

January 2, 2024

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 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 December 18, 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 Ayres moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period December 14, 2023, to December 27, 2023, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Plank asked about bills related to the Recreation Center as listed on the last page of the bills submitted for payment. Councilman Plank stated that there were several change orders since May when change orders were last discussed and asked for some clarification on those items.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that security cameras were the largest change order. The cameras were going to be budgeted in the previous year; however, the decision was made to run the cost through the project. This change order was for approximately \$87,500.00. Another large change order was due to AAIC inadvertently leaving out the handrails for the walking path which added roughly \$72,700.00.

Councilman Plank then asked about the change order to install a water and sewer line. City Manager Steve Palen stated that a 4-inch line stop had to be installed in order to put in the new line along with the Storz connections on the fire hydrants. Councilman Dettmers asked what the cost of that was. City Manager Steve Palen stated right around \$10,000.00. Councilman Plank stated that he had seen a change order from Pyramid Electric for the installation of a water and sewer line. City Manager Steve Palen stated that the \$87,500.00 for Pyramid Electric is for security.

Councilman Plank stated that the amount for additional electric lights was \$38,776.00. City Manager Steve Palen explained that the \$38,776.00 was for several different items including ten additional fire alarm notifications and labor and materials to install speaker/strobe in lieu of horn/strobe per the request from the Fire Department that were additional items to the contract.

Councilman Plank stated that in May there was a conversation about the approval process for change orders and he is concerned as there have been at least \$250,000.00 in change orders since that time. City Manager Steve Palen said that the change orders currently total \$300,000.00 which is about three percent of the project total. Councilman Plank stated that the Pyramid Electric change orders are almost 23 percent of the baseline contract. Director Woody clarified that a large portion of that is due to the security cameras which also cover the Roundhouse and Central Park.

Councilman Plank asked for City Manager Steve Palen and Director Jason Woody to look into the Pyramid Electric change order in regard to the new water line. City Manager Steve Palen stated that a larger water line was needed when the Recreation Center was built. Councilman Dettmers asked for clarification on the timeline of that change. City Manager Steve Palen stated that the change was during the design process and is not included in any change order.

Councilman Dettmers asked when the change orders were authorized. Director Jason Woody stated they were approved throughout the entire construction process which has been over the course of the last year. Councilman Dettmers asked if any were approved in the latter half of 2023 and Director Jason Woody stated that most changes were approved earlier in 2023 in the height of construction.

January 2, 2024

The bills were approved by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Stalcup presented Certificates of Appreciation to Michele Mullins and Erica Chalcraft for their dedication honoring Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty Nationwide.

OATH OF OFFICE:

City Clerk Danielle Sneed administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Probationary Police Officer Morgan Davis.

CITIZEN/CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Bill Rogers stated that on December 8, 2023, the second scheduled leaf pick up for his area, some of his leaves were not picked up. Mr. Rogers stated that he took pictures of the remaining leaves and posted them to social media with a caption of "left some leaves". At that point he stated he was contacted by a council member who came out to look at the situation. The council member stated he would contact the City Manager about the issue. Mr. Rogers was then told that he could not park his car on the street during leaf pick up so that all of his leaves could be collected. Mr. Rogers then stated that after this encounter he was issued a ticket and not notified when the leaf truck would be in his area. Mr. Rogers stated that on December 18, 2023, he saw the leaf truck on 9th street, but it did not come down 8th street, where he lives. Mr. Rogers stated that after more social media posts, on December 28, 2023, he saw car 148 while he was walking his dog and the officer hit his brakes. Later that same car drove down the alley behind his house and again hit the brakes. Mr. Rogers stated that later that day he moved his car into the driveway so that his leaves could be picked up and was then ticketed. Mr. Rogers stated he believes this was trespassing and stated that it appeared that the officer tried to remove the sticker on the license plate. Mr. Rogers stated that the charges need to be dropped, the fine waived, written verification provided of the same and if it is going to be pushed this far, the City should pay for malicious prosecution, retaliatory prosecution, retaliation for protected speech, violation of first amendment right to free speech, harassment, stalking, replacement of the license plate sticker, and trespassing. He stated that to say that ticket had nothing to do with any of this is factually incorrect and a cover up. It is not open to debate, discuss, or argue. He also stated that he would like the City to provide a written statement on how they plan to handle the situation. He then stated that the City took money from his account 18 months ago and has not paid it back yet. He closed by stating that the City can contact his lawyer.

City Manager Steve Palen informed the Council that the bid opening for the Sewer Separation Project will be held on January 16, 2024. He will obtain the link to watch it online and will share the link with the Council. City Manager Steve Palen also stated that the City was awarded an IEPA loan with \$900,000.00 of forgiveness and a 1.2 percent interest rate. Councilman Dettmers asked how much the total loan was for. City Manager Steve Palen stated that the City was approved for six million dollars. Councilman Dettmers asked if the \$900,000.00 is the amount of forgiveness. City Manager Steve Palen responded in the affirmative. Councilman Dettmers asked if that was about 15 percent. City Manager Steve Palen stated yes, that is correct and explained that the City used to fit in the range of 25 percent but they use metrics and the City fell to 15 percent. It was agreed that the 1.2 percent interest rate is a good interest rate.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-1: AMENDING THE CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XV, LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 155: ZONING CODE, SECTION 155.01 ADOPTION BY REFERENCE TO INCLUDE CHANGES TO THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER'S ZONING CODE 96-14, ARTICLE 7, ADDING SECTION 7-24: ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE PRODUCT RETAIL, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLAN COMMISSION:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance amending the City Code 90-7, Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 155: Zoning Code, Section 155.01 Adoption by Reference to include changes to the City of Wood River's Zoning Code 96-14, Article 7, adding Section 7-24: Alternative Nicotine Product Retail, as recommended by the Plan Commission, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 24-2: AMENDING THE CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE III, ADMINISTRATION, CHAPTER 33: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND AGENCIES, SECTION 33.176 MEETINGS CHANGING THE TIME FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION FROM 7:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. AND CHANGING THE LOCATION FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE TO THE RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance amending the City Code 90-7, Title III, Administration, Chapter 33: Departments, Boards, Commissions, and Agencies, Section 33.176 Meetings changing the time for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and changing the location from the Roundhouse to the Recreation Center, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Mayor Stalcup stated that this is housekeeping for the new Recreation Center and to move the time up one hour for the monthly meeting.

Councilman Dettmers asked who requested the change.

City Clerk Danielle Sneed explained that before the yearly public notice is published in the Telegraph, if a location and/or time changes, it has to first be changed by ordinance in the City Code. The City Code currently states that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Roundhouse.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he understood but stated that the nature of his question is whose idea was it to change the ordinance.

Director Woody stated that many of the board members have suggested that the meetings start at 6:00 p.m. in the past.

Councilman Dettmers asked Director Woody if that suggestion would be in the minutes from a past meeting. Director Woody stated that he would look into that, but board members have made the suggestion outside of the meetings as well.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he would like to know who it was that made the request to make the change and stated that he will be voting no on this motion.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: SETTING THE ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY'S ADA TRANSITION PLAN FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024, AT 7:00PM, BEFORE THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Plank moved to approve setting the annual Public Hearing on the City's ADA Transition Plan for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00pm, before the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: CHANGE MEETING DATE DUE TO MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve changing the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting to Tuesday, January 16, 2024, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Plank moved for approval of a recess to hold a closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Pending or Imminent Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)) and Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)), seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

January 2, 2024

The Council recessed at 7:23 p.m. and reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

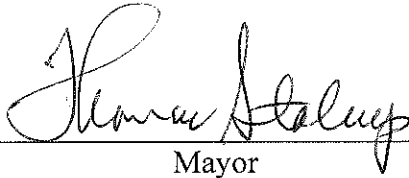
Councilman Ayres made a motion to go back into open session, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk