

PUBLIC HEARING
MS4 PERMIT

Mayor Tom Stalcup called a Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 N. Wood River Avenue, with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to receive citizen comments on the City's MS4 Permit.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that the MS4 Permit Group consists of 30 municipalities and townships in the urbanized area of Madison County. The purpose is to be able to share common resources, adopt practices, and enforce regulations involving the six minimum controls to reach the goal of clean water. The MS4 Permit is good for five years and an annual report is submitted to the EPA. This Public Hearing is part of the report.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024. 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 February 20, 2024, 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 Plank moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period February 15, 2024, to February 28, 2024, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers noted that this bill run includes a \$250,000 payment to the Department of the Army for the State Street Sewer Separation Project.

The bills were approved by the following vote:

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

OATH OF OFFICE:

City Clerk Danielle Sneed administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Probationary Firefighter Sydney Bloch.

Sydney Bloch is the first full-time female Firefighter for the City of Wood River. Congratulations to Sydney Bloch.

CITIZEN/CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Pastor Dave Landry stated that it feels like Councilman Dettmers thinks he is untouchable by spending the City's money while looking at everyone else's spending trying to find fault with their spending. Pastor Landry then stated that he is trying to get an understanding over some of Councilman Dettmers' actions and stated that the citizens of Wood River want answers. He stated that Councilman Dettmers is always pursuing and persecuting ways that he can get rid of certain individuals working for the City and is always questioning money being spent. Pastor Landry stated that he remembers Councilman Dettmers questioning a \$25.00 to \$35.00 expenditure from Wal-Mart last year. He then stated that Councilman Dettmers ran for City Council on being a

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businessman making him the most qualified in dealing with financial affairs for the City of Wood River. He then stated that going back in time, Councilman Dettmers sued the City of Wood River not once but twice while running for City Council costing the taxpayers of the City of Wood River thousands of dollars in attorney fees. He stated that it does not appear that Councilman Dettmers has the financial interest of the City of Wood River, and he stated that no one forced Councilman Dettmers' hand as it was Councilman Dettmers' decision to file the lawsuits. Pastor Landry claimed that both of the lawsuits that Councilman Dettmers filed were lost and were dismissed with no merit by a judge leaving the City of Wood River and the taxpaying residents to pay the lawyer fees which were extremely costly. Pastor Landry expressed that he does not think Councilman Dettmers' business skills are helping the City of Wood River but instead costing the City of Wood River and its taxpaying residents. Councilman Dettmers is not the kind of businessman that Pastor Landry wants handling the City's financial businesses. He then stated that it has been brought to his attention that Councilman Dettmers has been reaching out to the City Attorneys and investigating certain allegations of his interests or intent and the residents need to be enlightened on this and citizens are concerned about the fees associated with this and Pastor Landry feels there should be procedures in place preventing Councilmembers from contacting the City Attorneys directly and driving up the attorney fees for the City and he feels there should be accountability in the City.

Councilman Dettmers asked Pastor Landry if he has access, personal knowledge of, or if he has seen any of the bills from any of the attorneys for the City.

Pastor Landry stated that he did not have any of the bills in his possession nor has he seen any of the bills yet.

Sara Sladek asked for more money for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Programs as the Committee is in need of new banners and decorations for the ceremonies. The current budget allocation is \$1,000.00. Also, she noticed that there is not a flagpole at the Wood River Recreation Center, and she would like to see a new flagpole and flag placed on the property. Ms. Sladek then stated that several years ago most in the community opposed the building of the Recreation Center. The citizens that opposed this had limited options of the ability to turn the project down. She stated that pushing the project through was not received well. The City Council, the former City Council, and the City Administration failed to address the residents' concerns and let it continue even after the 2-1 non-binding vote against the Recreation Center, it went forward. She referred to certain quotes stating that it will be good for the City and it is the right project to do. The verbiage of right versus right presented an ethical dilemma. She continued by stating that it was one side, and it was the best for the community, it was done fair, yet on the other side many residents were currently against it because residents would not benefit with what programs at that time were being offered. The majority of questions fell on deaf ears, and now there are residents coming forward and suggesting that if the Recreation Center fails it will be the residents' fault that are against it and if some do not campaign for supplemental funding it will be their fault. She stated that the City cannot have it both ways. It is built and if it cannot be financially profitable, it is not her fault or other residents' fault, and she refuses this to become a cost to her. She stated that doing the right thing will come at a price to the City. Again, many of the City Councilmembers, previous City Councilmembers, the City Administration, and the Parks and Recreation Boards will take a hit at the polls if they seek reelection. She then asked what type of elected official they will be remembered as. Ms. Sladek closed by stating that making tough choices is what ethics is all about and she hopes that these were all of the right choices, and it is not her fault.

Mayor Stalcup informed Ms. Sladek that she can call to schedule a meeting with him and Mary Roberts to discuss the budget for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Committee.

Mary Roberts announced the dates of the Memorial Day Ceremony and the Veterans Day Ceremony for 2024. The Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at Central Park and the Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at EAWRCHS Memorial Gym. Ms. Roberts asked if any further discussion or consideration has happened regarding the Senior Citizens getting the Roundhouse as their Center.

Mike Anderson opened by thanking the Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Woody. He stated that the City of Wood River owes Director Woody a lot including apologies. He wished Director Woody the best and congratulated him on his new position with the Village of Roxana. Mr. Anderson then stated that he has seen a lot of rumors lately regarding the City Council tearing down the Roundhouse. The rumors are not true. He stated that one of the biggest problems in the City is the rumors. Mr. Anderson continued by stating that the different City Councilmembers have built a Recreation Center, sued the City, and they are going to raise taxes, and they are lying to the citizens

about everything. They won an election for a non-binding referendum, and they won an election for 1% sales tax that has promised residents projects just like the Recreation Center. There was an article in the newspaper in April 2019 after the 1% sales tax passed that had a picture of a Recreation Center. It was no surprise that part of the funds from the 1% sales tax was going to help pay to build the Recreation Center but then the City was sued over it and that was one of the lawsuits that was lost. Now the City Council has run off another good employee and it is time to stop because everyone that lives in the City of Wood River deserves better. He stated that the City does not need an agenda of revenge or businesses ran out of town. The City of Wood River needs unity and if Councilmembers do not feel the same way, they should step down from the Council.

REPORTS/COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Councilman Dettmers began by expressing his disappointment that individuals can make comments that are, in his opinion, inaccurate and misleading to the public. Councilman Dettmers continued and stated in February 2020, the City had changed the language of the 1% Sales Tax Referendum to something that was not allowed per Illinois State Statute. He had asked that the wording be changed back multiple times to what the people approved. Also in February 2020, Councilman Dettmers explained he was informed that the 1% Sales Tax revenue would be used to construct a Recreation Center for the City, which he claimed was prohibited per Illinois State Statute. Over the period from 2020 to 2022, Councilman Dettmers requested the City to change their position. He stated he had filed his lawsuit after the City had voted down the chance for Wood River citizens to vote on a binding referendum for a bond issue for the construction of the Recreation Center and, in his opinion, forced the Recreation Center through against the wishes of the citizens. Prior to Councilman Dettmers filing his lawsuit, he had requested a meeting with the City Attorney three times and was denied. Following the filing of the lawsuit, Councilman Dettmers observed that the ordinance for the 1% Sales Tax was reverted to its original language, but the City maintained its position that 1% Sales Tax revenue could be used as funds to construct the Recreation Center under public infrastructure. Councilman Dettmers claimed that the City maintained this position until April 2023, when the City stated they could instead utilize 1% Sales Tax revenue to construct the Recreation Center under property tax relief. Councilman Dettmers then explained that the judge in the case sided with the City, citing the fact that a bond issue, if passed to build the Recreation Center, would increase taxes. Councilman Dettmers considered the judge's ruling to be both confusing and a mistake, as the Recreation Center would not qualify as public infrastructure and something that could be funded by the 1% Sales Tax. Regarding the statements made about legal fees, Councilman Dettmers explained that City Manager Steve Palen had never discussed any costs related to legal fees with him at any time. He then stated that he was elected to bring change to City operations and provide oversight to municipal operations, which includes the review of policies, procedures, and ordinances in addition to monitoring City employees, management, and contractors. Councilman Dettmers declared he will continue to perform his duties as required by law. In closing, Councilman Dettmers stated he could not discuss the vote held at the last City Council Meeting to hold a public hearing on the topic of City Manager Steve Palen's job performance, as it is a personnel matter. He then explained that in normal circumstances, a City Manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council and can be terminated at any time and for any reason. Councilman Dettmers claimed that as part of City Manager Steve Palen's contract, a public hearing must be held to air grievances and provide time for rebuttal. Councilman Dettmers encouraged City Manager Steve Palen to demand a hearing to address concerns if he thought the vote held at the last City Council Meeting was baseless and without merit. Councilman Dettmers expressed that he would honor any request made by City Manager Steve Palen to hold a hearing and is sure other Councilmembers would as well.

Mayor Stalcup explained that at the last City Council Meeting the City entered into an agreement with Schulte Supply Inc., for the lead service line inventory and wants to inform residents that a representative may be calling or knocking on their doors in an effort to assist the City with completing the inventory that has been mandated by the IEPA. Mayor Stalcup asked residents to please cooperate with the representatives from Schulte Supply, Inc.

Mayor Stalcup congratulated Kristen Burns for being named a Woman of Distinction by the YWCA of Southwestern Illinois. She will be honored at the Annual Gala on April 25, 2024, at Lewis Clark Community College.

Mayor Stalcup wished Arron Weber good luck and thanked him for his 25 years of service to the Wood River Police Department as he has accepted a position as the 911 Coordinator for Madison County.

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City Manager Steve Palen introduced the new Director of Public Services, Mike Velloff, and stated that Pat Minogue would be taking over as the new Director of Parks and Recreation. City Manager Steve Palen also introduced Tyler Lafferty as the replacement for Pat Minogue's current position as Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the \$850,000 grant for the 9th Street Detention Pond Project was approved in the current federal budget and should be signed by the President Friday, March 8, 2024.

City Manager Steve Palen also stated that the Sewer Separation Project was awarded by the Army Corps of Engineers and a timeline will be forthcoming in the next six to eight weeks.

City Manager Steve Palen asked Fire Chief Wade Stahlhut to explain Item #10 on the agenda. Fire Chief Wade Stahlhut explained that the bid from Limbaugh Construction Company, Inc. would be for the expansion of the Fire Station. Fire Chief Wade Stahlhut stated that Limbaugh provided an excellent bid and recommended the base bid along with alternates #1, #3, and #4 which are broken down in the spreadsheet that was provided to Council. The bid would provide proper drainage, would utilize the available floor space most efficiently, and would bring the plumbing as close to the wall as possible. He estimated that \$4,000 to \$5,000 of total costs would be reimbursable. He discussed the encumbered amounts for construction and projected costs for the recommended alternates. Fire Chief Wade Stahlhut stated he is happy to answer any questions regarding the bid. Mayor Tom Stalcup and Chief Wade Stahlhut discussed the age of the Fire Department and how they would like to see the Fire Department materials back on City property.

City Manager Steve Palen announced that tonight's meeting is Jason Woody's last meeting, and the Village of Roxana is gaining a great employee; in addition, he thanked Jason Woody for all of his efforts while with the City of Wood River.

RESOLUTION NO. 2043: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY FOR GRANT WRITING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Contract between the City of Wood River and Heartlands Conservancy for grant writing and technical assistance, as submitted by the Building and Zoning Administrator, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

RECEIPT OF BUDGET:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve receipt of the City Manager's Proposed Budget for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: CANCELLATION OF THE WORK SESSION PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AND SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve cancelling the Work Session previously approved and scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED – ACCEPT BID FROM LIMBAUGH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a request to accept the bid from Limbaugh Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$484,914.00 for the Fire Department Addition, as submitted by the Fire Chief, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

SOLICIT – EAWR HIGH SCHOOL - CHEERLEADERS – APPROVED:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a request from EAWR High School – Cheerleaders to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in accordance with City Policy, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

SOLICIT – JUNIOR OILERS BASEBALL 13U – APPROVED:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request from Junior Oilers Baseball 13U to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in accordance with City Policy, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

SOLICIT – WOOD RIVER PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 2371:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request from Wood River Professional Firefighters Local 2371 to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue on Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in accordance with City Policy, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Mayor Stalcup made a motion to amend the request from Wood River Professional Firefighters Local 2371 to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue on Saturday, August 10, 2024, changing the date to Saturday, July 20, 2024, seconded by Councilman Plank, and the amendment was approved by the following vote:

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

The request from Wood River Professional Firefighters Local 2371 to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue, with the amendment, was approved by the following vote:

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

SOLICIT – EAWR HIGH SCHOOL - WRESTLING – APPROVED

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request from EAWR High School – Wrestling to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue on Saturday, August 24, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in accordance with City Policy, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

SOLICIT – MARINE CORPS LADIES AUXILIARY UNIT 488 – APPROVED

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request from Marine Corps Ladies Auxiliary Unit 488 to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in accordance with City Policy, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

SOLICIT – EAWR HIGH SCHOOL – AFTER PROM COMMITTEE – APPROVED

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a request from EAWR High School – After Prom Committee to solicit at the intersection of Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in accordance with City Policy, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

WAIVE RENTAL FEE AT BELK PARK – ALTON ROAD RUNNERS CLUB – APPROVED:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request to waive the rental fee for a pavilion at Belk Park on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for the Alton Road Runners Family Run, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED – PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:

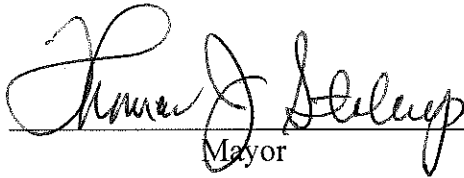
Councilman Plank moved to approve a Proclamation recognizing the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, 2024, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk