

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, August 3, 2026. The City 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 July 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 July 16, 2026, to July 29, 2026, as printed, seconded by Councilman Tweedy, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

CITIZEN/OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Stalcup asked Kristen Burns of the Wood River Business Alliance to come forward and provide a recap of the Farmers Market's performance so far this year.

Kristen Burns of the Wood River Business Alliance provided an update on the Farmers Market, noting that it has grown significantly from approximately 12–15 vendors last year to nearly 60 vendors each week this year. She reported that the market attracts approximately 350 to 500 shoppers weekly and is projected to generate an estimated \$400,000.00 in economic impact over the 16-week season ending in September. Ms. Burns stated that approximately 56 percent of the vendors are Wood River residents, while other vendors travel from communities including Litchfield, Belleville, and the St. Louis area. Ms. Burns credited Charlotte Anderson for her assistance in recruiting vendors and supporting the market. She also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department for their assistance. She then thanked the City for allowing the market to move to an adjacent parking lot during the recent paving project. Ms. Burns noted that the market's growth is beginning to generate additional economic development, stating that six or seven vendors had recently expressed interest in opening brick-and-mortar businesses in downtown Wood River, while other vendors were working with existing downtown businesses to sell their products.

Ms. Burns encouraged residents to attend the Farmers Market, which is held every Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the downtown parking lot on Madison Avenue. She also highlighted upcoming events, including National Night Out at the Police Department on Thursday, August 6, 2026, and the Farmers Market's Back-to-School Bash is scheduled for August 13, 2026, which will feature local schools, the Fire Department, face painting, and other activities for children. She closed by thanking the City and inviting the community to attend the Farmers Market.

Mayor Stalcup invited Erik Merker of GRP Wegman Company to come forward to explain Items 7 and 8 on the agenda.

Erik Merker of GRP Wegman Company explained that Items 7 and 8 involved additional solar projects utilizing the same grant program previously pursued for the Police Department. He discussed the proposed Phase Three project for the Fire Department building, noting that the project would cost approximately \$238,000.00, with approximately \$248,000.00 in incentives available through the grant, federal tax credits, and rebates. Mr. Merker explained that the project also includes an application fee, a 10 percent collateral requirement held by the State for 15 years, and

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fees for a third-party company required to provide quarterly reports to the State for the duration of the program. He explained that the collateral is held to protect the value of the renewable energy credits, which are paid upfront for 15 years, and could be used if the solar system is not maintained or is taken out of service. Merker stated that the Fire Department project has an estimated 3.7-year payback period and is projected to generate nearly \$400,000.00 in positive cash flow over 30 years, with an average utility cost of less than one cent over that period. He further explained that the project would be installed on the Fire Department's roof using a ballasted system, with the solar panels secured by trays and concrete blocks rather than penetrating the roof.

Councilman Plank asked whether the solar panels would be installed on the recently constructed Fire Department addition or on the older portion of the building.

Fire Chief Nate Kamp explained that the solar panels will be installed on the older portion of the building over the storage/weight room area adjacent to the addition.

Councilman Ayres asked if the grant is currently open.

Mr. Merker explained that the grant opened today, August 3, 2026.

Councilman Ayres asked if the City is not awarded the grant, will it have another opportunity.

Mr. Merker explained that the proposals are contingent upon receiving the grant and that a signed contract is required in order to apply for the grant. He noted that the contract includes language, similar to the Police Department project, providing that if the grant is not awarded, the City may consider other avenues for pursuing the solar project. He stated that those alternatives would likely be less financially attractive than the project under the grant program. Mr. Merker added that the City could also consider delaying the project until the following year, although doing so could create timing concerns with the federal tax credit because the project, as of right now, must be installed in 2027 to receive the federal tax credit.

Councilman Dettmers asked what the life expectancy is of the equipment.

Mr. Merker explained that the solar system is expected to have a useful life of approximately 30 to 40 years, while the solar panels themselves typically have a lifespan of approximately 25 to 30 years. He also noted that another advantage of the grant program is that GRP Wegman Company is required to have the system operated and maintained for 15 years at no cost to the City. The project pricing includes 15 years of maintenance and repairs, as well as extended warranties on the inverters to cover the 15-year period. Mr. Merker noted that, like the Police Department's solar system, any repairs needed during that period would be covered under the grant.

Councilman Dettmers asked whether the project would be maintenance free for 15 years.

Mr. Merker confirmed that the system would be maintenance free for the first 15 years, after which the system would be turned over to the City. He noted that the system is expected to have an additional useful life of approximately 15 to 25 years after the initial 15-year period.

Discussion ensued regarding the utility rates used to calculate the projected cost savings from the solar projects. Mr. Merker and Director of Public Services Michael Velloff explained that the calculations used an estimated supply rate of approximately 8.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, with the rate expected to range between approximately 8.2 and 8.7 cents over the next five years. Mr. Merker noted that the average cost of solar energy over 30 years was projected to be approximately 0.009 cents per kilowatt-hour. Merker further explained that the utility's delivery charges are separate from the supply rate and vary by facility. The Fire Department's delivery charge was approximately 2.6 cents per kilowatt-hour, while the Recreation Center's was slightly more than 6 cents due to its higher energy usage. He clarified that the same supply rate was used in the comparisons for the different projects, while the delivery charges varied based on each facility's usage.

Mayor Stalcup asked when the City would receive final notification regarding whether the grant had been awarded.

Mr. Merker explained that interconnection applications for both projects had been submitted but were still awaiting approval from Ameren. He noted that the interconnection approvals are required

before the grant applications can be submitted. Once the approvals are received, he expects the grant award decision to take approximately three to four weeks. Mr. Merker stated that GRP Wegman has not previously had a project denied under the grant program and that there have typically been sufficient funds available for qualifying projects. He also noted changes to the program including the removal of public schools as eligible applicants and the appointment of a new program administrator. Mr. Merker remained optimistic that sufficient funds would be available if the projects meet the program requirements.

Mr. Merker then discussed Phase Four, which involves the Wood River Recreation Center. He explained that the Recreation Center and Fire Department are the only two City buildings currently eligible for the grant program, which is why the projects were being presented. The Recreation Center project is estimated to cost approximately \$960,000.00, with incentives expected to cover nearly the entire project cost. He stated that the project has an estimated 2.9-year payback period, with the primary additional cost being approximately \$60,000.00 in collateral that would be held under the grant program, along with associated fees. Mr. Merker explained that the proposed system would utilize a flush-mount installation on the roof, subject to structural review. If the roof does not meet the structural requirements, an alternative mounting system would be considered.

Mayor Stalcup asked how many solar panels would be included in the proposed system.

Mr. Merker explained that this project contains 417 panels and they are 3x5 totaling 15 square feet per panel.

Discussion ensued regarding the projected savings from the proposed solar projects. It was noted that the combined savings over the first three years were expected to be approximately \$1.56 million, with approximately \$720,000.00 attributed to the Fire Department project.

Mr. Merker and Director of Parks and Recreation Pat Minogue explained that the solar panels at the Recreation Center will be installed in a landscape orientation to better follow the curve of the roof and minimize their visibility from the ground.

Councilman Tweedy asked if the structural review determines that the roof cannot support the system, would a carport-mounted system be considered.

Mr. Merker explained that although a carport system would be more expensive, the City could evaluate that option if the grant is awarded and return to the Council with additional information.

Mayor Stalcup announced the Appearance Award winners for the month of August. Congratulations to the residents of 576 N. Second Street and to the owners of Roasterz Coffee located at 7 W. Ferguson Avenue.

Mayor Stalcup read a Letter of Recognition addressed to Captain Kristopher Ayers from Fire Chief Nate Kamp.

Mayor Stalcup read Letters of Commendation addressed to Sergeant Bryan Brown, Officer Nicole Morris, Officer Katherine Castelli, and Detective Geoffrey Fester from Police Chief Brad Wells.

Mayor Stalcup read a Letter of Recognition addressed to Cadet Hayleigh Schultz from Police Chief Brad Wells.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-18: AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 71: PARKING REGULATIONS, AMENDING SECTION 71.26 MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS:

Councilman Plank 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, as recommended by the Traffic Commission, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers asked how the proposed amendment would be enforced and why a particular portion of the lot was designated for a 10-hour parking limit rather than a three-hour limit. He also asked how the specific time limits were determined.

Chief Wells explained that the City's municipal parking lots have different time limits based on their intended use. He noted that Municipal Lot No. 1, located at Wood River Avenue and Madison

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Avenue, has a three-hour parking limit, while the lots behind Riverbend Family Ministries and other nearby businesses have a 10-hour limit to accommodate commuters. Regarding the lot at Wood River Avenue and Lorena Avenue, Chief Wells stated that the rear row was designated as 10-hour parking to accommodate employees who work in nearby businesses, while the front portion next to the roadway is limited to three-hour parking.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 26-19: AMENDING CITY CODE 90-7, TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 76: PARKING SCHEDULES, AMENDING SCHEDULE I PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES 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 I Parking Prohibited at all Times on Certain Streets, as recommended by the Traffic Commission, seconded by Councilman Ayres

Councilman Dettmers asked whether the proposed parking designation was being made at the request of the Stevens Building and whether the purpose was to accommodate parking needs associated with that building.

Chief Wells explained that the proposed parking designation was made at the request of the Fire Chief due to the size and location of the Stevens Building. He stated that the designation would provide adequate space for fire trucks to access the east and north sides of the building in the event of a fire emergency.

The ordinance was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ayres, Dettmers, Tweedy, Stalcup (4)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Plank (1)

RESOLUTION NO. 2192: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PHASE 3 OF A SOLAR PANEL PROJECT RELATED TO A PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED CONTRACT WITH GRP WEGMAN COMPANY:

Councilman Dettmers moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement for Phase 3 of a Solar Panel Project related to a previously executed contract with GRP Wegman Company, seconded by Councilman Ayres, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2193: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PHASE 4 OF A SOLAR PANEL PROJECT RELATED TO A PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED CONTRACT WITH GRP WEGMAN COMPANY:

Councilman Tweedy moved to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement for Phase 4 of a Solar Panel Project related to a previously executed contract with GRP Wegman Company, seconded by Councilman Plank, and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

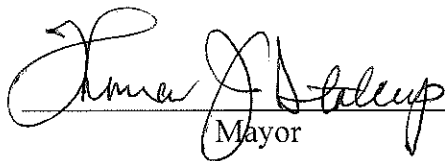
OLD BUSINESS:

Captain Bill Hall addressed the Council regarding the Fire Department's annual Fill the Boot MDA fundraiser, scheduled for August 15, 2026. He asked whether the planned location at Wood River Avenue and Penning Avenue would be accessible due to the ongoing road construction and, if not, whether the intersection roadblock could be relocated to Sixth Street and Penning Avenue.

Mayor Stalcup and the rest of Council saw no issues with Captain Hall's request to move their intersection roadblock to Sixth Street and Penning Avenue.

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