

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL
October 21, 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, October 21, 2014 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Starzynski

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, Economic Development Director Cort Carlson, HR Director Deb Schober, Grant Writer Terry Willcockson, Opera House Director John Scharres, City Manager's Office Assistant Monica Amraen, Planning and Zoning Administrator Jim Kastner, Library Director Nick Weber, Officer Adam Schraw, Police Chief Robert Lowen, Officer Dave Dempsey, Sergeant Tino Cippolla, Sergeant Josh Fourdyce, Officer Adam Schraw, Officer Eiselstein, Chief Deputy City Clerk Cindy Smiley, IT Dan McElmeel, Staff Accountant Ruth Ann Lee, Police Detective Shane Marshall, Officer Josh Rapacz, Building Inspector Rob Walkington, Officer Jason Bernstein, Officer Cory Fink, Senior Accountant Bill Straczek, Sergeant Dan Wesolek, Librarian Martha Hansen, Community and Econ. Dev. Officer Mgr. Donna Limbaugh, Librarian Julie Fee

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Dianne Mitchell

A. FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Proclamation Honoring Dianne Mitchell

Mayor Sager invited Dianne Mitchell to the podium where he read a proclamation honoring her service as City Clerk.

2. Illinois Traffic Safety Award

Chief Lowen stated that he invited retired sergeant Dennis Leard to the meeting and advised that Sgt. Pritchard who assisted D. Leard and will take on the program could not be at tonight's meeting. He reported that this is the fifth year they have entered the Traffic Safety Challenge which is sponsored by the IL Association of Chiefs of Police. He stated that Sgt. Leard coordinated the process and did the organizing and documenting of the many efforts of the Police Department to comply with the requirements of the Traffic Safety Challenge. He reviewed what the application process involves.

Chief Lowen stated that the program has shown positive results and advised that the increased apprehension of impaired drivers, speed enforcement, seatbelt compliance and the participation in National and State campaigns combined with public education has reduced the total number of crashes. He noted that their efforts in 13/14 were a success and will continue in 14/15 with Sgt. Pritchard taking sole responsibility of the program.

Chief Lowen reported that the Woodstock Police Department was recognized as the 1st place winner in the State for agencies with 36-50 employees. He stated that the Department received a plaque and Traffic Safety badge and was awarded a \$4,000 "Digital-Ally" in-car video camera. He noted that participation in the challenge is consistent with the provisions of the City of Woodstock's Vision 2020 Statement. Chief Lowen congratulated the Department.

Mayor Sager extended on behalf of Council and the residents their heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to Sgt. Leard for his leadership and to the entirety of the Department. He stated that we assume in our community that we are going to have a safe place in which to live and we take that for granted in many respects but we must realize that our Police Department plays a significant role in ensuring that safety and welfare. He expressed appreciation for their proactive approach and thanked them for representing the City of Woodstock so well.

3. Employee Service Awards

Mayor Sager stated that one of the fine opportunities for Council is to annually extend the Employee Service Awards to members of our employee family that have continued to dedicate themselves in the service of the people of Woodstock through their tenure as employees of the City. He reported that Council members are constantly addressed by members of the community and rarely in over twenty years of service on the City Council have individuals come to him and complained about the service provided by City Staff; noting that he hears appreciation and expressions of gratitude. He stated that Council doesn't worry about the services being provided because they know the City's employees are dedicated. He advised that they know the jobs they hold aren't just eight hours a day for five days a week and because they are in public service they are attuned to the needs of our community and are responsive to those needs.

Mayor Sager stated that this annual opportunity for us to say thanks to those that have met tenure milestones is something that they want to do and something that they hold as a significant opportunity. He stated that they cannot express adequate amount of gratitude noting that they respect, thank and commend them for that service. He recognized the following employees:

10 years

Monica Amraen – City Manager's Office Assistant
Dave Dempsey – Patrol Officer
Josh Fourdyce – Police Sergeant
Ruth Ann Lee – Staff Accountant
Shane Marshall – Police Detective
Josh Rapacz – Patrol Officer
Adam Schraw – Patrol Officer
Rob Walkington - Building inspector

15 years

Jason Bernstein – Patrol Officer
Cory Fink – Patrol Officer

20 years

Bill Straczek – Senior Accountant
Dan Wesolek – Police Sergeant
Terry Willcockson – Grant Writer

25 years

Martha Hanson – Librarian/Network Administrator
Jim Kastner – Planning & Zoning Administrator
Donna Limbaugh – Community and Economic Development Office Manager

30 years

Julie Fee – Reference and Adult Services Librarian

Public Comments

No comments from the public.

Council Comments

M. Saladin stated that in seeing all of the police officers in attendance you think about what you have been reading about the Holiday Hills incident and how any situation can turn into something more dramatic and how in that situation some part-time officers assisted the County officers to get them out of the line of fire. He stated that it good to know what they go through every day.

Mayor Sager stated that trick-or-treating on the Square will take place on Friday, October 31st at 4 p.m. C. Smiley advised that the costume contest takes place before trick-or-treating. Mayor Sager advised that Friday will also be the last night for the Haunted House.

Mayor Sager stated that there are three more sessions of the Farmers Market on the Square. He reported that they will then have a Winter Market in McHenry County Farm Bureau.

Mayor Sager advised that there will be a Rt. 47 Businesses Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 23rd at Golden Eagle. He invited Council to attend the meeting if they are available.

Mayor Sager stated that leaf collection begins next Monday, October 27th.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by J. Dillon, second by RB Thompson to concur with Consent Agenda Items B-E7.

- M. Turner removed Item E8
- Mayor Sager introduced Arlene Quinn who will be appointed as City Clerk and Amy Weber who will be appointed as Deputy City Clerk. He expressed gratefulness for their willingness to do this and he wished them good luck.

B. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

October 7, 2014 Regular Meeting

C. WARRANTS: 3635 3636

D. MINUTES AND REPORTS:

Police Department Report – September 2014

E. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 33

1. **Appointment of City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk** – Approval of the appointments of Arleen Quinn as City Clerk and Amy Weber as Deputy City Clerk.
2. **Purchase – Ice Control Salt** – Approval of the purchase of ice control salt from Morton Salt Company through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program at a unit price of \$140.19 per ton.
3. **Crack Sealing** – Approval to waive competitive bids and award of contract for the 2014 Crack Sealing contract to S.K.C. Construction for the bid unit price of \$0.63 per routing and crack sealing in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 subject to final direction by the

Director of Public Works.

4. **Intergovernmental Agreement** – Adoption of Ordinance 14-O-61 authorizing the execution of the Northern Illinois Purchasing Cooperative (NIPC) 2014 Intergovernmental Agreement for the purchase of power supplies and other goods and services; waiving local bidding requirements for purchases made through NIPC; and authorizing purchase agreements made through NIPC.
5. **Centerville Self-Storage Vacation of Easement** – Adoption of Ordinance 14-O-62 vacating a public utility easement.
6. **Police Pension Actuarial Valuation** – Transmittal and acceptance of the annual statement for the Police Pension Fund Fiscal Year 2013/2014 and actuarial report presented by the Police Pension Board.
7. **Zoning Variation – 700 Margaret Drive** – Adoption of Ordinance 14-O-63 varying Section 7A.3.D.3 Bulk and Standards Area of the Unified Development Ordinance to allow a 6 foot high fence at a 30 foot set-back from the front lot line.

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

Item E8 Fiber Optic Agreement – Approval of a Fiber Optic Network Agreement between the City of Woodstock, District 200, McHenry County, McHenry County College and the McHenry County Emergency Telephone System Board.

M. Turner stated that this agreement and the cooperation that is occurring between the different governing bodies is an exceptional example of us trying to do things to achieve something that has tremendous potential for the community. He stated that bringing this kind of infrastructure and technology to the city and the area is an exceptional opportunity. He commended Staff and Roscoe. He stated that in reading through the agreement he has a curious question. He advised that he saw the issue with District 200 not putting forth their portion of it and instead paying it over time.

R. Stelford advised that they were in negotiations with District 200 and they made the request upon both the City and the County to see if there was anyway they could provide financial assistance. He reported that based on their current financial structure, the District was unable to come up with the means to pay for it all up front. He advised that the District has reached its limit and cannot issue new debt in order to pay for it and they didn't feel that their reserves are adequate enough for them to remove it from the reserves. He stated that the City wanted to see it go forward for the community as it has tremendous benefit for the schools and allows them to meet a variety of regulations to where they have to provide certain bandwidth speeds to their students.

R. Stelford stated that the City has on average about twenty million dollars of investments at any given time so what better way than to invest in our own school district. He stated that Administration does understand that they have to front the cash and advised that the City does have some of their cash on hand because it holds their impact fees for building permits. He noted that the District has agreed to let the City hold those if they fail to pay. He stated that the City's current interest rates on their funds is not an all time high right now. He stated that the County also felt it was important that if the City would be willing to front some of the cash then the County would also be willing to do it.

M. Turner stated that he is completely supportive of R. Stelford and Staff stepping up and doing this and he is supportive of the stance the City is taking. He advised that it is worth observing that the City is half the budget of District 200. He stated that the City is fronting \$322,000 over four years without any interest and the County is fronting the remainder up to a total of \$806,000. He stated that in the course of the past six years Council has made some difficult decision such as not taking PTELL, freezing salaries and have had a hiring freeze which puts the City in a position to do those things. He stated that he finds it mildly annoying that given the opportunity for other entities in the County to avoid PTELL and to manage their finances. He advised that he is speaking more as a taxpayer than a Council person and stated that he finds it a bit odd and bit of a surprise that maybe the pain we have felt as a Council, a City and as Staff by not taking salary increases allows us to have the flexibility that we have. He wonders why the City has to do it.

Mayor Sager stated that the questions are appropriate. He advised that this is exactly the type of thing we need to be doing on a larger basis to work together and provide collective solutions to problems. He stated that there are two things to keep in mind. He advised that the School District is more at risk relative to State capacity to pay than the City noting that the revenue stream coming from the State is a concern. He advised that the reserves that are set aside in the School District need to be large and enough to withstand a lack of revenue coming in for a much larger body of employees. He advised that those are burdens that the District has that perhaps the City doesn't bear to the same extent or nature. He stated that being able to step in and assist based upon the City's capacity to manage is a blessing and he feels is the right thing to do.

M. Turner stated that he supports it and he will vote for it as there is no question that they are doing the right thing in respect to this. He admits that he doesn't know the ins and outs of the School District budget, but taxpayers look at the fact that because they have the great burden of a bigger budget and more reserves, they also collect a greater percentage of taxes to fund it. He contended that there are some things that the City has done and Staff has borne over the last six years that he has not seen in his passing reading of the Independent or the NWH as to things that others might be doing. He stated that the City was one of the first entities to not to take PTELL back in 2008. He stated that other taxing bodies continue to take it as the normal thing and property taxes in this County and State are one of greatest detriments to growth. He doesn't think it should go without mentioning that other perhaps other entities in the County need to take a similar position as the City has done over the last six years. He will vote for it but those issues are worth laying on the table.

R. Schlossberg stated that the item was submitted subject to attorney approval which is because there are a lot of other bodies involved. She advised that when the packet went out she didn't have all the comments. She doesn't know if what Council has before them is the final version but she thinks it is. She reported that yesterday afternoon she came in and incorporated the County's comments which weren't material changes but some clarifications on some of the voting standards and on who is responsible for responding to FOIA requests. She advised that there may be more changes but as long as they aren't material to the operations but more administrative, they will review them and are comfortable approving them.

Motion by M. Turner, second by M. Saladin, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the intergovernmental Fiber Optic Network Agreement between the City of Woodstock, District 200, McHenry County, McHenry County College and the McHenry County Emergency Telephone System Board subject to final review and editorial approval by the City Attorney. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, Mayor Sager, M. Saladin, RB Thompson, M. Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Starzynski. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

9. Old Courthouse Response

Mayor Sager stated that the purpose of this item is to consider whether or not it is appropriate to derive consensus regarding a specific response to recent editorial on the Old Courthouse, roof and associated costs. He asked Council if the recent newspaper editorial exhibit factual errors and commentary potentially resulting in a misunderstanding regarding the improvements to the Old Courthouse roof and associated costs on behalf of readership; Council conceded. He asked if the factual errors and commentary are substantial enough to warrant a collective letter to the editor from the body of the City Council in response; Council conceded. He asked if Council should direct Staff to perfect and submit a letter to the editor in response to the editorial; Council conceded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by J. Dillon, second by M. Larson to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

Collective Bargaining (Open Meetings Act: 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Local 150

Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, Mayor Sager, M. Saladin, RB Thompson, M. Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Starzynski. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

The Woodstock City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:47 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The City Council returned to Open Session at 8:29 PM.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Starzynski

STAFF PRESENT: HR Director Deb Schober, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, Finance Director Paul Christensen, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, City Manager Roscoe Stelford

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Deputy City Clerk Cindy Smiley, City Clerk Dianne Mitchell, Newly Appointed City Clerk Arlene Quinn, Newly Appointed Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber

10. Local 150 Agreement- Approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Woodstock and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, Public Employees Division.

Motion by J. Dillon, second by RB Thompson to authorize the City Manager to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Woodstock and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, Public Employees Division for all Public Works bargaining unit employees for the period of May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2018.

D. Schober thanked Mayor Sager and Council for their support.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Sager stated that there has been ongoing dialog with Woodstock Celebrates and advised that they are coming into a time crunch as they hoped to have something by October 31st, but they are still in a discussion stage. He reported that M. Turner is leading the discussion and advised that the consideration has been to look at the joint formation of a body that would serve in the same capacity as an economic development group to work together to create a marketing program with a private vendor. He asked for consensus from Council on whether this is the direction they want to move.

M. Turner stated that the conversations with Woodstock Celebrates, Inc. have been very positive. He stated that there is great desire on their part in understanding of the urgency to hit the October 31st deadline. He reported that they have gone down a path of bringing the concept of an entity that they are part of and Council is part of. He noted that they are working up the details of it.

Mayor Sager wanted to know if this is something that is completely off the table for everyone since it is time sensitive. He asked if there is interest in a separate board composed of members from the different entities. J. Dillon advised that she is willing to go down the path, RB Thompson is open, M. Larson is good and M. Saladin thinks they need to explore it, but is a little concerned about it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Turner, second by M. Saladin, to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council to the November 4, 2014 City Council meeting. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, Mayor Sager, M. Saladin, RB Thompson, M. Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Starzynski. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Mitchell - City Clerk