

November 17, 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, November 17, 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 Ayres moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 3, 2025, as printed, seconded by Councilman Dettmers, 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 October 30, 2025, to November 12, 2025, as printed, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers requested clarification regarding several payments to DataTronics for police vehicle equipment totaling approximately \$36,000.00. He asked whether the City Attorney could explain how these expenditures align with the City's recently adopted spending policy.

City Attorney Mike McGinley explained that because the expenditures relate to police vehicles and involve radio and technology equipment, they fall under Section E of the City's spending policy, which provides a competitive bidding exemption. He noted that under this section, the City Manager has the discretion to determine whether such purchases require City Council approval or a waiver of bids. City Attorney Mike McGinley referenced examples within the policy, including automotive services for police and fire equipment where continuity of service is necessary for health and safety reasons and where the aggregate cost may exceed \$25,000.00 in a fiscal year. He emphasized that while this exemption is available, it is not intended to be used as a routine alternative to competitive bidding. Under normal circumstances, expenditures expected to total amounts such as the \$36,000.00 in question should be competitively bid. However, he stated that in situations where health, safety, or the need for specialized and reliable service is a concern, particularly with police vehicle technology, use of the exemption may be appropriate. He concluded by noting that Chief of Police Brad Wells obtained comparative information to ensure the pricing was reasonable.

Chief Wells explained that the police vehicles were purchased from Morrow Brothers in Greenfield, Illinois, a vendor the department has worked with previously. He stated that Morrow Brothers also provided a quote for the equipment and installation, which totaled over \$12,000.00 per vehicle. A second bid was obtained from DataTronics in Godfrey, a locally owned Madison County business, which came in at approximately \$8,900.00 per vehicle, more than \$3,000.00 less than the quote from Morrow Brothers. Chief Wells emphasized that the department did not rely on a single bid but instead sought competitive pricing to ensure the lowest cost for the City.

The bills submitted for payment were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Councilman Plank moved to approve the Financial Statement ending October 31, 2025, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy

Councilman Dettmers noted that under the Non-Home Rule Sales Tax category, the year-to-date miscellaneous revenue totaled \$543,793.00, with \$59,644.00 received in the current month. He expressed surprise at the amount categorized as miscellaneous revenue within this tax fund and questioned where the money is coming from.

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Director of Finance Karen Weber noted that detailed information was included in the council packet.

Councilman Dettmers indicated he was unable to find the specific numbers he needed.

City Manager Steve Palen stated he would forward the information once Director Weber compiled the report and clarified the revenue details.

The Financial Statement was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mary Roberts thanked the Councilmembers and the community for attending the Veterans Day Ceremony. She then expressed her appreciation to the Council for giving her the opportunity to lead the services and concluded by thanking everyone for their involvement in the ceremony.

Mayor Stalcup thanked Mary Roberts, stating that she did a very nice job, and expressed appreciation to everyone involved in the ceremony.

Mayor Stalcup read a Letter of Appreciation addressed to Detective Sergeant Brent Rombach from Police Chief Brad Wells.

ORDINANCE NO. 2978: AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF PARCEL ID 19-2-08-28-08-203-036, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 545 S. 10TH STREET, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS 62095, FROM SEAN M. MORGAN FOR PURPOSES OF ERADICATING BLIGHT:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of Parcel ID 19-2-08-28-08-203-036, commonly known as 545 S. 10th Street, Wood River, Illinois 62095, from Sean M. Morgan for purposes of eradicating blight, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Ayres asked what the purpose of the property was going to be.

City Manager Steve Palen responded that the property is likely a candidate for demolition. He stated that he had spoken with Chief Wells about the possibility of issuing a request for proposal to determine whether anyone might be interested in rehabilitating it but noted that the property is in very poor condition.

Councilman Ayres stated that he had viewed the property and observed that the roof is sagging and the double back doors appear inoperable. He noted that the garage is large and appears to be structurally sound, but the siding is missing. He added that while the lot itself is nice, he hopes the City will be able to recoup its costs if the structure is demolished.

Councilman Dettmers stated that, if he recalls correctly, the City is acquiring the property for one year of property taxes.

City Manager Steve Palen replied in the affirmative.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

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

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

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APPROVED: REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER BUSINESS ALLIANCE TO USE 101 E. FERGUSON FOR THE HOLIDAY TRADITION NIGHT MARKET ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025, FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.:

Councilman Ayres moved to approve a request from the Wood River Business Alliance to use 101 E. Ferguson for the Holiday Tradition Night Market on Friday, November 28, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER BUSINESS ALLIANCE TO CLOSE FERGUSON AVENUE BETWEEN FIRST STREET AND SECOND STREET FOR THE HOLIDAY TRADITION NIGHT MARKET ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025, FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a request from the Wood River Business Alliance to close Ferguson Avenue between First Street and Second Street for the Holiday Tradition Night Market on Friday, November 28, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

APPROVED: REQUEST FROM THE WOOD RIVER BUSINESS ALLIANCE TO CLOSE FERGUSON AVENUE BETWEEN WOOD RIVER AVENUE AND FIRST STREET FOR THE SANTA PARADE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025, FROM 3:30 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M.:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a request from the Wood River Business Alliance to close Ferguson Avenue between Wood River Avenue and First Street for the Santa Parade on Friday, November 28, 2025, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Stalcup moved for approval of a recess to hold an executive closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Pending or Imminent Litigation (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)) seconded by Councilman Dettmers, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

The Council moved across the hall to hold the executive closed session.

The Council recessed at 7:16 p.m. and reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

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

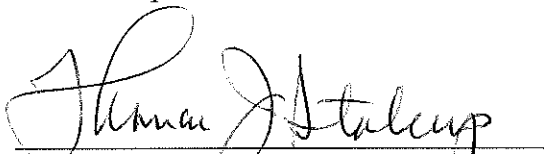
AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Plank, Tweedy, Stalcup (5)

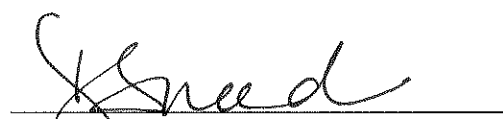
NAYS: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.


Mayor


City Clerk