

November 18, 2024

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 18, 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 November 4, 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 Ayres moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period October 31, 2024, to November 13, 2024, as printed, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve the Financial Statement ending October 31, 2024, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 18, 2024, AS JACOB MILLER DAY:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a Proclamation declaring November 18, 2024, as Jacob Miller Day, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

Mayor Stalcup and City Clerk Danielle Sneed presented Jacob Miller with the Proclamation and Plaque declaring November 18, 2024, as Jacob Miller Day.

CITIZEN/CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Jeff Cooper stated that he recently had the sidewalk repair crew in his neighborhood. He thanked the City for the project and stated that the crew is doing a good job.

Bill Rogers stated he was unaware that the Council would be honoring Mr. Miller tonight. A World War II Veteran should be honored, and the City would be derelict if they did not honor him. Had he known about this he would have chosen a different night for his comments. He has spoken about this problem before but there has not been a solution. As part of the aggregation program the City changed his supplier without consent, and he was not given a chance to opt out. The City's argument is that warning letters were sent out. He believes this is a weak argument. There are days he does not get mail, so he would like the City to prove that he received the notice. As a result, his power bill has doubled, and he is currently behind two months totaling \$1026.00. He stated that this is a direct result of the City. As far as his water bill goes, he asked for a three-day extension to avoid shut off until he received his social security check, basing it on the official day. That request was denied. Either pay it, waive the November bill, or grant his request with written confirmation. He stated that the City is trying to ruin him financially so the City can then condemn his house and take his property. The City had money to pay cops to harass his parents for 12 years trying to force them into a nursing home. Cops escorted known trespassers into the property, as they arrived with a

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smirk. The officers then proceeded to laugh and joke about it on the sidewalk. Two City employees engaged in gross unethical misconduct to his sister. The same was then done to him by a female cop. The City later promoted her and then arrested him over speaking out. There has been theft of three vehicles, civil rights, and ADA violations. In one incident, Officers Hoefert and Younker stood on each side of the car terrifying his mother who was almost 90 years old at the time, and that should have been considered elder abuse. The officers also sent his sister into a seizure and then stood there watching it without calling for help. The City has time and money for that but refuses to grow up, act like adults, and take responsibility when they do something that they would charge anyone else in criminal court for doing. The City also caused a problem that they are refusing to fix. He asked when he can tell Ameren that the City will be paying his bill. He expects written confirmation of extending the deadline before cutoff on his water bill. He will settle for an extension until close of business a week from tomorrow night. By that time, he hopes he will have his check. Thanks to the City he does not have money for the Holiday. He tried to speak with Karen earlier today but due to pending litigation, he will not expand. He has no problem playing hard-ball and discussing the illegal collection activities. He does not want to be told to go to a church for donations when he got kicked out of his church because of Chris, Amy, and Tyler Johnson, James Doyle, Diane Doyle, and Rex Maynard taking a dispute with the City into the church he was attending, in a different town. The City did all this stuff to a Korean War Veteran and his family.

Mary Roberts thanked Mayor Stalcup and the Council for letting her be the Chairperson for the Veterans Day Committee. The Ceremony was a huge success with 225 to 250 people in attendance. She thanked Mayor Stalcup and the Council, Bagpiper Matt Pantaleoni, Boy Scout Troop 777, Father Steve Thompson, Andrew Nohl, Pastor Tim McGee, Jan Copeland for the Quilts of Valor, Holy Angels PSR Students, Girl Scout Troops 130, 252 and 325, and William Steiner. She also thanked her committee members, Sara Lewis Sladek, Vicky Parsons, Rosalie Huebener, Deana Schultz, Danielle Sneed, Kenny Kutter, and Director of Parks and Recreation Pat Minogue. She then thanked EAWRCHS Superintendent Rob Miller, EAWRCHS Principal Leigh Robinson, Carla Guthrie, the maintenance employees at the high school, and Telegraph Reporter Scott Cousins. She then congratulated Councilman Ayres for receiving a Quilt of Valor. There were 19 Quilts of Valor received at this year's Ceremony.

Mayor Stalcup thanked Mary Roberts for her involvement in the Veterans Day Ceremony. It was very becoming, and he stated that Mary does a great job every year with the Ceremony. He thanked Mary and her crew again for their involvement.

Mayor Stalcup announced that the Holiday Traditions Night Market will be held Downtown from First Street to Wood River Avenue on Friday, November 29, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Small Business Saturday is Saturday, November 30, 2024.

Councilman Ayres thanked Audrey Dettmers for copies of the letters of recommendation written by executive staff members of the City that she handed out to the Councilmembers at the last Council Meeting on November 4, 2024. The letter was for a businessperson in the area and was given to another community. The letters of recommendation praised the revitalization and transformation of our downtown area. He thanked Audrey Dettmers again for the information.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he had a meeting with the Mayor regarding letters of recommendation and he is uncomfortable with City employees sending certain types of letters of recommendation. He is fine with City employees sending some but other ones especially when it comes to businesses, he is uncomfortable with it because he is concerned that something might come back on the City in the future. City employees used City letterhead in their official offices to recommend businesses. Councilman Dettmers is going to recommend under New Business on the agenda that the City put on the agenda for the next meeting a policy change to where the City Council would allow City employees to send letters of recommendation but give City employees some guidance on what would be an acceptable form of letter of recommendation and instances where it would be appropriate and how City employees can use their office to send letters of recommendation.

Councilman Dettmers stated that there have been some recent changes to TIF Agreements that he has talked about in the council meetings and there was one on September 3, 2024, that he abstained on. He explained that he abstained because he thought that City employees had overlooked something. He thought that the contract was in default and thought that the employees had overlooked it and failed to give notice to the City Attorney to rectify the situation. He wanted to vote for that contract. He then explained that he was unable to read all the information that was

given to him because he left town the day that the packets were distributed and he did not return until late afternoon of the day of the meeting on September 3, 2024, so he was totally unprepared for the meeting. He made a member of the employee staff aware of that. He had the opportunity to review the agenda and when he saw the agenda, he was concerned that the City was making payments to a contractor who was in default so he requested copies of the original contract, copies of the permits, and things that were spelled out to be provided in a timely fashion, which when he received them he realized they had not been, and the contract was in default. He then stated that he had an email from a City employee who told him and assured him that all of the provisions of the contract would be monitored and no payments would be made if the permits were not timely satisfied. The day after the vote, Councilman Dettmers sent an email to the TIF Committee and the Mayor, and he made them aware that he was unable to review the material and he felt bad for the City employees because he thought they had overlooked something and he did not feel it was their fault because this was a contract that was initiated before some of the employees were even on staff. He thought it was an oversight, but it turns out he was totally incorrect. He stated that the TIF Committee and the Mayor were fully aware that these changes had been made and Councilman Dettmers was not notified of it. He had been telling people who called him after the meeting that were concerned about the change to the TIF Agreement because they felt that money was being paid out to this contractor and there are no employees in 1 E. Ferguson. Councilman Dettmers asked if the City has been making payments under the terms of the TIF Agreement for 1 E. Ferguson.

City Manager Steve Palen asked Finance Director Karen Weber if the first payment has been made. Director Weber replied in the affirmative. City Manager Steve Palen explained that a payment is made once the certificate of occupancy has been issued.

Councilman Dettmers stated that the original contract prohibited payments if all of the permits were not in place by July 31, 2023, and the permits were not obtained until December 2023. He also stated that the contract said that the building had to be completed by December 31, 2023, and it was not completed by that date. The contract said that the contractor had to provide proof of \$620,000.00 of payments to the City before a payment would be made down and there had to be proof that the developer was going to have 13 full time employees and 8 part time employees in the building. His understanding is that the building is still unoccupied, and he asked if that was correct.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that he does not think they have moved into the building yet.

Councilman Plank stated that he understands that the business is going to move into the building after Thanksgiving as the business is trying to get past the tax deadline.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that was his understanding as well.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he was wrong, and someone had all these provisions removed from the contract, so the payments are being made and he knows there is a default and now the City has removed the obligation to have employees before the City makes payments. He then asked why the Council was not notified. He was asking about the information, and he was told that the only change that was being made was the date of the check. He was not told that all of these provisions had been removed from the agreement with the developer. He stated that it is kind of hard for him to understand who the City's employees are working for. He asked if the employees are working for the City of Wood River or if they are working for the developers because when the City is removing provisions that are put in the contract to protect the City and then the City removes them, he assumes it is to encourage the contractors or developers, and he does not understand why the City would do that. It takes away the incentive and the protection for the City to make someone honor their commitments and their obligations under the original contract and the City abrogated the whole thing and wiped it out without any commitment. In addition to that, the same contractor a few weeks later bought the Napa Auto Parts building and Councilman Dettmers pointed out at that time that one of the normal provisions that the City had in the contracts is that they would not get any money if there was not an occupant in the building. The City changed that, and Councilman Dettmers talked about this to where now it is up to the discretion of the City Manager and not the Council to determine when payments will be made if the building is vacant. He does not understand what is going on. He stated that TIF is a valuable tool, but the objective is to get a business in there, not to have buildings renovated, it is to have a business move in and the idea is to develop Downtown Wood River and when the City is giving away the store and eliminating all of these requirements to the developers, the incentive has been eliminated and the City has lost control. He stated that the City has to keep the incentives in the contracts so that the City has control and not the developers. It makes no sense to him, and he asked how people get appointed to the TIF Committee.

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City Manager Steve Palen explained that it is spelled out in the TIF Guidelines.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he thinks that the City needs to make some changes because it looks to him like the City has people on the TIF Committee that do not really understand how businesses operate. If he could get a City or anybody to agree to waive all the requirements for him to perform, he would be happy. The responsibility is on the City to protect the citizens and in his opinion the City is not doing that and the City needs to get someone on the TIF Committee to start advocating for the people in the City of Wood River, not for the developers.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that TIF payments are not made until occupancy permits are issued.

Councilman Dettmers stated that City Manager Steve Palen removed the requirement to have employees in the building.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that he has no idea what Councilman Dettmers is talking about, and he explained that TIF Agreements are not one standard form. TIF Redevelopment Agreements are negotiated deals with developers and every TIF Agreement is different. One TIF Agreement could say you have to occupy the building and another TIF Agreement could say that you do not have to occupy the building and that is not unusual. White boxing buildings is not unusual in TIF Districts either.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he had the TIF Agreement that was signed in July 2023, and one would have to be a lawyer to figure out what the agreement says, and it was not until this weekend that he figured out what was going on here. He read Article 4.1 from the agreement where it states that "so long as no notice of default has been issued and remains outstanding as provided in Article 6 hereof, on December 1 of each year commencing the year following the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy". He then stated that the Council was told that the only change to the agreement was the change to the date. That was incorrect. The primary change was that they released all of the obligations for the developer to perform.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that he does not know what Council Dettmers means when he says, "released all obligations".

Councilman Dettmers states that it says, "by default he has to perform" and it refers to Article 6.3 (c) of the agreement stating, "Developer's default in the performance or breach of any material covenant, warranty, or obligation, including all obligations set forth in Article 2, contained in this agreement." Then Councilman Dettmers read Article 2.1 "The Developer covenants and agrees that the following obligations of the Developer shall be precondition to the City's obligations to reimburse the Developer for certain Redevelopment Project Costs in accordance with the terms and conditions in this Agreement, has to have all approvals and permits by July 31, 2023, has completed construction by December 31, 2023, has to provide proof of investment of \$620,000.00 and upon lease of the building has to have 13 full time jobs and 8 part time jobs." Councilman Dettmers stated that all of that was wiped out.

City Manager Steve Palen asked for clarification.

Councilman Dettmers stated that the agreement that was amended on September 3, 2024, eliminated all of that language.

City Manager Steve Palen stated it did not. He asked Finance Director Karen Weber if she obtained proof of the investment before a check was cut and she replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the building was occupied with 13 employees.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the occupancy permit was issued, and that occupancy will happen at the end of the month. He stated that although occupancy did not occur on the date of issuance, this does not mean the contract is null and void. Occupancy will be coming to the building when they have completed their tax deadlines. He stated he is glad to have the business and glad to have the building redone.

Councilman Dettmers stated he is also glad to have the business but reiterated that payments should not be made until developers perform.

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City Manager Steve Palen stated that payment was made when the occupancy permit was issued. He said it was stated in the agreement and in every agreement, and that is when the first payment is made.

Councilman Dettmers stated that the agreement states upon leasing the building and having 13 full time employees and 8 part time employees. He argues that was removed and the developer has no obligation to put anyone in the building but the City is obligated to pay \$240,000.00 over five years. He stated that the developer never has to put a person in there as that language was removed. He stated that the agreement the Council approved says that the default provisions were removed.

Councilman Dettmers asked who the TIF Committee is working for because it is not for the City.

City Manager Steve Palen stated the TIF Committee is absolutely working for the City and is doing a good job.

Councilman Dettmers stated that is the strangest thing he has ever seen.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that is because Councilman Dettmers does not understand how the TIF works or about redevelopment agreements. He stated that the only reason this is being mentioned is because certain people are involved.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he can read, and he can see that all four provisions were wiped out.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that while Councilman Dettmers can read, he cannot understand.

Councilman Dettmers disagreed.

Councilman Plank stated that the City agreed to give money if the building was rehabilitated. He asked what condition the building was in before the rehabilitation.

City Manager Steve Palen stated the building was dilapidated.

Councilman Plank asked what the condition of the building is now.

City Manager Steve Palen stated the building is now in excellent condition.

Councilman Plank stated that if the building is in excellent condition, the business owner is taking on the risk of not using it, which means they will lose money if they are not using the building and they are the ones at risk. If the business owner takes until the end of November to occupy the building that is called the free market. He stated he is in favor of the free market and private entities doing what private entities do and that is their prerogative. If the owner wants to wait to move in until the end of December, they are losing out on a month of revenues, but that is their prerogative. However, the City has a rehabilitated building that was dilapidated before and was probably being considered for demolition. Councilman Plank argued that the owner cannot take it and run, if they choose to sell it, someone else will occupy the building and the City still benefits either way.

Councilman Dettmers stated he disagreed, and that the focus is on development of the downtown area. The way you develop it is with commerce; a vacant building does not have commerce. That is the reason that provision is in there and Chris Sobrino included that provision in there to develop commerce in the City of Wood River. The focus for TIF is not to develop buildings, but to bring businesses in to develop commerce.

Councilman Plank states that he does not necessarily disagree, but he does not believe the City can be heavy handed as government. That is not why they are here. The private sector has to be able to do what they do.

Councilman Dettmers stated that the provisions of the agreement should have been amended, not removed. Now they have no obligation to perform because it has been wiped out. He stated that the City does not know if they will move in in December, January or 10 years from now. He stated that they should have moved in before they were given the first payment. He stated he was in favor of giving them money. What he objects to is giving them money when there is a vacant building.

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Councilman Plank stated that they will be moving into the building, and they have made the commitment.

Councilman Dettmers argued that they do not have a commitment, since the payment was made, they do not have to be in there, ever.

Councilman Plank stated that they have made the capital improvement so if they sell the building to someone else who will occupy the building, the community still benefits.

Councilman Tweedy stated that it is within their rights to sell the building. The end goal for the City is to have an occupied building with more than a dozen employees.

Councilman Dettmers stated that a vacant building does not bring people downtown, that is why provisions like this are added to agreements. The City should wait until they have occupied the building and then honor the commitments. The distinction is that it was wiped out and that is his objection. He is concerned with contracts where there are no requirements to perform to ensure that they help promote downtown. He said he does not want empty buildings; he wants people to come here to work and he wants businesses to come in and offer products.

Councilman Tweedy and Councilman Plank stated that is what they want as well.

Councilman Dettmers stated that the point is the City is giving them money before they are performing and the City has taken out the incentive.

Councilman Plank stated that those are additional incentives, but they are not the main reason for TIF. TIF is in place for capital improvements and if they complete capital improvements, then they get TIF money. If there are additional incentives in the agreement that are extra, the City needs to be careful not to push the business back out the door because it is so restrictive that they cannot do what they need to do.

Councilman Dettmers asked why the language was in the original contract.

Councilman Plank replied that he was unsure, but the Council can amend language just like the Council has been doing.

Councilman Dettmers agreed.

Councilman Plank clarified that this entire discussion has been about amending language.

Councilman Dettmers replied in the affirmative.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Plank and Councilman Dettmers regarding whether or not language can be amended in TIF Agreements going forward.

City Manager Steve Palen asked Finance Director Karen Weber if the TIF Agreement for 1 E. Ferguson is five payments.

Councilman Dettmers responded stating that this agreement is six payments, \$40,000.00 per year with one payment up front and then payments on the anniversary.

Councilman Plank stated that this whole discussion has been about amending language.

Councilman Dettmers replied in the negative stating that the discussion has been about making sure the City is promoting to bring people in and not giving an incentive to people not to move in.

Councilman Plank asked why the City would incentivize people not to move in.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Plank and Councilman Dettmers on whether or not the City is incentivizing businesses to move in.

Councilman Plank stated that the business is moving into 1 E. Ferguson and these types of agreements are very common in other communities with this type of language and with less restrictive language. He then stated that Highway 143 was built around downtown and the City has

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to do some extra things to develop downtown. It is going to take time, effort, and creativity and the City must be patient with the process. He stated that it took decades for it to get here, and it is going to take a while to fix it.

Councilman Dettmers agreed with Councilman Plank.

Councilman Plank stated that if the City gets restrictive and heavy handed as government, he believes the City will discourage the process.

Councilman Dettmers stated that the City could have amended the agreement to allow the business to move in at a later date and their feet should have been held to the fire to make sure they were going to perform because with this agreement, they have no obligation.

OATH OF OFFICE:

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

OATH OF OFFICE:

City Clerk Danielle Sneed administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Police Sergeant Bryan Brown.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-23: ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE V: PUBLIC WORKS, CHAPTER 50: GARBAGE AND REFUSE, SECTION 50.16 LOCATION OF GARBAGE, RUBBISH CARTS/CONTAINERS, TITLE XV: LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 157: ESTABLISHMENT OF OCCUPANCY PERMITS, SECTION 157.18 GARBAGE CONTAINERS WITH LIDS SUPPLIED AND DUMPSTERS SCREENED, AND 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 4, AMENDING SECTION 4-1 GENERAL REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance amending City Code 90-7 Title V: Public Works, Chapter 50: Garbage and Refuse, Section 50.16 Location of Garbage, Rubbish Carts/Containers, Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 157: Establishment of Occupancy Permits, Section 157.18 Garbage Containers with Lids Supplied and Dumpsters Screened, and 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 4, amending Section 4-1 General Regulations and Restrictions, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers asked what the anticipated changes will be for this as he knows it has been discussed in the past to revise the code.

City Manager Palen explained that the changes give the City some discretion on who is required to put the screening up which leaves the screening in the code but there are instances for health, life, and safety reasons, and physical restrictions, and the changes will allow the City to waive those restrictions.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the City is liberalizing it some by giving it a little more discretion.

City Manager Steve Palen replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Tweedy asked if this will be case by case.

City Manager Palen replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Dettmers stated he has received phone calls from people concerned they would have to spend a lot of money to build an enclosure when the container was behind their building, and they did not feel that it was an eye sore, so Councilman Dettmers feels that this will help.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

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RESOLUTION NO. 2096: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH B&F CONSTRUCTION CODE SERVICES, INC. FOR BUILDING CODE REVIEW AND UPDATES:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with B&F Construction Code Services, Inc. for building code review and updates, as submitted by the Building and Zoning Administrator, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2097: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND BILL & JOE'S AUTOMOTIVE 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 Bill & Joe's Automotive 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: ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2023-2024 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Councilman Plank moved to approve the acceptance of the 2023-2024 Treasurer's Report, as submitted by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM CHARLES E. MAHONEY CO. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,669.81 FOR ASPHALT RESURFACING AT EMERICK SPORTS COMPLEX:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve accepting the bid from Charles E. Mahoney Co. in the amount of \$45,669.81 for the asphalt resurfacing at Emerick Sports Complex, as submitted by the Director of Parks and Recreation, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Plank asked what the expectation of the bid was. The lowest bid looks exceptionally lower than the other bids.

City Manager Steve Palen stated he does not have an explanation for why the bid was a lot lower. The next bid is within \$11,000.00.

Councilman Dettmers asked how much was budgeted for the project.

City Manager Steve Palen stated it is for the ball field, dugouts, fencing, and is a total rebuild. The total cost is around \$240,000.00 to \$250,000.00. The City received a grant from the Metro East Park District for \$90,000.00, and the high school contributed \$90,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

The recommendation was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2098: REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR THE WOOD RIVER DOWNTOWN DOG PARK:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a resolution rejecting all bids for the Wood River Downtown Dog Park, as submitted by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers asked what the plans for the dog park are and how much the City budgeted for this project.



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City Manager Steve Palen stated in the economic development line of the budget, he budgeted for \$500,000.00 for Downtown improvements and this was one of the projects along with the Downtown Pocket Park. His plan is to still build the dog park but instead use City crews for most of the construction. The City will have to seek bids for the concrete and fencing, because the City does not have the capability for that portion of the project.

Councilman Dettmers stated he was in favor of this, so he reached out to a veterinarian to discuss the dog park. The veterinarian was very positive about the plan for a dog park, but Councilman Dettmers stated that he has had a couple dozen conversations with people who are dog owners, and they told him that they will never use the dog park. He has not had one person contact him that is in favor of the dog park. He is not sure if other Councilmembers have had anyone reach out, but he was shocked that he has not had any support for this at all. In fact, one person has a pedigree dog and said that anyone who takes their dog there has to be out of their mind. His understanding is that the only shots/vaccinations that dogs are required to have by the State of Illinois is for rabies. The veterinarian said that everyone should have their dogs vaccinated for Parvovirus, Distemper, Bordetella, and Flu. The person he is thinking of said that even with the vaccinations, dogs can still contract these diseases because vaccinations are not one hundred percent and if your dog has Parvovirus it can last for a long time and the veterinarian confirmed that. This is a real question for him, and he is reluctant. He then asked how much money the City will receive from a grant for this project.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that the City is not getting a grant for this project. He also explained that this resolution is to reject the bids received for the project and his intent is to have City crews build the dog park.

Councilman Dettmers asked what the cost will be to build the dog park.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that if the bids were any indication, the concrete was around \$80,000.00 and the fencing was around \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 so just over \$100,000.00.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he is going to have to think about this, but he is hopeful that someone that is in favor of this reaches out to him. He was shocked about the negative comments he received about the project.

Councilman Dettmers asked if anyone has received any feedback about the project.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that he has had some positive feedback about the project and after doing some research, he learned that dog parks are becoming popular. He stated that it will also help with getting more people downtown to support downtown businesses.

Mayor Stalcup stated that the dog park in Edwardsville is visited frequently and is a nice amenity for the community.

Councilman Dettmers stated he is in that area often and he has seen times where there is no one at the dog park.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a recess to hold an executive closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Imminent Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)), seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers recommended that the Council move across the hall to hold the closed session.

The closed session was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

November 18, 2024

The Council recessed at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

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

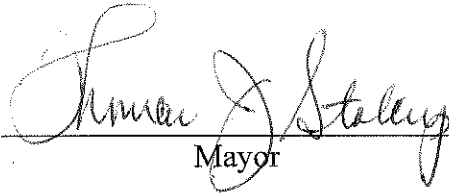
AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

NAYS: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman Dettmers requested that an item be added to the next agenda approving and authorizing City Council to work with the City Attorney to draft a policy regarding City employees writing letters of recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor



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