

April 1, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING
MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Mayor Tom Stalcup called a Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 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 Madison County Community Development Block Grant for the Edwardsville Road Water Line Improvement Project.

Director of Public Services Mike Velloff explained that this is Phase 3 of the Edwardsville Road Water Line Improvement Project. Phase 1 and 2 have been completed. Phase 2 ended at Haller Street and Phase 3 will go from Haller Street to Whitelaw Avenue. The intent of the project is to ultimately get to Fifth Street. If awarded, Madison County will fund \$100,000 for the project and the City will match \$100,000.

Councilman Plank asked if there is an opportunity to get more funds from the County for the Community Development Block Grant.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that the County caps the grant at \$100,000.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 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 Dettmers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 18, 2024, 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 Ayres moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period March 14, 2024, to March 27, 2024, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Stalcup presented a Certificate of Recognition to Arron Weber for 25 years of service to the Wood River Police Department.

Mayor Stalcup presented a Certificate of Recognition to B&W Heating & Cooling for their 75 years of business in the City of Wood River.

OATH OF OFFICE:

City Clerk Danielle Sneed administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Probationary Firefighter Ethan Michael.

CITIZEN/CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Woodrow Peterson stated that he is a resident of East Alton and last fall Police Chief Brad Wells submitted a bill for payment for a Soap Box Car in the design of a Police Car for the Soap Box

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Derby that is held annually in the Village of East Alton. Mr. Peterson stated that Councilman Ayres questioned in an open meeting where the funds were coming from for the Soap Box Car and that really struck a nerve with Mr. Peterson. He then stated that around that same time, Councilman Dettmers questioned a \$8.13 water bill and the pettiness of Councilman Dettmers questioning that bill also bothered him. He continued by stating that he submitted a FOIA request and received the response and that FOIA response showed that the taxpayers from the City of Wood River have paid over \$41,000 for one of the lawsuits that Councilman Dettmers filed against the City. Mr. Peterson stated that he does not understand why people are not questioning the \$41,996.63. There is another lawsuit filed by Councilman Dettmers that the City's insurance paid for and he guarantees it will raise the City's insurance rates. Mr. Peterson also stated that he has documentation showing that Councilman Dettmers has called the City Attorneys hundreds of times, and he is still looking into how much money that is costing the taxpayers.

REPORTS/COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Stalcup read a Letter of Commendation addressed to Sergeant Timmins from Police Chief Brad Wells.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-12: AMENDING THE CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XV: LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 159: VACANT STRUCTURE REGISTRATION, AMENDING SECTION 159.010 REQUIRED LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance amending the City Code 90-7, Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 159: Vacant Structure Registration, Amending Section 159.010 Required Liability Insurance, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2893: ADOPTING THE CITY MANAGER'S REVISED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance adopting the City Manager's Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 beginning May 1, 2024, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers stated that he had meetings with the City Manager, City Treasurer, and the Director of Parks and Recreation regarding his concerns about the allocation of the expenses between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreation Center Fund. His concern generated from his hopes of having a full-time manager at the Recreation Center. He stated that the City has a full-time manager at the Golf Course and the Aquatic Center always had a full-time manager. After additional discussions, Councilman Dettmers determined that the Recreation Center operates for approximately 4,500 hours per year, and he would like to see \$40,000 in expenses moved from the Parks and Recreation Department to the Recreation Center Fund to account for management for those hours. He stated that he will not be moving to amend the budget, but rather hold off for one year to see how things go. He hopes that the Recreation Department is allocated a full-time manager to maximize the programs they offer.

Councilman Plank appreciates City Manager Steve Palen putting additional funds into the budget for sidewalk improvements. With the additional funds, the City has now allocated \$500,000 for sidewalk improvements.

Councilman Dettmers thanked the Mayor and City Manager Steve Palen for assuring him that the City will have the sidewalks, the parking lot, and the other issues at the Roundhouse addressed before the election.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2894: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FUNDING OBLIGATION FOR WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS ON EDWARDSVILLE ROAD FROM HALLER STREET TO WHITELAW AVENUE:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of a Funding Obligation for Water Line Improvements on Edwardsville Road from Haller Street to Whitelaw Avenue, 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)

RESOLUTION NO. 2048: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO APPLY FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS FROM MADISON COUNTY FOR THE EDWARDSVILLE ROAD WATER LINE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documents to apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from Madison County for the Edwardsville Road Water Line Improvement Project, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2049: FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of a Fair Housing Resolution as a part of the application for the Madison County Community Development Block Grant, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2050: ADA TRANSITION PLAN:

Councilman Tweedy moved for approval of an ADA Transition Plan Resolution as a part of the application for the Madison County Community Development Block Grant, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilman Dettmers asked what area this is going to be impacting in the City.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that the City has to pass these resolutions in order to be eligible for the Madison County Community Development Funding. Passing the resolution tells the County that the City is keeping up with the ADA Transition Plan.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he knows there have been issues raised about the ADA compliance at the Roundhouse and he is hopeful that the City will be able to address some of those issues as well.

City Manager Steve Palen confirmed that the City will be meeting with contractors to get those issues addressed.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND WOOD RIVER – HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15 FOR A STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICER:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Wood River and Wood River – Hartford School District No. 15 for a Student Resource Officer, as submitted by the Police Chief, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilman Plank stated that this opportunity has been a long time coming and he appreciates Police Chief Brad Wells for working on this agreement. He also stated that schools can be vulnerable, and it is important to protect them as much as possible.

Mayor Stalcup agreed with Councilman Plank's comment.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

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RESOLUTION NO. 2052: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND OSF HEALTHCARE FOR ONSITE MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a contract between the City of Wood River and OSF Healthcare for onsite marketing in support of the Wood River Recreation Center, as submitted by the Director of Parks and Recreation, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2053: AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER TO ENTER A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH GREAT RIVERS AND ROUTES TOURISM BUREAU FOR PURPOSES OF TOURISM PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER:

Councilman Plank moved to approve a resolution authorizing the City of Wood River to enter a professional services contract with Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau for purposes of tourism promotion and development in the City of Wood River, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Ayres referenced the recently issued quarterly publication for Great Rivers and Routes and observed that Wood River is mentioned only once on page 20 in a column about local farmers markets. He then listed cities and areas partnered with Great Rivers and Routes and stated that Wood River is the only municipality in the area that participates. He then stated that the online site for Great Rivers and Routes lists 128 events and 397 dining establishments located in the area, including in places that are not partnered with the organization. He explained that the quarterly cost for the partnership with Great Rivers and Routes is \$6,250, and Wood River paid the amount to be mentioned once. He stated his opposition to the partnership as Wood River does not have attractions that would encourage tourism to the City.

Mayor Stalcup expressed that Cory Jobe, President of Great Rivers and Routes, and the organization has taken it upon themselves to transition Helmkamp Lake into a kayak facility at no cost to the City. He explained their plans to elevate the water level, add a dock, and add a facility for kayaks to be used at the dock. Councilman Ayres questioned why the City is paying the cost now and is not waiting for the work at Helmkamp Lake to be completed. Mayor Stalcup explained that the development is part of the partnership with Great Rivers and Routes.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the partnership is meant for the City to be a part of a regional group that attracts people to the area and that the City is not paying \$6,250 to be mentioned once. He explained that the City is a permanent fixture on Great Rivers and Routes' website and that the City is attempting to advertise that the area is a place to come and visit. He then listed additional attractions in the City and referenced data received from PGAV showing that more than half of the patrons for Wood River dining establishments are from out of town. He clarified that the bulk of out-of-town patrons are from Edwardsville, with some coming from the St. Charles area.

Councilman Dettmers expressed his skepticism of the \$25,000 expense. Councilman Tweedy explained that 60% of the patrons of 1929 Pizza & Wine are from out of town while Atomic Pinball draws individuals from a range of areas, including Litchfield and the St. Louis area. He added that Great Rivers and Routes gave a presentation at their luncheon regarding the positive direction Wood River is going in. Councilman Dettmers questioned if all this progress would be made without the \$25,000 paid to Great Rivers and Routes.

Councilman Plank stated he was disappointed with the small number of references to Wood River in the publication. He asked if it was a possibility for Cory Jobe to come and illustrate what Great Rivers and Routes is doing for Wood River.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (3)

NAYS: Ayres, Dettmers (2)

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APPROVED: RECOMMENDATION FROM MAYOR STALCUP TO APPOINT RYAN SMITH OF 823 N. WOOD RIVER AVENUE TO THE PLAN COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 2024:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a recommendation from Mayor Stalcup to appoint Ryan Smith of 823 N. Wood River Avenue to the Plan Commission with a term to expire May 2024, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: REQUEST TO HOLD A DOWNTOWN STREET FESTIVAL ON FERGUSON AVENUE FROM WOOD RIVER AVENUE TO SECOND STREET ON SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024, FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request to hold a Downtown Street Festival on Ferguson Avenue from Wood River Avenue to Second Street on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., as submitted by the Wood River Business Alliance, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilman Dettmers stated he has received complaints about the Wood River Business Alliance advertising the event before the Council has voted on it. He is hopeful that moving forward the Wood River Business Alliance will wait for approval from the Council before advertising their events.

The request was approved by the following vote:

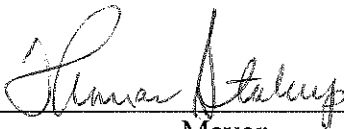
AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk