

December 15, 2025

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 15, 2025. 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 1, 2025, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve the bills submitted for payment for the period November 27, 2025, to December 10, 2025, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, 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 November 30, 2025, as printed, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Stalcup congratulated the Madison County Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB), 911 Director Arron Weber, and Public Safety Answering Point Manager Joe Petrokovich on the recent upgrade to the 911 system, which now allows residents to text 911 during life-threatening emergencies. He noted that the 911 call center is located at the Wood River Police Department and expressed appreciation for the vital services provided by emergency dispatchers.

Mayor Stalcup also congratulated Belk Park Golf Course on having its best month of November in the past 31 years and thanked Director Minogue and Managers Lewis Blyth and Justin McPherson for their excellent work.

Additionally, Mayor Stalcup reported a large turnout at the Roundhouse on Saturday, December 13, 2025, for Breakfast with Santa, which included a pancake and sausage breakfast sponsored by First Mid Bank and Trust, and he thanked Lou and his crew from First Mid, the Recreation Center staff, and Santa for their contributions.

Mayor Stalcup noted that on Thursday, December 11, 2025, the City was pleased to sponsor lunch at the Roundhouse for the senior citizens group, stating that a good meal and an enjoyable visit were shared by all.

Councilman Dettmers expressed his appreciation to Gary Conrad from Von Dell Gallery and Art Studio for his support of the community during the recent Holiday Traditions Night Market event. He noted that many attendees utilized the gallery's restroom facilities and that Mr. Conrad was very gracious in accommodating the public. Councilman Dettmers also recognized Mr. Conrad for allowing the use of the gallery's exterior electrical outlets and thanked him for his generosity and assistance in supporting the event.

December 15, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2981: DECLARING REAL PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING ITS SALE PURSUANT TO 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 AND 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2, SPECIFICALLY 545 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance declaring real property of the City of Wood River surplus and authorizing its sale pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2, specifically 545 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Wood River, Illinois 62095, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2982: LEVYING A TAX FOR ALL CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR THE CITY OF WOOD RIVER, MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2025, TO APRIL 30, 2026:

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, 2025, to April 30, 2026, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 2983: AUTHORIZING A LEVY FOR STREET AND BRIDGE PURPOSES:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance authorizing a levy for street and bridge purposes, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2148: DETERMINING TO LEVY A LIBRARY TAX FOR THE MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT:

Councilman Dettmers 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 Ayres

Councilman Plank requested input from the Library Board regarding the proposed library tax levy increase.

Library Board Members Mike Anderson and Mary Ann Crawford were present to address questions. Mr. Anderson asked whether Councilman Plank was seeking specific answers or general sentiment from the Board.

Councilman Plank asked for clarification on the proposed approximate 12.5 percent increase, totaling \$44,400.00.

Mr. Anderson stated that he believed the tax rate itself would not change. Mr. Anderson explained that the Library's budget has been operating at a deficit in recent years and that the Library has experienced increasing needs for building improvements, with additional projects anticipated.

Ms. Crawford added that further improvements are forthcoming.

Mr. Anderson stated that the levy increase is currently the only way to generate the necessary funding, though the Board is open to alternative ideas. As an example of unexpected expenses, Mr. Anderson noted that approximately \$15,000.00 was spent in August 2025 on emergency sewer line repairs. He stated that the goal is to ensure the Library has sufficient funds to operate and maintain a 75-year-old building. Mr. Anderson noted that the Library Board unanimously supported the levy increase.

Ms. Crawford added that Ameren will not upgrade the power supply to the new boiler, requiring the Library to pay for the upgrade and replace a gas regulator, which will result in additional expenses.

Councilman Plank stated that while he understands capital expenses, the Library has approximately \$500,000.00 in reserves and noted that regular operational costs have also increased. He requested

further explanation of the non-capital operating expenses.

Mr. Anderson responded that, based on projections, by 2028 the Library would be down to approximately three months of operating reserves.

Director of Finance Karen Weber clarified that the Library's reserves were voted on by the Library Board to be used only for building improvements and capital items and cannot be used for operating expenses.

Mr. Anderson added that HVAC improvements are also needed and will be funded from the reserves.

City Manager Steve Palen clarified that he believed Councilman Plank's question was why other operating costs continue to increase.

Mr. Anderson explained that a significant portion of the increase was attributable to the minimum wage increase, noting that hourly pay had risen from \$10.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour and there was an issue with the number of full-time employees; however, the Library Director addressed the issue.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the Library Director discussed the possibility of eliminating the fifth full-time position but noted that the levy still reflected the \$44,400.00 amount and did not account for that potential change.

Mr. Anderson reported that the Library also received approximately \$6,000.00 worth of new sewage-related equipment on that day that City Manager Steve Palen is referring to.

Councilman Plank acknowledged the genuine approach of the Library Board but expressed concern about the timing and communication regarding the levy. He noted that taxpayers see the bill four times a year, and the Council is responsible for explaining it to them. He emphasized that because the levy must be voted on at the last meeting before submission to the County Clerk, the Council can be in a difficult position if adjustments are needed or if there is not a clear understanding of the Board's intentions.

Mr. Anderson responded that the optics of the situation had been considered and emphasized the importance of starting the process earlier so that Council members could ask questions in a timely manner. He noted that he did not have specific information on hand now but stressed that active participation from the Council was also necessary if there were concerns.

City Manager Steve Palen and Director of Finance Karen Weber stated that levy discussions typically cannot begin until November, and Director Weber added that later timing generally provides more accurate information.

Councilman Plank stated that he has raised this issue every year and, despite receiving the same guidance from the City Attorneys annually, he feels that the Library Board has not been responsive regarding matters related to their levy.

Mr. Anderson invited Councilman Plank to attend the Library's levy meeting next year and stated that the Board is open to suggestions.

Ms. Crawford noted that City officials are invited to all Library meetings.

Councilman Plank stated that the Library should consider tightening its operational expenses rather than requesting additional tax revenue.

Mr. Anderson responded that while the levy has increased over the past three years, it had not increased for many years prior.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that staffing levels have increased, and Mr. Anderson responded that competitive wages are necessary to attract and retain quality employees.

Councilman Tweedy stated that he would like to hear from the Library more frequently and suggested quarterly updates to the City Council.

Councilman Plank suggested that if the issue is capital-related, the levy increase should be directed toward capital expenses.

Director Weber clarified that the levy increase request is for operational purposes, as the deficit exists in operations, while sufficient capital funds remain available.

Mr. Anderson stated that the levy covers all operational costs, including running the building and utilities. He noted that, based on his recollection, the cost-of-living or cost-of-goods increase amounted to approximately \$18,000.00 this year, which may have included an additional staff position. He emphasized that, given these increases and the lack of other revenue sources to operate the Library, he does not feel the levy increase is excessive.

Councilman Plank inquired about the miscellaneous revenue for the Library.

It was confirmed that the miscellaneous revenue is grant money that the Library receives annually.

Councilman Plank stated that he has been frustrated about the issue over the past couple of years. He acknowledged that Mr. Anderson has provided additional details but expressed his surprise at seeing a 12.5 percent increase, questioning what was driving such a significant change.

Mayor Stalcup stated that the largest portion of the increase appears to be related to the Library Director's pay increase. He questioned how the Library Board justifies providing a 12.5 percent increase in the Director's salary, noting that this is the most significant factor in the overall levy increase.

Mr. Anderson stated that he was not on the Board when the pay decision was made but noted that he is aware the East Alton Library Director earns more than Wood River's Library Director. He added that Director Herron does an excellent job.

Mayor Stalcup stated that, based on his review, Director Herron's salary is comparable to other Library Directors in the area. He understands a pay increase but acknowledged that the recent pay increase was significant in his view.

Mr. Anderson expressed his support, noting that he believes Director Herron does a great job and earns her pay. He acknowledged the concerns raised about the size of the increase and reiterated that he was not on the Board when the increase was approved.

Ms. Crawford stated that she was on the Board at the time of the salary increase and recalled that the raise was implemented because Director Herron had not received a raise for three to four years.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren advised that further discussion regarding salaries would require the Council to move into executive closed session.

Councilman Dettmers asked whether a vote was required that evening.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the levy must be submitted to the Madison County Clerk by Tuesday, December 30, 2025.

Director Weber clarified that the Library Board has already approved its levy and that the item before the Council pertained only to the Library Building Fund portion.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2024-2025 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve the acceptance of the 2024-2025 Treasurer's Report, as submitted by the Director of Finance, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

December 15, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 2150: APPROVING IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE APPROPRIATING \$150,000.00 IN MFT FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING FOR THE WOOD RIVER AVENUE PHASE 1 AND PHASE 2 PROJECT:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code appropriating \$150,000.00 in MFT funds for construction and engineering for the Wood River Avenue Phase 1 and Phase 2 Project, as submitted by the Director of Public Services, seconded by Councilman Plank

Councilman Dettmers asked for clarification regarding the funding for the project. He noted that the original report indicated the budget covered two phases, but currently there is only enough money for phase one. He inquired whether the shortfall is due to change orders or what specific items are contributing to the funding gap.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the item on the agenda is for a different project than the project Councilman Dettmers is referring to. He explained that this project is for the paving of Wood River Avenue, which will begin after the construction is completed on the State Street Sewer Separation Project; however, Wood River Avenue could possibly be open for traffic in mid-January.

Councilman Dettmers stated, for clarification, that the sewer separation project involved only the in-ground work, and this project is for roadwork and paving, for which the City is responsible.

City Manager Steve Palen added that this project has been planned for some time and was delayed to accommodate the sewer separation project, ensuring that paving was not completed before the necessary underground work was finished.

Councilman Plank stated that the cement work in front of Beasley's was completed, noting that the early completion is appreciated by the property owner.

City Manager Steve Palen added that even after the roads are reopened, some sidewalk work will likely continue to be completed.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2149: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED CONSTRUCTION FOR THE WOOD RIVER AVENUE PHASE 1 AND PHASE 2 PROJECT:

Councilman Plank moved to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for the Wood River Avenue Phase 1 and Phase 2 Project, as submitted by the Director of Public Services, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers asked for clarification regarding the agenda item.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the agenda item pertains to the same project previously discussed and noted that it involves a Joint Funding Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2151: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WOOD RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT AND MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR USE OF STARCOM21:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement between the Wood River Police Department and Motorola Solutions, Inc., for use of STARCOM21, as submitted by the Police Chief, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2152: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WOOD RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR USE OF STARCOM21:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement between the Wood River Fire Department and Motorola Solutions, Inc., for use of STARCOM21, as submitted by the Fire Chief, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: RECOMMENDATION FROM MAYOR STALCUP TO REAPPOINT BRENDAN MCKEE TO THE FIRE PENSION BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 2028:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a recommendation from Mayor Stalcup to reappoint Brendan McKee to the Fire Pension Board with a term to expire May 2028, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: SET PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve setting a Public Hearing on the Madison County Community Development Block Grant for Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00pm before the regularly scheduled Council Meeting, 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: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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