

## 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, February 2, 2026. 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 Tweedy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2026, 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 January 15, 2026, to January 28, 2026, 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 Police Chief Brad Wells presented the Officer of the Year Award to Brendan Wright and Telecommunicator of the Year award to Kristine Kestler for 2025. An Award of Excellence was also presented to Telecommunicator Megan Cato and Officer Katherine Castelli.

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Stalcup congratulated area varsity wrestlers Brandon Green Jr., Logan Riggs, Lyndon Thies, Trey Skelton, Brayden Hendrix, Mason Crump, Mason Davis, and Rob Horton of Roxana High School, along with Michael Soto of East Alton Wood River High School, for competing at regionals, advancing to sectionals, and efforts toward reaching the state finals. Mayor Stalcup wished them all the best of luck at sectionals.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-2: AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 76: PARKING SCHEDULES, AMENDING SCHEDULE II: PARKING PROHIBITED DURING CERTAIN HOURS ON CERTAIN STREETS:

Councilman Plank moved to approve an ordinance amending City Code 90-7, Title VII: Traffic Code, Chapter 76: Parking Schedules, amending Schedule II: Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours on Certain Streets, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers confirmed that this change went in front of the Traffic Commission and asked the reason for the change.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that there has been a bus stop established at the location due to safety concerns involving pedestrians. Individuals were being dropped off at the station on West Ferguson and were walking, at times in the middle of the street, while carrying personal belongings. The City worked with Madison County Transit (MCT) to address the situation, and MCT agreed to establish a bus stop at the location and installed the appropriate bus stop signage.

Councilman Dettmers confirmed that the bus stop is on the south side of the street.

City Manager Steve Palen confirmed that the no parking signs are in conjunction with the bus stop on the south side of the street.

Discussion ensued regarding whether Riverbend Family Ministries had been consulted about the bus stop. City Manager Steve Palen explained that Riverbend Family Ministries had initially been consulted and was very supportive of the plan, and that an announcement had previously been made

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publicly. City Manager Steve Palen expressed that relocating the bus stop or establishing no-parking areas in front of other businesses would be unfair. He noted that the bus stop was established specifically to serve individuals using the facilities at that location.

It was confirmed that the no parking signs are to accommodate the bus stop.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that Madison County Transit (MCT) expressed concerns about individuals with disabilities being dropped off and wanted the ability to pull directly up to the curb to safely accommodate passenger drop-offs.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2989: AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CITY OWNED SURPLUS REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT PARCEL ID 19-2-08-27-16-402-018, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 545 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095 TO DAVID L. SEVER:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the sale of City owned surplus real estate located at Parcel ID 19-2-08-27-16-402-018, commonly known as 545 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Wood River, Illinois 62095 to David L. Sever, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers confirmed with City Manager Steve Palen that this property was subject to a bidding process. It was confirmed that two bids were received and opened at the previous meeting. The higher bid was determined to be the better option.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: RECOMMENDATION FROM MAYOR STALCUP TO APPOINT JEREMY PLANK OF 749 CONDIT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD TO REPLACE MAGGIE DILLINGER WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 2026:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a recommendation from Mayor Stalcup to appoint Jeremy Plank of 749 Condit to the Library Board to replace Maggie Dillinger with a term to expire May 2026, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Ayres expressed concern regarding councilmembers being appointed to boards and commissions. He stated that when a councilmember is appointed to a board or commission as a voting member, it may create a conflict if a related matter comes before the Council. In such instances, the councilmember would not be eligible to vote on the matter before the Council due to their role on the board or commission.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren explained that the councilmember can abstain from voting.

Councilman Ayres stated that while a councilmember could abstain from voting in one capacity, the situation raises concerns about where their voting responsibility is most appropriately exercised. He questioned whether it is more important for the individual to vote in the Council Chambers, where they were elected by the public to serve, or on the board or commission to which they are appointed as a voting member. He noted that the Council does have ex officio members and stated that he currently serves as an ex officio member of the Library Board, a position he would be willing to relinquish if another individual wished to serve. However, he emphasized that if a councilmember is a voting member of a board or commission, they may not be eligible to vote on related matters before the Council, and he reiterated his concern regarding the potential conflict.

Mayor Stalcup stated that he understood Councilman Ayres' concern. However, he explained that the decision to appoint Councilman Plank to the Library Board was his own. He expressed confidence in Councilman Plank's abilities and noted that there had been some issues involving the Library Board over the past year. For that reason, he determined that appointing Councilman Plank to the board was an appropriate course of action.

Councilman Tweedy stated that he believed the Mayor's decision was a good move. He added that, in his view, the appointment was largely a matter of providing oversight more than anything else.

Councilman Dettmers stated that there is nothing prohibiting Councilman Plank from attending the Library Board Meetings.

Mayor Stalcup stated that his decision was based on his confidence in Councilman Plank. He indicated that, given the way matters had progressed over the past year, he believed it would be beneficial to have Councilman Plank serve on the Library Board.

Councilman Ayres asked why Councilman Plank could not serve as an ex officio member of the Library Board instead. He stated that, in that capacity, he would still be able to provide input and share information but would not serve as a voting member.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that he believes the point is for Councilman Plank to be a voting member.

Councilman Ayres stated that any matters coming before the Council from the Library Board would require Councilman Plank to abstain from voting due to his role on the board.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that it would be wise for Councilman Plank to abstain, but he does not believe that Councilman Plank would have to abstain.

Councilman Ayres stated that Councilman Plank would have to abstain.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that she was not aware that service on the Library Board would automatically constitute a conflict of interest for every matter brought before the Council. However, she indicated that the issue could be reviewed further before Councilman Plank participated in voting on any related matters as a member of the Council.

City Manager Steve Palen stated that the only matter the Council votes on regarding the Library Board is the levy.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren noted that, under Illinois law, the Council has limited discretion in matters related to the levy.

Councilman Dettmers asked City Attorney Kathryn Warren her opinion of whether it is permissible to name a councilmember as a voting member on the Library Board.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that she was not aware of any conflict of interest in this matter.

City Manager Steve Palen explained that the City Code states that one councilmember can be on the Library Board.

Councilman Dettmers asked as a voting member.

City Manager Steve Palen replied in the affirmative.

Discussion ensued regarding the Council's role in overseeing the Library Board budget. It was noted that while the Council technically approves the budget, the law provides limited discretion in matters such as the Library budget and levy. It was also noted that if the Council were to reject the budget or levy, it could potentially result in litigation between the Library Board and the City Council.

Further discussion ensued regarding the rationale for appointing a councilmember as a voting member of the Library Board. It was suggested that having a Council representative participate in meetings would ensure that the City's interests, particularly regarding the levy, are understood and represented. The importance of having a voting member who is familiar with the Council's position on Library finances was emphasized, especially considering recent levy increases where the Library Board may not have fully understood the reason for the increase.

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It was also discussed whether a councilmember could serve as an ex officio member instead, noting that while ex officio status allows participation and input, it does not provide a vote. Some expressed that the ability to vote directly on board matters was significant in ensuring the City's position is effectively represented.

Councilman Dettmers stated that he was uncomfortable with appointing a councilmember to the Library Board. He would like to allow for further discussion on the matter to explore alternative ways to address the concerns. Councilman Dettmers noted that he had only recently become aware of significant issues or concerns regarding the Library. He commented that the Mayor has been appointing board members for years, expressing surprise that there is an issue suddenly.

Councilman Dettmers moved to table the recommendation from Mayor Stalcup to appoint Jeremy Plank to the Library Board to replace Maggie Dillinger with a term to expire May 2026, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and denied by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers (2)

NAYS: Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (3)

The recommendation from Mayor Stalcup to appoint Jeremy Plank to the Library Board to replace Maggie Dillinger with a term to expire May 2026 was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (3)

NAYS: Ayres, Dettmers (2)

Councilman Dettmers stated that he had a point of order. He asked how Councilman Plank can vote on his own appointment.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that the preference would be for Councilman Plank to abstain from the vote.

City Manager Steve Palen asked if it is best practice or required.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that she believes there is a conflict with voting yourself onto a board.

City Manager Steve Palen asked City Attorney Kathryn Warren's advice.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that her advice would be for Councilman Plank to abstain on this vote.

Councilman Plank stated that the vote has already been taken.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren explained that she was not entirely certain how the situation would be addressed since the vote had already been taken. She asked City Clerk Danielle Sneed to read the ordinance pertaining to the appointment of Library Board members to see if there was any language related to a councilmember voting for themselves on their appointment.

City Clerk Danielle Sneed read Section 33.070 from City Code 90-7, Title III, Administration, Chapter 33: Departments, Boards, Commissions, and Agencies. There is no mention of a councilmember voting for themselves on their appointment in that ordinance.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that if the vote to appoint the councilmember to the Library Board has already occurred, that vote should stand. She added that she would review the matter further to determine whether any conflict exists and how it should be addressed but indicated that the current vote should remain in effect for the present meeting.

Councilman Dettmers asked if it will be brought back up if there is a problem.

City Attorney Kathryn Warren stated that if any issues arise regarding the appointment, she will review them and, if necessary, draft an ordinance to address any errors for consideration at the next meeting. She reiterated that, since the vote had already taken place, it should stand for the present meeting.

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APPROVED: REQUEST TO SEEK BIDS FOR THE 2026-2027 MFT STREET MAINTENANCE MATERIALS PROGRAM:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request to seek bids for the 2026-2027 MFT Street Maintenance Materials Program, as submitted by the Director of Public Services, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY'S MS4 PERMIT:

Councilman Plank moved to approve setting a Public Hearing on the City's MS4 Permit (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) for Monday, March 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. before the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve setting a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. before the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

APPROVED: CHANGING THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026:

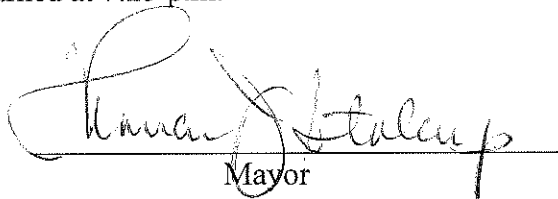
Councilman Plank moved to approve changing the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting to Tuesday, February 17, 2026, due to the President's Day Holiday, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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 7:25 p.m.

  
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Mayor

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