

AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Wood River City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Stalcup at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 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 Ayres moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 17, 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 June 13, 2024, to June 26, 2024, as printed, seconded by Councilman Dettmers

Councilman Dettmers stated he received requests for clarification and had conversations with the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Public Services about a couple of the bills submitted for payment. The first item is on page six under Sewer Collections listed as 2024 Tandem Dump Truck for \$58,198.50, and Councilman Dettmers asked Director of Public Services Michael Velloff to explain the expense.

Director Velloff explained the City ordered a Tandem Dump Truck in 2022, and has been waiting for a PTO unit since the truck was ordered. The PTO unit came in during the month of May. The dump truck was already in the budget and was approved two years ago. The money will be encumbered from last year's budget into this year's budget, and the City is now paying the final bill. The City already paid for the chassis on the truck, so now the City is paying for the build out of the truck. It was confirmed that the purchase of the truck back in 2022 was subject to the state bid process.

Councilman Dettmers then asked the Director of Parks and Recreation to explain the expense under Golf Course, Golf Maintenance Expenses, the John Deere 2020A Pro Gator and the John Deere HD200 Sprayer totaling \$54,404.47.

Director Minogue explained the weed sprayer was part of the 2024 PEP Grant and was roughly \$54,000.00 of which \$44,000 will be covered by the PEP Grant and the remaining \$10,000.00 will come out of Golf Course Maintenance. The sprayer will be used on the golf course and throughout City parks. Discussion ensued regarding the bid process for the sprayer, and that the approval to purchase was on the agenda a few meetings ago. The actual payment for the sprayer is on the bills submitted for payment for the period June 13, 2024, to June 26, 2024. The sprayer was delivered two weeks ago.

The bills were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Rusty Wheat stated he was at the meeting to talk about trash. He stated that the trash along Highway 255 and Highway 143 is hauled to the Roxana landfill from Missouri, and most of the trash is coming from Missouri. The landfill takes in about 6,000 tons of trash a day, and each trash truck represents 1,300 customers. Most trucks try to deliver five loads per day. The netting on the trucks often fails because they are weather prone, and the trucks hit limbs on their way to the landfill, which causes holes in the netting, and that is causing litter on the roads. Madison County combats that by hiring a temporary firm to pick up the trash, and it costs the taxpayers about \$40.00 a bag. In 2023, Madison County appropriated \$250,000.00 to clean up the trash coming from Missouri, and in 2024, the County appropriated \$100,000.00. Mr. Wheat stated he believes in community efforts,

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not jurisdictional boundaries. He stated he does not work for a municipality; he works for his community. He stated that every Thursday, he works alone under the charter name "Chain Gang" under the Illinois Adopt a Highway Program. He does a 1.7 mile stretch along Highway 143, and in the last 60 weeks, he has cleaned up 280 bags of trash. He has been an advocate for the reimplantation of the Madison County Adopt a Highway Program like IDOT's program. He also pushes for anti-trash signs to be installed by Madison County and IDOT along stretches of the roadway, both coming and going to the landfill. He speaks at the Madison County Board Meetings once a month and updates them on the status of what MBI is doing. MBI uses a lot of different tactics including placing unmarked vehicles along 143 monitoring their own trucks. Mr. Wheat would like to see some anti-litter signs put up in the City of Wood River. He appears on the "Talkin Trash" segment on the Riverbender radio show updating the public on trash issues and volunteer opportunities. He also works with other organizations, such as Pride Inc. in Alton and Collinsville Community Clean Up. He has also been involved with some work with Senator Harriss as she puts together legislation for implementing different tarps on the trucks, and now House Bill 4848 sits on the desk of the Governor. He is hopeful the bill is passed, so that the trash trucks are forced to put a much heavier netting down, which will eliminate a lot of the litter.

Pastor Dave Landry stated he wants to make it clear that he stands behind the City Manager, Mayor Tom Stalcup, and Councilman Tweedy, and what they are trying to accomplish, as well as the other three Councilmen, when they get behind the City Manager and Mayor. Pastor Landry stated that several months back, Councilman Dettmers talked about how the TIF process can make developers more accountable for finishing their redevelopment projects in a timelier fashion, and he agrees with that. He stated that looking at the development going on Downtown Wood River, which is discouraging to him as a resident, to see what looks like nothing is ever getting done. With several of the projects that have been going on for a long time. That ugly brick wall downtown on the corner is the first thing people see coming into Wood River. He wants to see Wood River look more attractive and attract more families to call Wood River their home. He knows there are good programs out there, like the First Time Homeowners Program that the City offers, but more needs to be done. There needs to be more accountability for landlords who are not maintaining their properties and allowing their renters to trash their properties in good neighborhoods. He would not want to live or buy a home where properties are being trashed and yards are not being kept up. His other concern is about fixing up City parks, and this is something he has harbored on for a long time. The City's parks are being maintained with great excellence. The parks are clean but making them all attractive with playground equipment that will attract families to want to move into that neighborhood and buy a home is important. Parks are essential and fun places for family growth. He appreciates what has been done at 14th Street Park. It was in decay for five years before it was addressed, and he thanked the City leadership for the pickleball courts, the bathrooms getting fixed, and the water fountain that works. Other parks need more attractive playground equipment. He was one of the people who wanted the swimming pool back. The swimming pool is what has been most remembered about Wood River by those like him who grew up in Wood River. He fully supports The Recreation Center, and he uses The Recreation Center daily. He is excited for the enthusiasm of our citizens using The Recreation Center and the businesses that are supporting it. His hope is for more City Council support for this endeavor.

Stephanie Schley has lived at the corner of Leslie and Eaton for 55 years. Ms. Schley expressed her concern about an accident on Eaton Avenue that happened on Saturday June 29, 2024. She got a call from her neighbor while she and her spouse were out to dinner informing her that Mr. Schley's pickup truck had been hit by another car. This is the second time this has happened in three years. The woman that caused the accident was driving a 2006 Nissan Frontier, and Mr. Schley has a brand new 2023 Dodge Ram full size 9,000-pound pickup truck with a 1,100-pound winch in the back. The woman driving was not driving 30 miles an hour, she had to have been driving a lot faster. The driver busted her wheel off her car and ended up 200 feet down the road. The driver almost hit the neighbor, who has only lived in the neighborhood for less than a month, and almost knocked down their vinyl fence. There is now a drag mark where the frame dug into the street. After she hit the truck, she kept driving down the street for another 200 yards. The driver knocked the truck at least six to eight inches up against the curb. The driver was not issued a field sobriety test. The neighbor told Ms. Schley that the driver looked like she was loopy, and allegedly dropped her lighter and veered off. Had the truck not been there, the driver could have ended up in Ms. Schley's front yard or her neighbor's front yard and tore up their car that sits out front. Where the driver landed is where the neighbor parks her car daily, but that day she decided to park in her driveway. There was debris all over the street and sidewalk. People walk their dogs, ride their bikes, and take their kids for walks up and down that street. She expressed her concern about people speeding on Eaton Avenue and is urging the City to remedy the issue.

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CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Stalcup presented an appearance award for the month of July to Bobetta Strader of 639 E. Acton.

Mayor Stalcup congratulated East Alton Wood River High School Graduate, Jayden Ulrich, for being placed in the finals for the Olympic team in discus throwing. She should know sometime this week if she made the team.

Mayor Stalcup congratulated Mac's on Ferguson, Rob Lenhardt and Company held their ribbon cutting and opening on Friday, June 28, 2024. Mac's on Ferguson is another addition to the rebuilding of downtown Wood River. Mayor Stalcup thanked Rob Lenhardt and wished him good luck.

Mayor Stalcup announced that the annual Ice Cream Social will be held Sunday, July 14, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Central Park.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that with the State Street Sewer Separation Project that started at the dead-end section of W. Jennings Avenue, the City needs to get an easement from one of the property owners to maintain access to those properties. The property owners agreed to the temporary construction easement and have signed the agreement. He stated that he wants to get approval from the City Council and that it will be on the next agenda for official approval.

City Manager Steve Palen announced that another new business for Downtown is Joy's Signature Pies located at 118 E. Ferguson. They will have their ribbon cutting at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 2902: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND ILLINOIS FOP LABOR COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the execution of a five-year agreement between the City of Wood River and the Illinois FOP Labor Council representing the Police Department, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2903: ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET TO INCLUDE BUDGET AUTHORIZATION FOR 2023-24 ENCUMBRANCES:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance amending the 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget to include budget authorization for 2023-24 encumbrances, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2904: ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET BY INCREASING THE EXPENSE CATEGORY OF VARIOUS BUDGETS:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance amending the 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget by increasing the expense category of various budgets, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Mayor Stalcup asked Finance Director Karen Weber why there is such an increase under the legal section.

Director Weber replied that this is the budget that ended April 30, 2024, and there was different legal counsel when that budget was completed. At that time the legal counsel had a contract that had been in place for several years and it was at a lower rate than what the City is currently paying for legal counsel. The previous legal counsel left in the middle of the budget, so the City was unable to budget for the new rate.

Mayor Stalcup asked if the increase is just from a change in City Attorneys.

Director Weber replied that the increase is \$263,000 and approximately \$100,000 of that is from a legal settlement that is not related to the change in City Attorneys.

Councilman Tweedy asked Mayor Stalcup if Councilmembers can get a breakdown of the bills from the City Attorney.

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City Attorney Mike McGinley stated that the legal invoices are available to the Councilmembers to review. He stated that they are detailed, and he would want to go over the narratives to make sure there is nothing that is attorney client privilege before it gets released.

Councilman Tweedy asked when Councilmembers need to contact the City Attorney, should it go through the City Manager, Mayor, or directly to the City Attorney.

City Attorney Mike McGinley stated that currently the code allows for the City Manager, the Mayor, or anyone from the Council to contact the City Attorney and obtain legal counsel. If the Council calls the City Attorney, it is his responsibility to try and address the issue if it involves any legal issues with the City.

Discussion ensued regarding communication that happens between Councilmembers and the City Attorney and the best way to get every Councilmember up to speed on any new information. The City Council can structure the flow of information between members in their own way.

Mayor Stalcup brought up that the previous City Attorney charged a retainer plus additional hours and Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard and Smith LLP's structure is different.

City Attorney Mike McGinley stated that perhaps the City needs to look at alternative fee agreements where it could possibly be a flat fee agreement. City Attorney Mike McGinley stated that the goal is to provide the best service and most efficiently as possible and if there are ways to make things more financially tenable for the City, his firm is certainly willing to look at that and find whatever works best for the City of Wood River.

Councilman Dettmers stated there is over 2.5 million dollars in additional expenses and there have been some questions raised about the additional expenses. He spoke to Finance Director Karen Weber, and he is hopeful that she will be able to address some of the additional expenses.

Finance Director Karen Weber explained that the next department on the Budget Amendments Attachment is the Street Department, and they are over budget by about \$10,000 and that is due to some unforeseen expenses. There were some water main breaks that caused some sidewalk and driveway repairs. The next department is Parks & Recreation and the line that Director Weber put in basketball because there is not a good one to choose. In the Parks and Recreation budget, they have a different line item for each of the activities offered and they all went over budget on the expense lines as well as the revenues, so the revenues offset all of the overage for Parks and Recreation. Revenue exceeded the budget by \$63,000 and the net difference was about \$15,000 equaling more revenue than expenses. The Major Improvement line under Parks Maintenance is \$16,000 and that is to be reimbursed by a Madison County PEP grant in Fiscal Year 2025. The City went over in full time wages under Parks Maintenance due to a payout for accrued vacation to someone who left the City. The State Street Water Line Improvement Project went over budget and the City knew that when the bids were approved back in August 2023 and that caused the Major Improvements line under Water Distribution to go over budget. Golf Course went over budget in resale items, seasonal wages and alcohol. These were all offset by revenues. Revenues came in over budget by about \$200,000 so all of those overages were off set. Riverbend Business District #4 is where the 6th Street Retention Project is. Funds were moved out of Riverbend Business District #1 which touches Riverbend Business District #4, so funds were moved from #1 to #4 and the expense was paid out of Riverbend Business District #4. These funds were on hand and reserved for this project, they just had not been budgeted in that fiscal year. The Capital Improvements and Development was over budget because the 6th Street Parking Lot Project was not budgeted but when the opportunity arose for a grant, Council approved the project. The overage will be partially offset by a grant.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2067: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND STATE FARM INSURANCE AGENT MIKE FAHNESTOCK FOR MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a sponsorship agreement between the City of Wood River and State Farm Insurance Agent Mike Fahnestock for 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:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2068: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND SHELTER INSURANCE AGENT MARK SMITH FOR MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a sponsorship agreement between the City of Wood River and Shelter Insurance Agent Mark Smith for 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. 2069: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND WOOD RIVER DONUT AND MORE FOR MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a sponsorship agreement between the City of Wood River and Wood River Donut and More for 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. 2070: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND FRANCHISE SPORTS BAR AND GRILL FOR MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a sponsorship agreement between the City of Wood River and Franchise Sports Bar and Grill for marketing in support of the Wood River Recreation Center, as submitted by the Director of Parks and Recreation, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2071: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND ATTIC TREASURES RESALE SHOP FOR MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a sponsorship agreement between the City of Wood River and Attic Treasures Resale Shop for 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)

APPROVED: REQUEST TO SEEK BIDS FOR SEALING OF CITY OWNED PARKING LOTS:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request to seek bids for sealing of City owned parking lots, as submitted by the Director of Public Services, seconded by Mayor Stalcup, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST TO SEEK BIDS FOR CONCRETE SIDEWALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a request to seek bids for concrete sidewalks at various locations throughout the City, as submitted by the Director of Public Services, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

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Councilman Dettmers asked Director of Public Services Michael Velloff if he has an idea of how much sidewalk will be repaired.

Director Velloff explained that he is still working on the specifications for the sidewalk repairs. He also explained that he is looking at making cuts in some of the areas instead of replacement slabs and he is still in the process of tabulating the final numbers.

City Manager Steve Palen asked if Director Velloff is using \$15.00 per square foot as the estimate. Director Velloff stated that he raised it to \$20.00 per square foot after having a conversation with Stutz Excavating.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the City budgeted \$500,000.00 for sidewalk repairs. City Manager Steve Palen replied in the affirmative and stated that at \$20.00 per square foot, it is approximately 25,000 square feet of sidewalk repairs.

The request to seek bids was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST TO SEEK BIDS FOR HYDRO EXCAVATING:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request to seek bids for hydro excavating, as submitted by the Director of Public Services, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY 12, 2024, AS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DAY:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a Proclamation declaring July 12, 2024, as Behavioral Health Day, as requested by Behavioral Health Alternatives, Inc. of Wood River, seconded by Councilman Plank

Mayor Stalcup presented Behavioral Health Alternatives, Inc. with the Proclamation and thanked them for their 40 years of service to the residents of the community.

Behavioral Health Alternatives, Inc. will be celebrating their 40th anniversary on Friday, July 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at their location on Ferguson Avenue.

The Proclamation 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 7:42 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk