross amount and the City has to pay another \$450.00.

City Manager Steve Palen said yes, that is his understanding and asked Director Woody if that was correct.

Director Woody stated yes, that is correct.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the City has other sponsorships. He said his understanding is that there are more sponsorships.

Director Woody stated the City is in the process of getting as many sponsorships as possible.

City Manager Steve Palen stated there are a couple pretty close to finalizing. He said he was not sure if they were ready to announce them yet or not.

Councilman Dettmers said that was fine. He told Director Woody he would have more questions under Old Business for him.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM WGO INVESTMENTS LLC FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT PARCEL ID'S 19-2-08-27-06-105-031, 19-2-08-27-06-105-030, and 19-2-08-27-06-105-029, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 423 AND 441 MADISON AVENUE, WOOD RIVER, IL 62095, AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request to accept the proposal from WGO Investments LLC for City owned property located at Parcel ID's 19-2-08-27-06-105-031, 19-2-08-27-06-105-030, and 19-2-08-27-06-105-029, commonly known as 423 and 441 Madison Avenue, Wood River, IL 62095, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers stated he needed clarification. He asked if the two proposals were competitive proposals for the same property.

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City Manager Steve Palen said yes, they are.

Councilman Dettmers asked when the request for proposal was published for this. He said he was drawing a blank on when the Council approved that.

City Clerk Danielle Sneed stated that the request for proposals was published once a week for three consecutive weeks and the proposals were due on November 15, 2023.

Councilman Dettmers asked City Attorney John Hackett what the requirement is when selling City owned property. He asked if the City must sell it at fair market value and when they cannot sell it for fair market value.

Discussion ensued about the process the City uses to sell City owned property and why the City does not use a realtor for this process. More discussion ensued about the different proposals that were received for the property and what the City could potentially make on each proposal.

The request was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Dettmers stated he had questions regarding the article that was published in the Telegraph over the weekend regarding the Recreation Center. He asked Director Woody to please give an overview of the membership dues/fees and other topics from the newspaper article that many citizens have questions about.

Director Woody stated that he and his staff are currently working those details out. He feels that workout equipment is essential to the success of the Recreation Center but there is not currently funding available to purchase workout equipment. Director Woody and his staff are currently working on getting sponsorships to potentially fund the workout equipment. He stated that he thinks this will dictate the price for memberships to the Recreation Center. If they put out a price but do not have the ability to offer those things, it will drive the price up so if they do not have the workout equipment, the price will be different. He explained that they have options for going both ways, it is just a matter of not wanting to commit until he knows for sure what the Recreation Center is going to provide.

Councilman Dettmers asked Director Woody what his deadline is for coming out with the information regarding membership fees.

Director Woody stated he thinks that the Recreation Center will be ready to open in February 2024 and he is hopeful to have more information regarding the membership fees/dues out by Christmas. He also explained that they are in contact with a lot of people regarding sponsorships like the contract that is on tonight's agenda, and he is hopeful of getting more contracts in front of the Council before the end of the year.

Councilman Plank asked Director Woody if the prices that he presented to the Council last year about the rates are still holding true or if we need the equipment in the building to maintain those prices.

Director Woody explained that when he gave the presentation last year he came up with a budget as quick as he could to give to the Council. He stated that he does not think those were specific membership prices as they took the Aquatic Center membership prices and doubled them for comparison at that time and stated that he thinks those prices still hold pretty true.

Councilman Plank then asked if Director Woody meant with or without the workout equipment.

Director Woody stated that included the workout equipment. He also stated that they are comparing rates to pretty much any and all recreational facilities they can find. They have toured many of the facilities and have compared rates to many facilities. He talked about many different levels of membership rates.

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Councilman Dettmers stated that he thinks East Alton has a different rate when members use the weight room and asked if that was correct.

Director Woody stated he was not sure.

Councilman Dettmers asked if Director Woody can start preparing some numbers and have an idea of what the cost would be if they have the weights and workout equipment by Christmas time.

Director Woody explained that it is hard to explain everything that is entailed in the process of coming up with the different prices when they also have to consider staffing and getting the building completed. He does not think it is fair to put prices out there before he knows exactly what the facility is going to offer. He also described how much work has been entailed with learning the new software that the Parks & Recreation Department will soon offer. There has been a lot of training on the staff's behalf and will continue to train on the new software until January.

Councilman Plank asked Director Woody if he can describe the capabilities of the software.

Director Woody explained that the software will keep track of everything that the Parks & Recreation Department offers from memberships, rentals, registrations, programs, family profiles, and point of sale.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he recalls the March 2022 presentation did not include any information about weights and workout equipment being included in the Recreation Center.

Director Woody explained that it is difficult to visualize when you are looking at plans on paper versus watching the building be constructed and seeing what the spaces can be used for. He also stated that many of the facilities they have toured have explained that workout equipment is vital to their success.

Councilman Ayres asked if there will be any rooms available for seniors to play games in.

Director Woody stated that they will have space for a lot of those types of things and that is what we plan to use those spaces for. He also mentioned potentially turning the Roundhouse into a Senior Citizen's Building.

Mayor Stalcup asked Director Woody if there is a timeline that the businesses can give for their sponsorships.

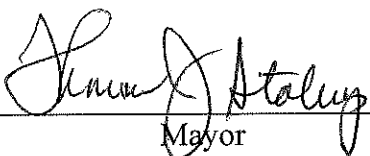
Director Woody explained that there is not a specific timeline for this calendar year or next calendar year. He also explained that the construction should be done by the end of the year, but it could go into January before the building is completed and they will still need time to move into the facility once the construction is completed.

Councilman Tweedy asked about the glass in the building that had to be replaced.

Director Woody explained that he is not sure when the glass will be replaced but he is hoping it will be soon. He stated that they are currently working on the gym floor and the walking track, and they are still waiting on the elevator to be delivered.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk