

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL
March 17, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Staryzynski, Mark Saladin, Maureen Larson, RB Thompson, J. Dillon, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Turner.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Sager.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Community and Economic Development Director Cort Carlson, Recreation Department Program Coordinator Allan Dunker, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, Deputy Clerk, Cindy Smiley.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Arleen Quinn.

A.FLOOR DISCUSSION: Proclamation Recognizing Music in the Schools Month

Mayor Pro Tem Turner read the proclamation recognizing music in the Schools. Recognizing the positive impact that music in our schools has on students of all ages, March has traditionally been designated as "Music in Our Schools Month."

Woodstock North High School students Gabriella Fikert and Allison Nordvall performed for Council. Mayor Pro Tem Turner and Council thanked them for their wonderful performance.

Public Comments:

Brian Moxley, 814 Oak St., Woodstock, thanked the Council for not raising taxes during the last four years of tough economic times, praised efforts regarding the Courthouse, Fiber Optic Cable, Enterprise Zone, and efforts to bring jobs to Woodstock.

Scott Gessert, 810 Gerry St, Woodstock, mentioned that he attended the coffee with Chief Loren. He said the Chief mentioned how well attended the meeting on homelessness was. He asked Council about their efforts concerning homelessness in Woodstock. J. Starzynski replied that he volunteers at the PADS shelter on Thursday nights. RB Thompson said that for 21 years he has volunteered on the third Wednesday of every month from 10PM to 3AM. Mr. Gessert said he understood that the co-ed structure of PADS was a detriment. RB Thompson said they do have separate quarters for men and woman. J. Dillon said that PADS is starting to work on a partnership with Home of the Sparrow. She has been on the board of Home of the Sparrow for 8 years and that they have a very nice facility for women and children. Mr. Gessert said that there

are numerous governmental agencies involved but he feels quality leadership is needed for this project.

M. Larson responded to S. Gessert's question about the results of the Urban Land Institute forum being addressed to the public saying that the Urban Land Institute forum would be held the third or fourth week of April. In response to Mr. Gessert's comments on the Courthouse project which he feels is growing in expense to the taxpayers, Mayor Pro Tem Turner said the issues concerning the Courthouse have been made very public. As far as the expense it was a learned professional opinion of the people doing the work and that we were one to two winters away from the dome collapsing and imploding on itself. The expense on that building is not close to the expense it would be had the dome collapsed.

Questioned about video gambling the Mayor Pro Tem said it is not being entertained at this point for the Courthouse though the owners would have the opportunity to apply for it to be in the Public House Bar. Based upon the laws of the state of Il they would have the option to apply the same as any other business.

Mr. Gessert asked about adult businesses coming into the City. Mayor Pro Tem Turner responded saying that we have zoning laws designed to regulate business including adult theme businesses. These laws mirror what the county has in place. It is common for governmental entities to mirror rules on how tight we can regulate and restrict businesses. We are bound by the same freedoms that allow freedoms of speech and to an extent freedom of commerce to designate certain areas of town limits to how we regulate businesses of these types. If someone petitions and follows the rules of our zoning regardless of the business, there are limits to what Council is able to do. Mr. Gessert said that he was under the impression that these types of businesses were encouraged to open on the square vs. Rt. 47. Mayor Pro Tem Turner said that this was a completely false assertion. Mayor Pro Tem Turner said that the press is here and can accurately report on this subject.

Don Frick, 334 S Jefferson, Woodstock, spoke about his concerns for safety on the square. He said he spoke with Chief Loren about this issue. He feels that the trends show substantial increase in retail theft. He feels that more information on this topic should be made public, more of it should be shared on the City website and that the City should use GIS information so families would be made aware of what the situation is. He has concern for teens on the square and wants Council to realize the decisions made and the makeup of our square should benefit the community.

RB Thompson commented saying that the stats are city wide and not just limited to the square. Mayor Pro Tem Turner replied saying that stats are available at any time. The press gets a copy of this information and they are very proactive in reporting information to the public. He also advised that at any time if there was situation of public danger the public would have been notified immediately.

There were no additional public comments.

Council Comments:

M Larson addressed the Courthouse project saying it was a pleasure to have the expertise of the Urban Institute Professionals. They had a panel of 7 who spent 20 hours in town and who also responded to the great public turnout of about 80-90 residents. She said it was good to see the town through a fresh set of eyes and that they said several times that other towns are trying to create what we already have.

They were impressed with the scope of events in the community which speaks to the cultural side of our community. They will come back in April and do a presentation at the Opera House, time and date will be published, engaging the community in the decision making on the Courthouse. Mayor Pro Tem Turner said that engaging these experts puts us in a better position for good decision making. He thanked M. Larson for all the time she has spent on this project

M. Saladin said that Governor Rauner will be coming to Woodstock on Thursday. The Economic Development Corporation is assisting with invitations for that event. Governor Rauner is attending a meeting at the County Administration Building and the second meeting is at the Opera house. Mayor Pro Tem Turner will be attending this meeting. It is a time for the area mayors to provide their input to the Governor. Mayor Pro Tem Turner said if council has comments to please get them to him as he is hoping to highlight the City of Woodstock at this meeting.

There were no additional council comments.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by J. Dillon, second by M. Saladin to concur with Consent Agenda Items B – E 7.

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

M. Saladin said he had questions on the first three items. Relative to the street name changing he wondered, from a staff perspective, how hard or difficult it is to do this. R. Stelford said it depends on the number of properties involved. This is a rural area and the neighbors are in agreement. The City notifies the post office and lets them know that the City has changed the name of the street.

Ryan O'Connor, Other World Computing, 265 Bridgelane Way, Woodstock, said that he felt that Galaxy Way as a street name is more in line with their business. He said they reached out to the post office and other people on the street and that it was not difficult to make the change. All correspondence automatically is sent to the new address just as with any address change, the old address is then retired. Mayor Pro Tem Turner thanked Mr. O'Connor and said the City appreciated Other World Computing doing business in Woodstock.

M. Saladin commented on Item #2 saying while he appreciated Mr. Bakers investment in our community he wondered why we did not have more bids. R. Stelford said that it was the only bid we received.

M. Saladin commented on Item #3 saying he noticed that Trotter Associates were on the list in previous years and wondered if there was a reason why they are not on the list this year. Paul Ruscko replied saying we took a look at all submissions and compared the scope of work. There was no specific item of work that we were concerned with but we also took this opportunity to look at location facilities, who was now at the firm, and their scope of experience. The City Engineer and I took this opportunity to see if anyone could provide a better level of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner asked for comments on the budget that will be transmitted tonight. Item E7 represents the fiscal year 2015-2016 year budget. The budget lays out the priorities and needs of the City. This is our absolute roadmap of what we do in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Turner asked for comments.

He went on to say that in our general fund we have a reduction of 12% compared to fiscal 2007 and 2008 while the State of IL, during this time period, has increased their budget by 20%. That's an extraordinary accomplishment. We are doing more with less now. My only criticism is that we should have operated at that level in 2007 and 2008. The economic downturns flush unneeded things out of the budget; very close attention is paid to expenditures. Compared to other governmental agencies we did a good job. RB Thompson said in 07 and 08 we were actively building in the city and when these developments came in we were required to put roads in and provide a lot more services which added to our budget. Now we are not doing that, it was a time of expansion where we were spending more.

We are not taking PTEL for the fourth year. We are one of the few public entities in the county that did not take PTEL. R. Stelford said that the budget is balanced. From the operating perspective we have sufficient funds to deal with our expenditures. We are proposing to Council to remove 29 full time positions from the budget. If a department needs personnel they will have to come to council and justify those positions going forward. We plan on keeping a close eye on things. If there is a decision from state of IL that affects our community we will be coming back to council with recommendations.

The budget is transmitted on April 7. There is a public hearing meeting on April 13. We go page by page at a 4 or 5 hours meeting and come out with recommendations to staff. Monday April 13 at 3:30 pm we discuss what we see in the budget, vote on April 21, the budget goes into effect on May 1.

R. Stelford said page count is 492 pages and is very succinct. R. Stelford thanked staff for their input on cost effective services.

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

March 3, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting

B. WARRANTS: 3655 3656 MFT 545

C. MINUTES AND REPORTS:

Police Department Report – February 2015
Library Board Minutes – January 15, 2015

D. MANAGER’S REPORT NO. 42

1. Street Renaming – Adoption of Ordinance 15-O-17 renaming Bridge Lane to Galaxy Way in Lake Shore Business Park.

2. Aquatic Center Concession Lease – Adoption of Ordinance 15-O-18 approving a three year lease at the Aquatic Center for James Baker of Napoli Pizza.

3. Engineering Services – Adoption of Resolution 15-R-09 approving professional engineering services between the City of Woodstock, Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc., Baxter & Woodman, Inc., HR Green, Inc. and Robinson Engineering Ltd. for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

4. Award of Contract – City Hall Flat Roof – Approval of an award of contract to the low bidder, Malcor Roofing, for the replacement of the City Hall Flat Roof for the total bid price of \$34,977.

5. Professional Services – Bike Path – Approval of an agreement with Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick for professional services for US Route 14 Bicycle Path Improvement Engineering Services for an amount not to exceed \$25,378.00.

6. Professional Services – Pavement Management Report – Approval of an agreement with Baxter & Woodman to complete a Pavement Management Report for an amount not to exceed \$39,800.

7. Transmittal of FY15/16 Budget

Mayor Pro Tem Turner said the consent calendar now contains all items B-E7 with Items 1 receiving separate consideration. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Turner asked for a motion of concurrence on all remaining items.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Quarterly Financial Reports Transmittal of the Third Quarter Financial Reports for the City of Woodstock.

- a. Revenues & Expenditures Report
- b. Investment Report

9. Promote Woodstock Inc. Update

10. D200 Renaissance Project

Discussion Items:

Item 8 Quarterly Financial Reports:

R. Stelford said the third quarter report with one more quarter to go helps to develop projections. City finances are in good shape. One thing that is skewing our numbers is when we started to bill for garbage services and will come back with budget amendments regarding revenue and expenses.

Item 9 Promote Woodstock Inc. Update: M. Larson gave an update on Woodstock Celebrates saying that they have taken a concerted effort to look at marketing. She and M. Turner are both on the board along with Pete Gill, and Tom Doherty. They have met for about 5 weeks generating great discussions and having very productive meetings. She said they are focused on getting the greatest service for dollars spent and have brought in three marketing firms, hearing initial presentations from them. They will meet with them again on April 28 to hear their proposals. The committee is structured in a way to move forward quickly. M. Turner commented that one of the outcomes the firms had was in challenging us to look at things in a different way.

Eileen Contuto from Colonial Antique Mall asked if the public can come to the Woodstock Celebrates meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Turner replied that it is not a Chamber function but said we will be opening them up to other ideas once we know where we are going with it. The sorts of things we are talking about are various forms of marketing.

Ms. Contuto said that ten years ago a group came in for the same procedure and asked if it was the same thing. M Larson responded saying that we are not doing studies. We want to understand the current culture and are trying to hit the ground running. We have a lot of information already to work with.

Item E 10 District 200 Renaissance Project Artificial Turf:

Mayor Pro Tem Turner said that Glen Wilson from District 200, a key figure in the project, was joining the meeting tonight. He said that Mr. Wilson from District 200 revealed a month ago that District 200 was putting together a renaissance project since Woodstock High School was coming up to its 100 Anniversary. The group felt that there were some things that could be done to accentuate and enhance the school.

There is both a district and private effort involved in enhancing some things at Woodstock High School as well as some of the athletic facilities, including the girls' softball field. It would cost \$300,000 to fix up that field by laying down field turf. There is a large donation from a private source which would donate \$400,000. One of the things field turf does is really add to the image of the school. Mayor Pro Tem Turner asked Mr. Wilson what the City's participation could be.

The district in order to complete this project continues to seek funds. The district has itself put up funds for this project. Mayor Pro Tem Turner said he wondered if the City of Woodstock spending a little amount gains permanent access for years to come. It would cost our residents a

small amount and would benefit the community. The entire city user groups would benefit when District 200 is not using it.

He went on to say that smart governmental cooperation would create an asset that we can all use if the budget can be worked out. This is not a discussion for approval now it is simply a discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Turner asked R. Stelford to consider it as a budget item to see if there is a potential for consideration from Council. We should do things to try to make property values go up which enhances the City of Woodstock.

Glen Wilson, 2300 Serenity Lane, Woodstock and Gwen Murley, 815 Dakota Dr., have been talking for two years about merging some ideas. He said we've had a long standing relationship with the City of Woodstock; there is cross country at Emricson Park, softball at Bates Park, and soccer at Emricson Park. We have hosted flag football championships, and youth baseball at Woodstock North. We look forward to try to partner all these pieces together. Mr. Wilson feels that this is a unique opportunity for Woodstock since this group also has a sizable amount of private funds. RB Thompson pointed out that turf reduces work positons since it requires less maintenance costs. He went on to say that the in regard to the environmental impact since rain would not permeate the soil it could impact drainage. We would have to make sure the water that is drained would feed into the sewer system and that it could handle it.

J. Dillon asked how much District 200 committed to this project. Mr. Wilson said they haven't gotten that far yet. They have put \$300,000 into softball fields this past year. There is continued willingness on the part of District 200 to get it done. They are waiting to see what private donations are and what City does.

M. Larson asked how we arrived at amount we are talking about. Mayor Pro Tem Turner responded that after speaking with Mr. Wilson and the superintendent an estimated \$150,000 was needed. It is open to Council for review to consider any amount from 0 dollars to whatever amount Council wants to put in. RB Thompson mentioned that the idea of Forest Avenue have been talked about at Council. Mayor Pro Tem Turner said that if the District handled the funding for Forest Avenue redo and the City provides the manpower this is still on the table.

M. Larson thought that intergovernmental participation was a good thing and good for the City. M. Saladin said he was also enthusiastic about the project. We need to hear from the public and be aware of the dynamics going on in the State. We want to be careful that the investment with District 200 is a good thing for the community. He wondered if there was an investigation for funds relative to grants. Mr. Wilson said there had been.

Molly Oakford, 1341 Winslow Circle, Woodstock, commented that she thought it was an exciting proposal, however, the article in the Independent referred to it as a home turf campaign. It is important to be cautious if we are giving money to a campaign. If we issue money for a campaign how are we protected from other worthwhile agencies asking for money? Will we then engage in campaigns for other good causes? A policy needs to be in place for how donations are spent. Is this a District 200 project and financed by District 200 or is it a campaign? Regulating policy has to be in place before the action occurs. Mayor Pro Tem Turner said this is not a campaign but a smart government partnership for shared resources.

She also mentioned that there are two citations from October 2002. The Trauma Journal reported that the surface does make a difference for head injuries. The impact of turf is less than a natural field resulting in a greater head injury. The American Journal of Sports Medicine has reported that there are more serious concussions with turf than contact with natural grass. If the City does partner it is important that the turf is evaluated with more than just a manufacturer's recommendation. M. Saladin responded saying that we need to get current information from appropriate sources on the safety of field turf.

Robert Beardsley, 1621 Ash, Woodstock, said that he has reservations about the use of artificial turf. He said that McHenry County has the highest taxes in the U.S. and that most people are concerned about their taxes. He said he read an article saying that turf has to be cleaned, there are chemicals in it, and a lot of injuries occur on artificial turf. He said he would like to know what company manufactures it and what their environmental policy is. He would also like to know if there been lawsuits from injuries on the turf. He commented that the weather for 8 or 9 months is not fit for outdoor activities. If city is even going to think about proposing this he feels that the question should be put to City of Woodstock and majority rule. If the majority are against it he doesn't think it should be paid for by the City and that the City of Woodstock has no business getting involved in this. The things to consider are the chemicals in it, maintenance costs and injuries. As far as reducing jobs he said he thought the City had a campaign to create jobs.

J. Starzynski asked what the benefits to the City are in terms of usage. He mentioned that in speaking to the community about it their comments were what else might be taken out of the budget to put this expense in. M. Larson said at discussion she would like some stats on games played in the city and information about the safety of artificial turf. J. Dillon said she was proud of involvement with District 200 but there is a need to be careful with budget expenses.

There were no additional council comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by M. Saladin, seconded by M. Larson to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

Imminent Litigation (Open Meetings Act 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11))

Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular body has been filed, and is pending before a court, or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

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

The Woodstock City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:57 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

The City Council returned to Open Session at 10:20PM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Staryzynski, Mark Saladin, Maureen Larson, RB Thompson, J. Dillon, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Turner

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Sager

STAFF PRESENT: City Clerk Arleen Quinn

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Fire hydrants

No further comments on future agenda items

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion M. Saladin, seconded by J. Dillon, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council to the March 31, 2015 City Council meeting. Ayes: M. Saladin, M. Larson, RB Thompson, J. Starzynski, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem J. Dillon. Nays: None. Absentees: Mayor Sager, Mike Turner. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Arleen Quinn- City Clerk