

December 16, 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, December 16, 2024, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 N. Wood River Avenue, with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll and reported that the following members were:

PRESENT: David Ayres
Bill Dettmers
Jeremy Plank
Scott Tweedy
Tom Stalcup

and that a quorum was present and in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 2, 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 Tweedy moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period November 27, 2024, to December 11, 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 FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve the Financial Statement ending November 30, 2024, as printed, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Stalcup and Fire Chief Wade Stahlhut presented a Certificate of Recognition and a plaque to Captain Bill Hall for his 30 years of service with the Wood River Fire Department.

CITIZEN/CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Stalcup read Letters of Commendation addressed to Telecommunicator Brendan Lenhardt and Telecommunicator Joel Woodruff from Police Chief Brad Wells.

June Gibbs stated that tonight is another meeting, and she has more questions. As she mentioned at the last meeting, due to the lack of transparency the best she can do is raise questions through citizen comments and again she stated that she is aware that the Council cannot answer her questions during citizen comments but maybe the Council can go into discussion and explain to the citizens as the City Council works for the people in the community. She stated that tonight's subject is titled "Friends", "Friends of Friends", "Political Friends". She then stated that on February 5, 2024, she spoke at the City Council Meeting regarding the Wood River Business Alliance not being registered with the Illinois Secretary of State. The Business Alliance came to the City wanting a contract for \$75,000.00 over three years and they claimed to be a 501(c)(3) organization which they were not at the time of the meeting. The contract was tabled that evening and the next day someone from the organization applied for a DBA through the Wood River Economic Development with the Illinois Secretary of State. Two weeks later, at the next meeting, they were back for the \$75,000.00 contract, which was approved. Ms. Gibbs stated that it appeared odd as the organization was not well organized and yet the Council approved it. Upon review, only one board member of the organization is a Wood River resident. The president is Tim O'Donnell who is also a so-called developer. She noticed that on November 30, 2023, there was the Chris Slusser for County Chairman Fundraiser at Rustic Roots that was hosted by Tim O'Donnell, Jeremy Plank, Tom Stalcup, Mike Babcock and Tom McRea. Some may think it is just a coincidence, but she stated that she would like to go further. On November 15, 2024, members of the Business Alliance and City Officials met with representatives from the Governor's Office along with the Illinois

December 16, 2024

Department of Commerce and Economic Community complete with a photo op with Tim O'Donnell at his 203 E. Ferguson building. For those that are not aware of the building, it is the building with the weathered banner that mentions Gaucho and Gringo Bar and Gaming. She is confident that many are not aware that Gaucho and Gringo Bar and Gaming is Tim O'Donnell's LLC. Many also may not be aware that by records of the Illinois Secretary of State, this LLC was involuntarily dissolved in August 2024 and the taxes have not been paid to date. All property owned by Tim O'Donnell in Wood River has unpaid taxes to the tune of \$11,000.00. She asked if the State Representatives and City Officials knew this while getting a tour of the building. She then asked why the City is even working with him if he is not paying taxes and how much money in TIF funds was awarded to him. She asked if the political connections have anything to do with the decisions in giving him property and tax money. She then asked what he has delivered to Wood River to date and is the City's interest for the taxpayers or the developers. She then stated that when she drives down Ferguson Avenue, she does not see revitalization, she sees more for sale signs. She asked how much more money the City plans to throw at this to see what sticks. She then stated that maybe Councilman Plank or Mayor Stalcup can answer the questions that she has or maybe they will once again remain silent.

Bill Rogers stated that he spoke previously about a problem with his power bill caused by the City and another payment is due this month increasing the total due. The first full month after getting it back to the supplier of his choosing, the bill dropped in half for that month and that confirmed his earlier statement that the City's aggregation nonsense caused his bill to double. For the City to say that he got it changed so the City is off the hook is not true. "I cannot, I will not, not my job, not my department" is not the answer. The City knows what caused the problem but is not going to fix it. He then told Councilman Plank that talking to LIHEAP is not the answer either. He knows the game the City is playing and the City caused this problem and needs to pay the bill in full. He stated that the City has funds to keep people on payroll who will not do their job and funds to keep people on the payroll who commit illegal acts; therefore, the City has funds to pay his power bill in full. To the haters who say, "just shut-up and pay up" the answer is clear. The City caused this problem and therefore needs to take responsibility and pay the bill in full. He then stated that the City took money out of his account, did not return the money and so far is ignoring the resulting lawsuit. Christmas at his house, forget it, he does not have the money. Secondly, the City is in love with the idea of taking private property. Unless the City can prove to him that all of the properties that the City is wanting to take are owned by a particular landlord, the City will not convince him that there are that many properties in town that are in that bad of condition. The truth is that a City employee or a friend or relative of a City employee wants those properties dirt cheap. If they refuse the price offer, the harassment begins courtesy of Chief Wells and Building Inspector Cody Ellis. When they refuse, they start citing them multiple times on code ordinance violations whether the charges are true or not. If they question you, nothing they say or do will ever be good enough. The answer is for the City to act like a spoiled brat on the playground and condemn the property out of ego which was tried on his parents several times to the point where people were asking if they were sitting on an oil well. Mr. Rogers got involved in the situation to keep the City from running all over his parents and then the City tried to arrest him for contempt for relying on statements made by the City. Another example is the house that was next door to the Library. It had absolutely nothing to do with the condition of the property. The City wanted the property for a community garden. The condition was the cover story but that was not true. He then stated that since Mayor Stalcup wants to brag about transparency, let the citizens see him disclose who really wants these properties. Thirdly, the City recently voted to give Spectrum, formally Charter, formally TCI a franchise to operate within the City. Over the years, there have been voluminous complaints, some of which have been about that company's illegal billing and collection practices. He stated that maybe the reason the City does not do anything about it is because the City is doing some of the same things.

Rusty Wheat introduced himself and explained that he has a non-for-profit organization called the "Chain Gang" that consists of just him picking up trash. He then explained that for the last three years he has gone around and picked up pumpkins from people's houses after Thanksgiving. The uncarved and unpainted pumpkins are a great food source for wildlife. There is a tremendous number of pumpkins that get thrown into the landfill every year creating more methane and natural gas. Pumpkins are a viable resource for animals in the wintertime because there is no food source. Pumpkins that are uncarved last a long time and are a natural dewormer for animals. Most farmers would take the pumpkins to feed their cattle, but they have so much money invested in their cattle that they have to make sure that their food resources are something they can count on. Mr. Wheat stated that he picked up over 300 pumpkins this year. In Madison County, there are 31 locations where citizens can recycle their Christmas tree but no locations for pumpkins and he would like to change that. Mr. Wheat explained that he has a disability, and he does not have any face muscles

that he can feel, consequently he looks mad all the time even when he is not. With that being said, someone has been complaining about Mr. Wheat having a racist organization and he believes they have even called Springfield, Illinois to complain about the organization. He stated that by no way shape or form is anything he does racist. The gentleman he works with for IDOT, one of his best friends, is a person of color and an elderly lady works with him who is semi-retired. With his disability, a woman, and a person of color, Mr. Wheat does not feel that his organization has anything to do with race at all. He stated that he was deeply offended by the accusations that citizens made about Mayor Stalcup when the Mayor volunteered to work with Mr. Wheat to pick up trash. He stated that it was a callous attack by some lunatic saying that the "Chain Gang" is a racist organization and that is clearly wrong, and he resents it. He hopes that they find better avenues as he could certainly put them to work if they would like to participate.

Mike Anderson stated that he is a lifelong resident of Wood River and a member of the Wood River Public Library Board of Trustees. He stated that the Wood River Library is a gem. It is a crown jewel along with the Police Department, Fire Department, and Belk Park Golf Course. The Library is an asset to the City, but as with any asset it needs to be ensured that it has what it needs to thrive, grow, and improve. He then stated that as the Board of Trustees, they are charged with making sure that the Library has the resources to provide the level of service expected from the citizens. Over the past ten years, the amount of money that the Board has asked for in the levy has been stagnant at about \$358,000.00 a year and the Board has operated on that fund for ten years. But what has not been stagnant is the cost of the operation of the Library. While the Board continues to count pennies and be good stewards with the money, the Board has challenges to face. One has been the rising costs of wages because of the minimum wage increase that has been enforced by the State. It is not just the minimum wage increase, but also the ability to retain and attract good employees who are going to provide the best service to the citizens. The Board is also facing many maintenance projects as the Library is an aging building and the projects that need to be done are going to be substantial costs and could possibly wipe out any reserve that the Library has. As the age of the building is showing, just recently it cost \$15,000.00 to fix plumbing issues. As the levy is discussed tonight, Mr. Anderson is hopeful that the Councilmembers keep in mind that the Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously on the amount of the levy, not because they just want money and are trying to pad the reserves but because as Board Members, they see the need and have a responsibility to provide the resources necessary to continue to operate a great public library for the citizens of Wood River. He asked the Councilmembers to take into consideration that this was not something that the Board of Trustees took lightly.

Kristen Burns stated that she would like to address a question that Ms. Gibbs brought forward at the last Council Meeting in regard to the Brown Tire lot and its intentions. As a Main Street organization, there are many goals including preserving historic Main Street Districts, advocating for small business, working with building owners to preserve historic facades, providing educational opportunities for entrepreneurs, host events that promote foot traffic and commerce in the downtown area and engage and excite the community, public officials, and developers in revitalization of buildings and public spaces, reimagining use of buildings and green space. Through Main Street there is an opportunity to use resources and partnering agencies to bring the vision to life. The rendering is the reimagined space of where Brown Tire is located. It shows a multi-use indoor outdoor space that can be used as a center for entertainment, events, greenspace and new life in an empty lot downtown. The Wood River Business Alliance utilized their Main Street resources to turn an idea into a vision. The Business Alliance has no intention of owning this space but would like to see something like this in downtown, and the Business Alliance would work with public officials to make this a reality through funding sources that are available and advocating to see a project like this take shape. Renderings are often used in revitalization and development to show what a space could be. In fact, the Business Alliance has renderings on many spaces, including vacant downtown buildings, empty lots and beautification projects that the City looks forward to in the future. Renderings are useful in many ways especially when revitalizing a historic district. If anyone has questions about the work that the Business Alliance does, Ms. Burns invites the public to call. She knows that the public has her contact information as she has spoken to residents before. Please call, email or stop by her office. She invited the public to come be a part of the conversation, or volunteer on one of the many committees that the City offers. She also invited Ms. Gibbs and Mr. Mallory to come and talk with her or a member of the Business Alliance's Board or come to a "What's up Downtown Meeting" if they have questions instead of sneaking around and taking photos and posting to social media about things that they clearly do not understand. Instead of continuous searching, FOIA requests, and meddling that proves nothing but ignorance, think about volunteering with one of the many organizations that work to make the community better. She stated that they may find the fulfillment they are clearly missing. She thanked Mr. Mallory for

December 16, 2024

attending the Holiday Traditions Event and hopes that he got some great photos and that he enjoyed himself before he left in such a hurry. Ms. Burns also encouraged Councilman Dettmers and Councilman Ayres to reach out to her or a member of the Board if they have questions about what the Business Alliance does as an organization. She stated that they also have her contact information. She then thanked Councilman Tweedy and Councilman Plank for being members of the advisory board, and the Mayor, City Manager and Department Heads who support the work that the Business Alliance does along with the residents and visitors that support the organization through volunteerism, attending events, and promoting the work that the organization does. She looks forward to a successful 2025 full of economic growth, beautiful downtown spaces and more opportunities to see the City of Wood River shine. Ms. Burns closed by wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, and peace on behalf of the Wood River Business Alliance.

Councilman Ayres wished everyone in the community a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa on behalf of the City Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-24: AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 71: PARKING REGULATIONS, AMENDING SECTION 71.26 MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance amending City Code 90-7 Title VII: Traffic Code, Chapter 71: Parking Regulations, amending Section 71.26 Municipal Parking Lots, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers asked if the City is having issues with overnight parking on City owned parking lots.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that it is more of an issue with businesses using the City owned parking lots to park their company vehicles for advertising.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the City now has designated parking spots for commuter parking.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that designated parking spots for commuter parking are in Lot #1, the row nearest to Route 143, and closest to the southeast corner.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

TABLED: ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE XV: LAND USAGE, AMENDING CHAPTER 159: VACANT STRUCTURE REGISTRATION:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance amending City Code 90-7, Title XV: Land Usage, amending Chapter 159: Vacant Structure Registration, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilman Ayres stated that this ordinance is very lengthy and encompassing and, in his opinion, should be broken down into parts and discussed in detail before the Council votes on the ordinance. He stated that if this ordinance passes it is a great policing policy for the City, but not necessarily good for the real estate environment and real estate investors. Also, if it is taken into account that real estate investors as a whole probably produce in the top five of property taxes that the City gets every year. Therefore, Councilman Ayres does not believe that it is a good idea to discourage that. Also, parts of the proposed ordinance discourage real estate investment and as a Non-Home Rule Municipality, he does not believe that the City can impose a demand for and dedicate an amount of property insurance. He also believes that the fines in this ordinance are excessive and will encourage people to walk away from real estate investments meaning if they get behind on taxes or have a vacant property for a certain period of time and the City starts adding on fines and penalties, the property owners might not have the money to rehab the properties and they may become uninhabitable and could result in the property coming off the tax rolls. Councilman Ayres stated that the City needs to create an environment for non TIF real estate investment.

Councilman Ayres motioned to table an ordinance amending City Code 90-7, Title XV: Land Usage, amending Chapter 159: Vacant Structure Registration, seconded by Councilman Dettmers

December 16, 2024

Councilman Dettmers stated that he believes and understands that the idea behind this ordinance is to try to get movement on vacant buildings. He asked who is going to make the determination whether or not the building is abandoned and what is the process. He stated that it is possible that someone may be using the building but it might look abandoned.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that the City used legal counsel to write the ordinance and the idea behind the ordinance is not to discourage investment but to discourage property owners from using their buildings for storage where it is supposed to be a retail setting. He then explained that investing and sitting on a property for five to ten years storing their items, in his opinion, is not the investment that the City wants. The City wants the property owners to buy the property and do something with the property.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the City is talking about property owners that are maintaining the property or property owners that are not maintaining the property.

City Manager Steve Palen stated vacant structures, maintained or not.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he can see the City enforcing this ordinance for property owners buying property going forward but he is concerned about current property owners who are maintaining the property and using the property for personal uses.

Discussion ensued regarding storage not being allowed in the Downtown Business District per the City's Zoning Code.

Councilman Dettmers asked if the current property owners do not conform their properties into commercial use, will the City take the property away.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the property owners will have to register the property and pay the fees associated with the vacant structure registration.

Councilman Dettmers believes that the City needs to be very careful about this and he believes that there will be a lot of properties that will fall under this category, and he agrees with Councilman Ayres that the property owners will walk away from the properties and then the property taxes will not be paid. He would like more time to think about this ordinance and possibly only apply this ordinance to property owners moving forward and grandfather the property owners who already own their properties.

Councilman Tweedy stated that part of the problem is with the buildings that have been purchased, the property owners have stored their belongings in the building and when there are issues with the building, the property owners do not address the issues or maintain the building.

Councilman Dettmers stated he understands and if that is the situation he thinks the City should step in. He believes there are people that are not in that situation.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated for clarification this ordinance is already in the City Code of Ordinances. Tonight, the City Council is amending the ordinance to clarify certain language within the ordinance. There are several different sections which are included in the amendment which is in front of Council right now. Some of those sections were in conflict with each other. For instance, the gist of the ordinance is if a building remains abandoned for a certain amount of time, the City can require it to be listed on the Vacant Structure Registry. In one section of the previously passed ordinance, it was listed as a 12-month window and in another section, it was listed as 24 months. In order to be able to enforce this ordinance, the City will need to clarify the conflicting information. The amendments that are in front of Council tonight were made to have consistency throughout the ordinance. After speaking with the Zoning Administrator, a property will have to be abandoned for 24 months before the City will cite the owner. City Attorney Kathryn Warren read the definition for "abandoned" from the definition section of the ordinance "any real property in the City of Wood River that is vacant, as defined herein, or shows evidence of vacancy, or is the subject of a Lis Pendens or notice of default and/or notice of Sheriff's sale, or a foreclosure sale where title was retained by the mortgagee in the foreclosure or has been transferred under a deed in lieu of foreclosure or sale to the mortgagee."

Councilman Dettmers stated that when he was campaigning a few years ago there was someone that stored his GTO on a vacant property under a canopy. He asked how the ordinance affects someone

December 16, 2024

that stores an antique vehicle in a maintained vacant property. He asked if that situation would be considered abandoned. City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated if the property is vacant, then yes it would be considered abandoned.

Councilman Dettmers asked if a vacant building is considered an abandoned building. City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that "vacant" is also defined within the definition section of the ordinance. Vacant is defined as "a structure that shows evidence of vacancy, as defined herein, and/or is lacking the habitual presence of human beings who have a legal right to be on the premises, for 180 consecutive days."

Councilman Dettmers asked the City Attorney how abandonment comes into the vacant structure ordinance.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that she is not sure she understands the question.

Councilman Ayres stated because it is not occupied by an individual during that time.

Councilman Dettmers stated that would be considered vacant and asked what would be considered abandoned.

Councilman Plank asked if the Lis Pendens and all of those items help define what is considered abandoned.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Plank stated that the City of Edwardsville has language on their books regarding vacant buildings.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the City of Wood River mirrored the City of Edwardsville's ordinance when creating the vacant structure ordinance. Most of the City of Wood River's codes, including downtown, do not allow warehousing. It is against the Zoning Code to use buildings for warehousing.

Councilman Tweedy asked if people use the downtown buildings for warehousing.

City Manager Steve Palen replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Ayres stated that is under the Zoning Code and people should know that information up front and follow the code.

Councilman Ayres asked since the City is a Non-Home Rule municipality, is the City allowed to set insurance rates.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated she is not sure but will look into it.

Councilman Ayres stated he does not believe the City can set the rates.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren asked what Councilman Ayres means by "set insurance rates" and asked if he is referring to the section regarding minimum and liability insurance requirements.

Councilman Ayres replied in the affirmative.

The ordinance was tabled by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, (3)

NAYS: Tweedy, Stalcup (2)

ORDINANCE NO. 2915: LEVYING A TAX FOR ALL CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER, MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2024, TO APRIL 30, 2025:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve an ordinance levying a tax for all corporate purposes for the City of Wood River, Madison County, Illinois, for the fiscal year May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, seconded by Councilman Dettmers

Councilman Dettmers motioned to amend the ordinance that was presented to reduce the insurance fund levy by an additional \$18,302.00 for a total levy amount of \$2,505,092.00. This would allow the fire pension fund to receive the statutory minimum contribution plus two percent, seconded by Councilman Ayres.

Councilman Plank asked for Councilman Dettmers to repeat the motion.

Director Weber clarified that the motion would reduce the insurance fund levy by not only the \$18,302.00 for the library but also by \$15,095.00 for the fire pension fund increase. This would result in the levy dollar amount staying at the same amount as the 2023 levy.

City Manager Steve Palen warned that the more the City's levy is reduced to make up for the Library increase, the less that is available to fund the pensions going forward.

Councilman Dettmers stated he understood, but that they are businessmen, and they are used to cutting budgets.

Councilman Plank asked for further clarification on the pensions.

Director Weber stated that the motion would fund the fire pension at the statutory minimum requirement plus two percent which has been the goal for several years. The motion would also keep the police pension levy at the same dollar amount as 2023 which is more than the statutory minimum plus two percent.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he wants to hold the line on the levy because that is one item he focused on when he ran for City Council.

Councilman Plank stated that he is in favor of increasing the levy for police and fire pensions. He wants to be more aggressive in funding them to ensure they are fully funded. He then stated that while he understands the Library is facing some capital expenditures, he would like some more information on the details of the issues to see how that breaks down cost wise. He stated that he does not like to see the levy increase since the City has other sources of tax revenue, however he is in favor of it due to the financial situation of the pension. He wants to make sure the City is competitive compared to Alton and Edwardsville and would like to see the City function off an increase in business revenues and business development due to a low tax levy.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the statutory minimum funding for pensions is what the State requires the City to put in to be 90 percent funded by 2040.

Councilman Tweedy asked what would happen if the City Council did not vote to approve the Library levy.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that he spoke to City Attorney Mike McGinley and was told that the City is simply a conduit for the Library levy.

Councilman Tweedy and Councilman Dettmers expressed confusion as to why the City is involved in the Library levy if they cannot vote no.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he is trying to help the community by eating the \$18,302.00 out of the City budget for the Library. He intends to hold the line for the community even though there is an increase for the Library.

The amendment was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

The approval of an ordinance levying a tax for all corporate purposes for the City of Wood River, Madison County, Illinois, for the fiscal year May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, with the amendment, was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

December 16, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2916: AUTHORIZING A LEVY FOR STREET AND BRIDGE PURPOSES:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve an ordinance authorizing a levy for street and bridge purposes, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers stated that the numbers for street and bridge purposes are the same numbers that were approved in Item #9.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2101: DETERMINING TO LEVY A LIBRARY TAX FOR THE MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution determining to levy a Library Tax for the maintenance, repairs and alterations of the Library building and equipment, as submitted by the Library Board of Trustees, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers stated that these numbers were approved in Item #9.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2917: AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2588 ESTABLISHING BILLING RATES FOR UTILIZING CITY PERSONNEL:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2588 establishing billing rates for utilizing City personnel, 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)

ORDINANCE NO. 2918: DECLARING PARCEL ID 19-2-08-27-06-102-031, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 401 E. ACTON, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095, OWNED BY THE CITY AND ZONED R-2 SINGLE FAMILY AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance declaring Parcel ID 19-2-08-27-06-102-031, commonly known as 401 E. Acton, Wood River, Illinois 62095, owned by the City and zoned R-2 Single Family as surplus and authorizing request for proposals, as submitted by the Building and Zoning Administrator, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilman Dettmers asked when the City acquired this property.

Building and Zoning Administrator and Police Chief Brad Wells stated that the City has been working on acquiring the property for a while, but the deed was obtained this year.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2102: EXECUTING A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND NEWTON HEATING AND COOLING FOR MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution executing a Sponsorship Agreement between the City of Wood River and Newton Heating and Cooling for marketing in support of the Wood River Recreation Center, as submitted by the Director of Parks and Recreation, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2103: EXECUTING A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER AND FIRST MID BANK AND TRUST FOR MARKETING IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD RIVER RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution executing a Sponsorship Agreement between the City of Wood River and First Mid Bank and Trust for marketing in support of the Wood River Recreation Center, as submitted by the Director of Parks and Recreation, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: REQUEST TO SEEK BIDS FOR CONCRETE WORK AND FENCING FOR THE DOWNTOWN DOG PARK:

Councilman Plank moved to approve a request to seek bids for concrete work and fencing for the Downtown Dog Park, as submitted by the Director of Public Services, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers stated that he had the opportunity to send an email to the City Manager about this project and it is his understanding that if the dog park needs to be demolished, the City will be able to cover the cost of the demolition. He asked if it is going to be an artificial turf dog park or natural turf.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that it is going to be grass.

Councilman Dettmers stated that if it was going to be artificial turf there would be additional maintenance requirements.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that artificial turf would significantly increase the cost of the project.

The request was approved by the following vote:
 AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)
 NAYS: None (0)

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a recess to hold an executive closed session to discuss matters pertaining to approval of certain executive closed session minutes (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21)), seconded by Councilman Ayres

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)

The Council recessed at 7:59 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

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

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

APPROVED: RELEASE OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES, AS APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve the release of certain executive closed session meeting minutes, which include closed session minutes from April 18, 2022, June 20, 2022, July 5, 2022, November 7, 2022, November 6, 2023, and December 18, 2023 – Part 2, as approved by the City Council, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

December 16, 2024

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

Mayor Stalcup wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk