

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL
May 6, 2014
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Brian Sager on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 in Council Chambers at City Hall. He explained the consent calendar process and invited public participation.

A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Dillon, Maureen Larson, Mayor Brian Sager, Mark Saladin, Joseph Starzynski, RB Thompson, Michael Turner

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney TJ Clifton, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Economic Development Director Cort Carlson, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, John Scharres, Parks Supervisor Bob Hoadley, Parks Foreman John Mecklenburg, HR Director Deb Schober, Sergeant Dennis Leard, Officer Fred Spitzer, Sergeant Robert Pritchard, Sergeant Ray Lanz, Police Chief Robert Lowen, Deputy Chief John Lieb, Assistant Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt, Adam Sheahan, Officer Dave Dempsey, Sergeant Tino Cipolla, Officer Adam Schraw, Police Administrative Office Manager Tamara Reed

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Dianne Mitchell, Fire and Police Commissioner Ron Giordano

A. FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1.) Presentation by Friends of the Woodstock Opera House

Board President Tim Conway and board members presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to the City of Woodstock. Mayor Sager stated that the Friends of the Woodstock Opera House have been a great group of individuals who have provided strong support of the Opera House and all of the programming. He stated that several years back the City of Woodstock invested in the establishment of Stage Left Café noting that the Friends of the Woodstock Opera House have dedicated themselves to assisting the City in the debt repayment. He accepted with sincere gratitude the check which will be used as payment toward the debt and in support of all the programs at Stage Left Café.

T. Conway stated that they are now up to \$100,000 in contributions to the City. Mayor Sager stated that many of the members have been engaged in the Friends of the Opera House for many years and he expressed gratefulness for their contributions. He acknowledged Bob and Maryfran Majak who are retiring from the board and noted that Bob has been the treasurer for 27 years.

2.) National Public Works Week Recognition

Mayor Sager stated that the recognition of National Public Works Week is appropriate because every single day of the year, 24 hours a day the employees of the Public Works Department ensure that we have quality services which are things we expect but don't always think about such as the safety of water, snow removal, etc. He stated that we owe an incredible debt of gratitude to our Public Works employees. Mayor Sager invited members of Public Works to the podium where he read a proclamation, with approval from Council, recognizing May 18 – May 24, 2014 as National Public Works Week in the City of Woodstock.

P. Ruscko thanked the Mayor and City Council. He stated that it is an appreciated recognition and stated that the Public Works employees are the unsung heroes; they do the job, don't make a lot of noise and get the job done on a daily basis. He stated that they are a great bunch of individuals that

provide talents, leadership and opportunities for the community. He stated that it is a key part of what makes the City of Woodstock a great place to live.

3.) National Police Week Recognition

Mayor Sager stated that the Police Department is also there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and they are responsible for the public's safety and welfare of the community. They make sure to protect and defend our residents to ensure they feel comfortable and safe in every instance of their lives. He referenced the Norman Rockwell picture depicting rights and discussed the symbolic representation of the image in terms of the oversight responsibility that communities have to provide a level of protection and a sense of security. He invited members of the Police Department to the podium where he read a proclamation, with approval from Council, recognizing May 11 – May 17, 2014 as National Police Week in the City of Woodstock.

Chief Lowen thanked the Mayor and City Council. He stated that the Police Department join together to make this community a secure and safe place to live. He stated that on behalf of everyone in the department we appreciate the acknowledgement. He stated that a quote he likes is, "rough men and women stand ready so some of us can sleep in our beds at night."

4.) Dennis Leard Retirement Proclamation

Mayor Sager stated that retirement is always for the body a bittersweet occasion because we are saddened that some very, highly professional and dedicated employees make the decision to leave the employment of the municipality but we rejoice in the fact that the individuals have made an important life decision to move on to other activities in their life and we wish them well. He invited Sergeant Dennis Leard to the podium and after receiving approval from Council read a proclamation honoring his 26 years of public service to the citizens of Woodstock.

D. Leard stated that the City of Woodstock has played an essential role in this life for 26 years noting that it is a time and experience that he will hold close in the future. He considers it both a privilege and an honor to have served and been involved with an organization such as the Woodstock Police Department. He stated that the agency's success is a testimony to each and every police officer noting that they have worked together, argued together and established themselves as a team. He stated that he would like to pay tribute to their dedication and commitment. He stated that he counts himself as fortunate because not only does he see them all as coworkers but also as friends. He thanked Chief Lowen and Deputy Chief Lieb for all the opportunities that were offered to him. He stated that as he looks back at his time with the department, he sees time well spent, very few regrets and a happy time in my life.

Mayor Sager stated that one of the ultimate goals of police officers is to develop relationships within the larger community. He stated that Dennis has forged those types of relationships which has been one of his incredible strengths and stated that the City counts itself as privileged to have had him as a member of the Police Department. He presented him with a gift from the City of Woodstock. Chief Lowen presented him with his retired sergeant police badge and a plaque recognizing his 26 years of service with the Police Department.

5.) Fred Spitzer Retirement Proclamation

Mayor Sager stated that for many of the community's young people and some of the adults Officer Spitzer will always be known as the DARE officer in the City of Woodstock noting that his long tenure as a DARE Officer has established him with the reputation. After receiving approval from Council, Mayor Sager read a proclamation honoring F. Spitzer's 30 years of service to the citizens of the City of Woodstock.

F. Spitzer thanked everyone and stated that he is very proud to have been a member of what he considers the finest police department in McHenry County. He has very fond memories of the time he spent with the department. He stated that it is a proud moment for him to see some of the success of his DARE graduates. He stated that it is a bittersweet moment noting that he has enjoyed this ride very much but it is time to take a new turn in life. He stated that the Woodstock Police Department and the City of Woodstock will always hold a special place in his heart.

Mayor Sager recognized F. Spitzer's dedication to working with the youth and stated that his ability to work with young people in our community has been outstanding. He advised that the City will present him with a gift at his upcoming celebration and then presented him with his thirty year pin.

Chief Lowen presented his retired patrol officer badge and a plaque recognizing his 30 years of service to the Woodstock Police Department including 11 years as the DARE officer. He stated that Fred and Dennis are not only very able crime fighters and acknowledged their community service and their familiarity with the community. He stated that they truly are law enforcement professionals and really care about the community as well.

Mayor Sager recognized the family members and stated that the service of our employees causes a toll and relies upon the sacrifice and support of family members. He stated that it is impossible for the officers to do their job without the support of their family who are willing to sacrifice and accept the fact that in every instance they are serving they are putting themselves at risk. On behalf of the community, he thanked the family members.

6.) Tim DeWane Retirement Proclamation

Mayor Sager invited Tim DeWane to the podium and after receiving approval from Council read the proclamation honoring Tim DeWane for his 34 years of dedicated service to the City of Woodstock's Public Works Department.

T. DeWane stated that it has been a real adventure learning the system and the history of the town. He stated that it was neat to work on the town and be the ship's carpenter. Mayor Sager stated that Tim is incredibly talented with his hands and pointed out the desk that he and Bob Hoadley made for Council Chambers. He stated that all of us think of the solid security we have in our employees and advised that Tim is an example of that. He thanked him and advised that he will receive his City gift at his upcoming celebration. Mayor Sager thanked Tim's family for their support.

7.) Bill Kreutz Retirement Proclamation

Mayor Sager asked for approval on the proclamation from Council and advised that they will get the plaque to Bill Kreutz noting that they will make the recognition at an appropriate time.

8.) Promotion of Officer Lanz to Sergeant

Chief Lowen stated that Sergeant Ray Lanz, who is a twelve year veteran of the Woodstock Police Department, is being promoted. He stated that he was the City's first K9 handler and then reviewed his professional and educational background as well as his community activities. Police Commissioner Ron Giordano asked Sergeant Lanz to recite the oath of office.

Mayor Sager advised Sergeant Lanz that the public swearing in ceremony is an opportunity for the City of Woodstock to offer congratulations as well as let him know that we put our faith and confidence in him as he upholds the safety of the community and its residents. He congratulated and thanked Sergeant Lanz and commended him for that noble endeavor.

Public Comments

No comments from public.

Council Comments

J. Starzynski advised that this week's Independent had two articles, one was about the Woman of the Year Jane Collins as voted by WPBW and the other was about Don Peasley. He stated that it made him feel proud being part of a town that has two individuals like this. He stated that these are prime examples of people taking an active participation and giving back to the community.

RB Thompson stated that Jane Collins served the City as a member of the Comprehensive Plan noting that it was formulated in December of 1989 and she served until 1994. He stated that she was a very formative person because she was the pro-green member which was ahead of her time.

Mayor Sager advised that the dedication of the Don Peasley exhibit at the McHenry County Historical Society museum took place last weekend.

Mayor Sager stated that the Orson Welles event will take place on May 16 & 17. RB Thompson advised that it will be the 80th anniversary of Welles returning from Ireland and reviewed some of his accomplishments. He advised that there will be an event at Stage Left Café on May 16th featuring the grandson of Skipper Hill, period jazz and a panel of experts. He reported that on May 17th there will be an event at the Opera House which includes a panel of experts, excerpts from *The Shadow*, *Dracula* and *Sherlock Holmes* and a full reenactment of *War of the Worlds*. Mayor Sager advised that the information is on the Opera House web site and noted that it is an opportunity to celebrate one of our historic sons. In response to J. Starzynski, RB Thompson advised that there will be movies shown at the movie theater with discussion afterwards.

M. Saladin stated that the tax bills came out noting that his own home had a reduction of \$4,000 in assessed valuation but the tax bill went up \$200 because the tax rates went up. He thinks it behooves Council to strategize to find a way to create alternatives to the property taxes to increase revenues in the City. He reported that he took a tour with MCEDC of Brake Parts in McHenry and questioned why the facility is in McHenry and what can we do in Woodstock that will provide the infrastructure and land. He stated that something needs to be done to get the City's reliance off of property taxes.

Mayor Sager stated that City of Woodstock was named the second most exciting place in the State of IL. RB Thompson reviewed the criteria for the recognition noting that Woodstock is an incredible city for a population of 24,770.

B. PUBLIC HEARING: 2003 Debt Certificates

Mayor Sager opened the Public Hearing for 2003 Debt Certificates at 8:10 PM.

No comments from the public.

Motion by M. Turner, second by J. Dillon to close the public hearing at 8:11 PM. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, Mayor Sager, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by J. Dillon, second by M. Saladin to concur with Consent Agenda Items C-F7.

- In reference to Item F4, RB Thompson questioned if it is for the purchase of water meters and not their installation. R. Stelford affirmed and stated that Staff will be doing the installation. P. Christensen advised that they have prepared a memo to describe the plan between Finance and Public Works to make this work.
- In reference to Item F6, M. Saladin clarified that waiver of the fire suppression requirement is given because they are doing City monitored manual and automatic, not in lieu of. He reiterated that Coleman's is doing City monitored manual and automatic fire alarm systems in lieu of a waiver of the fire suppression. Mayor Sager affirmed that the consideration is that the service would be in lieu of the installation.

C. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

April 15, 2014 Regular Meeting

D. WARRANTS: 3613 3614 MFT #534

E. MINUTES AND REPORTS:

Dept. of Community & Economic Development Report – March 2014

Police Department Report – March 2014

Historic Preservation Commission Minutes – February 24, 2014

Plan Commission Minutes – April 24, 2014

F. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 23

1. Traffic Ordinances – Community Events- Approval of the following:

- a.) Ordinance 14-O-28 establishing temporary parking restrictions for the Girls on the Run 5K of Northwest Illinois on Sunday, May 18, 2014.
- b.) Ordinance 14-O-29 establishing temporary traffic and parking restrictions for the annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony on Monday, May 26, 2014
- c.) Ordinance 14-O-30 establishing temporary traffic and parking restrictions for the VFW Remember Our Heroes Car Show on Saturday, June 28, 2014.
- d.) Ordinance 14-O-31 establishing certain temporary parking restrictions in and near Emricson Park on Friday, July 4, 2014
- e.) Ordinance 14-O-32 establishing certain temporary parking restrictions for the McHenry County Fair from Wednesday, July 30, 2014 thru Monday, August 4, 2014.

2. NIGEC Contract – Ratification of executed contracts for electric power with Constellation NewEnergy for a period of 18 and 36 months.

3. Police Department Mutual Aid Agreement – Adoption of Resolution 14-R-10 authorizing the City of Woodstock to join the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS).

4. Purchase of Water Meters – Approval of the waiver of the requirement for competitive bids and the purchase of a new water meter reading system and a minimum of 650 water meters from Water Resources, Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$190,000.

5. Zoning Variation – 1176 Kishwaukee Valley Road –Adoption of Ordinance 14-O-33 Rezoning Land Located at 1176 Kishwaukee Valley Road from B4 Office District To R1D Single Family Detached Residential District.

6. Building Code Variance – Coleman’s –Adoption of Ordinance 14-O-34 varying building code provisions for property at 823 Lake Avenue.

7. Old Courthouse Roof Repair – Change Order – Adoption of Resolution 14-R-11 authorizing Change Order 005.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, Mayor Sager, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Saladin, second by J. Starzynski, to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council to Monday, May 12, 2014 at Stage Left Café for the Council Workshop. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, Mayor Sager, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Mitchell
City Clerk