

**MINUTES**  
**WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL**  
February 17, 2015  
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Turner on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 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, Mark Saladin, RB Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Michael Turner

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joseph Starzynski and Mayor Brian Sager

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Grant Writer Terry Wilcockson, Transportation Commission Chairman Andrew Celentano.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chief Deputy City Clerk Cindy Smiley

**A. FLOOR DISCUSSION:**

**Proclamation Designating Chester Gould Day**

Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated that Chester Gould has a deep history in Woodstock as a long-time Woodstock resident and the author of the Dick Tracy comics. He further stated that local individuals Steve, John, and Tim Firak have produced a documentary entitled "*Chester Gould: An American Original*," which will be show on WTTW Channel 11 this Sunday at 3:00PM. He noted that the City will be holding a special screening of the film at the Stage Left Café on that day.

Thanking the Firaks for their efforts to enrich our community, Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated that this evening the City Council will pass and present a proclamation to recognize these efforts, honor Chester Gould, and designate Sunday, February 22, 2015 as Chester Gould Day in the city of Woodstock. Asking Steve and Tim Firak to join him at the podium, Mayor Pro Tem Turner read the Proclamation which was acknowledged and appreciated by all.

Tim Firak accepted the Proclamation and thanked the City for all that has been done and for the support shown to them by the City.

**Public Comments**

Scott Gessert, 810 Gerry Street, Woodstock, stated that in reviewing the City's website, he found mention of an Ethics Commission and asked for more information on this body. R. Stelford stated that this Commission was established as mandated by the State Legislature. He further stated that traditionally it has fallen on the Human Resources Director to deal with any question of ethics unless the issues deal with the HR Director, in which case this would fall to the City Manager.

City Attorney Schlossberg stated that the State did, indeed, mandate creation of an Ethics Commission to deal with specific issues and that the Commission has dealt with one such issue in about 20 years. Concerning that issue, they found that there had been no violation.

Mr. Gessert stated he would like to revisit the ethics question that was brought up at the last meeting, stating that he had received no information in the interim. Mayor Pro Tem Turner noted that at the

conclusion of the discussion of the last meeting, he distinctly recalls asking Mr. Gessert if he was satisfied with the response and information given at the meeting to which Mr. Gessert responded that he was.

Mr. Gessert stated he would like to continue to discuss transparency. He further stated that he feels there is precedence for passing an ordinance regarding nepotism. He went on to discuss the issues of nepotism and favoritism further, stating that he feels the City should consider passing such an ordinance or policy regarding personnel or the selection of contractors and recommended that Council revisit the Ethics Commission for the purpose of addressing this

Mr. Gessert then asked when the public would have an opportunity to have input on the budget, specifically when the budget hearing will be held. In response, R. Stelford stated that the Public Hearing will be held at the first meeting in April, Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers. He also stated that the City Council's annual Budget Workshop will be held on Monday April 13 beginning at 3:30PM in the Council Chambers. Mr. Stelford then stated that the Budget will be transmitted to the City Council and made available to the public via the website and at the Public Library and City Hall at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in March, Tuesday, March 17.

In response to a question from Mr. Gessert, R. Stelford stated that the disposal of large items via the new agreement with MDC is fairly unlimited, as long as laws and environmental regulations permit. Certain items such as televisions, electronics, and certain appliances cannot be picked up and must be disposed of in a different manner as prescribed by law. In response to further questioning from Mr. Gessert, Mr. Stelford stated there is no penalty assessed to the City by MDC for the amount of large items that are put out by the residents.

In response to Mr. Gessert's previous comments concerning nepotism, Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated that he does not wish to have this situation equated to some of the patronage that goes on in other governmental units. Again noting that Mr. Gessert had indicated that he was satisfied with the explanation and information provided at the last meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated that he did not wish in any way to give the appearance that the issue is being swept away and asked R. Stelford to take another look at the situation in question. He stated that he wished to make it clear that he believes whole-heartedly in the response given to Mr. Gessert's satisfaction last week and told to him previously by Mr. Stelford.

R. Stelford stated that he has spoken with the Director involved and found that the program fell outside the Director's job duties and the decision was made by several staff members that he was a good fit for the program. Concerning the scorekeeping duties, he noted that this is not a high-paying position and that it is difficult to find people to fill the slots.

R. Stelford stated he felt that it was worth researching to make sure the City is handling the situation correctly. City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg stated that she has spoken with her colleagues, particularly those who are experts in the Human Resources and Ethics fields, who felt that the City had followed normal procedure and they did not see any problem.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated that he feels that commentary at the last meeting was appropriate and, further, he does not concur that there is a need to activate the Ethics Commission.

#### **Council Comments**

M. Larson complimented and acknowledged T. Willcockson for crafting the Chester Gould proclamation.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda:

- Item B at the request of S. Gessert with concurrence by M. Larson
- Item E4 at the request of S. Gessert with concurrence by RB Thompson
- Item E7 at the request of M. Saladin.

Motion by J. Dillon, second by M. Larson to concur with Consent Agenda Items C – E3, E5, and E6

**C. WARRANTS:** 3651 3652 MFT 543

**D. MINUTES AND REPORTS:**

Community & Economic Development Year-End Report 2014

Economic Development Commission Minutes – November 11, 2014

**E. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 40**

- 1. Liquor License Amendment –Facets** – Adoption of Ordinance No. 15-O-14, identified as Document No. 1, amending Section 3.3.6, Classification of Licenses; Numbers and Fees of the Woodstock City Code which would increase the number of Class E3 liquor licenses for Studio 2015 Design Inc. d/b/a Facets.
- 2. Walnut/Ash Stormwater Improvements** – Adoption of Resolution No. 15-R-05, identified as Document No. 2, authorizing application to the 2015 Community Development Block Grant through McHenry County for the Walnut/Ash Neighborhood Stormwater Management Project.
- 3. Zimmerman Road Stormwater Improvements** – Adoption of Resolution No. 15-R-06, identified as Document No. 3, authorizing application to the 2015 Community Development Block Grant through McHenry County for the Zimmerman Road Neighborhood Stormwater Management Project.
- 5. Professional Services – Irving Avenue Lift Station** – Approval of an agreement for professional services from Baxter and Woodman for the evaluation of existing conditions at the Irving Avenue lift station.
- 6. Professional Services – Woodstock Municipal Landfill** – Approval of an amendment to an agreement for Professional Services from Conestoga Rovers & Associates for the Woodstock Municipal Landfill site.

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

**Item B. Minutes of Previous Meetings - February 3, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting**

S. Gessert requested that the following corrections be made to the February 3, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes:

- In all instances, change S. Gussert to S. Gessert
- In all instances, change 810 Cherry Street to 810 Gerry Street
- In all instances, change D. Zimmer to D. Zinnen

Motion by M. Larson, second by M. Saladin to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 Regular City Council meeting as corrected.

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

**Item E-4 ComEd Green Region – Donato Conservation Area**

S. Gessert stated that he lives next to the Donato Conservation Area has seen deer, coyotes, foxes, and groundhog in that area which is rich in wildlife. He stated that he would like to see the City move forward with this project and urged the City Council to allocate the \$10,000 to the improvements regardless of whether the City receives this grant or not.

Motion by RB Thompson, second by J. Dillon to adopt Resolution No.15-R-07, identified as Document No. 4, authorizing participation in the 2015 ComEd Green Region Program for Pathways to Education at William C. Donato Conservation Area.

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

**Item E-7 Intergovernmental Agreement – Bike Path**

M. Saladin noted that the cost to the City for this project has been estimated to be \$25,000 without acquisition of right of way. He stated that he very much feels that this project should be completed but is concerned that the cost may escalate. R. Stelford stated that the bodies involved in the IGA have verified that nearly all right of way involved is owned either by the City or the State and do not feel that there will be significant additional cost.

M. Saladin stated that he fully supports this project and that it is a great example of cost-sharing among public bodies. In response to a question from M. Saladin, P. Ruscko stated that the project was brought to the fore by bike enthusiast Eberhard Viet, who persevered, going from organization to organization until the bodies came together to cooperate on the project.

Motion by M. Saladin, second by J. Dillon to adopt Ordinance No. 15-O-15, identified as Document No. 5, an ordinance between the County of McHenry, the City of Woodstock, and the McHenry County Conservation District for the design, construction, maintenance and reconstruction of a bike path along U.S. Route 14.

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no discussion concerning Future Agenda Items.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by RB Thompson, second by M. Larson, to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council to the next Regular Meeting on March 3, 2015. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, RB Thompson, and Mayor Pro Tem Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Starzynski and Mayor Sager. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cindy Smiley  
Chief Deputy City Clerk