



# CITY OF WOOD DALE

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF WOOD DALE, DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

September 5, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Mayor Nunzio Pulice called the Regular City Council Meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following were:

Present: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods, and Mayor Pulice

Absent: None

Also Present: City Clerk Curiale, Treasurer Porch, Legal Counsel Conway, City Manager Mermuys, Public Works Director Lange, Finance Director Wilson, Police Chief Zito, Deputy Chief Banaszynski, Members of the Police Department, Director of Community Relations Silva, Executive & Special Events Assistant Sakellaris

Whereupon the Mayor declared a quorum present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderwoman Ames made a motion, seconded by Alderman Susmarski, to approve the Regular City Council Minutes of August 15, 2024. When the question was put, a voice vote was taken with all Aldermen voting Aye. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

i. *Citizens to be Heard*

Mr. Eugene Wesley thanked Alderman Peter Jakab and congratulated him for his years of service. He then expressed frustration and disappointment that he did not receive the same recognition for his years of service on the City Council.

ii. *Written Communiqués of Citizens to Be Heard*

- 1) Wood Dale School District 7 thanked the City of Wood Dale for their generous donation of school supplies to help Students whose families are struggling financially.
- 2) The Wood Dale Park District Seniors Club thanked the Mayor, Council and Staff Members for providing and serving a wonderful Brunch/Lunch from Christy's and delicious cupcakes.
- 3) The Wood Dale Police Department thanked everyone and appreciates all the support given for Police Night Out August 6<sup>th</sup>.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. *Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists Award Recognition*

Chief Zito thanked Charli Wooley for coming to present the DUI awards on behalf of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists to the Wood Dale Police Department for 23 years. Traffic safety, including DUI enforcement, has always been a top priority of the Wood Dale Police Department. In 2023, Officers made 60 DUI arrests.

Ms. Wooley recounted the tragic death of her Son, who was killed in 2000 on the streets of Wood Dale by a drunk driver. The drunk driver had numerous previous DUI convictions, ran a red light and hit her Son who was on his way to work. Ms. Wooley was thankful and appreciated the efforts of the City and the DuPage County State's Attorney, Joe Birkett, who brought the driver to justice. She then presented Awards to Officer Lyons who made 18 DUI arrests, and to Officer Nichols who made 10 DUI arrests last year.

B. *Proclamation in Recognition of Alderman Peter Jakab*

Mayor Pulice Proclaimed Alderman Peter Jakab a significant figure in Wood Dale's history and expressed profound gratitude from the City of Wood Dale, City Manager, Mayor and the City Council for his commitment, dedication, knowledge, expertise, and service to the City of Wood Dale and its Residents.

Alderman Peter Jakab spoke of the difficulty of making the decision to move out of the City of Wood Dale after 17 years. He thanked every Staff member for their hard work and dedication to the City of Wood Dale. He then gave a special thanks to his colleague and close friend Alderman Messina for all their accomplishments together in Ward 1 over the past 10 years.

C. *Prairie Fest 2025*

Mayor Pulice stated this is being brought forward because next week the (Special Events) Committee will start picking Bands. Last year some experiments were conducted that unfortunately did not work out and the Committee was unable to secure the desired Band. The Committee is asking for an increase in the Budget.

*A motion was made by Alderman Artie Woods, seconded by Alderman Art Woods, to increase the Budget to \$150,000.*

Alderman Messina asked for a summary of the numbers for the past three (3) years. He stated there is a correlation, not always a causation, the City is spending more money and losing more money and said the Committee was tasked with finding where to cut costs. He said fancy bands were nice but the City is not seeing a return investment. He suggested bringing back doing the beer with the VFW as the City had lost some key revenue.

Mayor Pulice clarified the VFW still served beer this year but instead of the City handling, it was put out to bid. The VFW and another beer brewery had to rent tents.

Director Wilson briefly reviewed the expenditures, revenues, and net figures from 2019 to 2024. Mayor Pulice added we have records for 14 years, sponsorships vary year to year, and expenses keep going up. Alderman Messina stated he felt the records should show Expenditures, Revenues, with offsets by the Sponsorships shown separately instead of being included as Revenue. He stated the trend has shown the event is losing money but sponsorships have helped offset it.

Alderman Art Woods agreed the event has been losing money and stated the intent was never to make money and to try to lose as little as possible. The event was to give the City of Wood Dale identity and to offer a more robust event as other communities do, and to achieve this, money must be spent. There is a smaller loss this year compared to last year, and we need to continually tweak and improve to keep the losses down and bring in more revenue to help fund it. Additional money is needed to get the bigger bands that will draw more people to the community and attract more sponsorships. Part of the money is from the Hotel/Motel Tax whose purpose is to bring people to Wood Dale.

Mayor Pulice agreed a bigger band was desired however he was concerned with how it was going to be financed without decreasing the General Fund which has been financing it. Alderman Art Woods suggested using the payment due from a company that had been fined \$100,000. Mayor Pulice asked Director Wilson if that would be appropriate to do. Director Wilson stated if the Council votes to do that, he will figure it out.

Alderman Ames inquired if the additional money will be coming from the Tourism Fund and Hotel/Motel Tax. Director Wilson stated it will ultimately come out of the Tourism Fund which is in a positive fund balance position for FY2025 Budget.

Alderman Artie Woods reminded everyone last year the Council voted 7:1 in favor of raising the Budget from \$85,000 to \$120,000. The \$120,000 wasn't used because they couldn't get the Bands they wanted. This is the same situation as last year, and being approved does not mean we will get the Bands that we want or that we will use all the funds. It is just to have the money available to try to get the bigger name Bands. Alderman Art Woods stressed decisions about Bands need to be made now, because in the past we have waited too long and were not able to get the bigger name Bands.

Alderman Messina stated he felt the City has taken on enough risks, the experiments didn't work and enough money has been lost.

Alderman Art Woods stated part of the experiment did work: the changing of the beer vendor, selling of tents, and having volunteers do the work instead of City staff. He felt the 2023 and 2024 numbers reflected there has been some savings. As for raising the price, Church Street does want to raise the beer price and VFW will also raise it.

*When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:*

*Ayes: Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods*

*Nays: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina*

*Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion failed.*

In response to Mayor Pulice's inquiry, Director Wilson stated the FY2025 Budget was for the Fest just completed. Next year's Fest will be in next year's Budget, and an Entertainment Budget is needed to construct a FY2026 Budget. In the absence of an amount, Staff would presume the previous amount would rollover. A motion having an amount is preferred to make sure it is clear to everyone, and it would also give Director Silva direction to go back to the Management Company with a number.

*A motion was made by Alderwoman Ames, seconded by Alderman Messina, to keep the Entertainment Budget the same as last year*

*After further discussion, Alderwoman Ames amended the motion, seconded by Alderman Messina, to keep the Entertainment Budget the same as last year of up to \$120,000.*

Alderman Art Woods stated it was unknown that votes were going to be taken today and asked if there was going to be a vote to change the number of Prairie

Fest days. Mayor Pulice said no one seconded it, so no. Alderman Art Woods then asked for clarity if the beer was going to stay. Mayor Pulice said no one said otherwise, and raising the price of the beer will probably come back for discussion. Alderman Art Woods asked if there would be a willingness to increase the Band amount if there were more sponsorships. Mayor Pulice said everyone wants to keep the price down and keep the General Fund in the black. Alderman Artie Woods asked for clarification of where the \$100,000 fine payment was placed. Director Wilson responded the City has not received the payment. Alderman Artie Woods asked if it had been earmarked for anything. Director Wilson stated typically those types of fines, fees and forfeitures go into the General Fund.

*When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:*

*Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Messina,  
Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods*

*Nays: Alderman Curiale*

*Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.*

VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No Report

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. *Omnibus Vote*

None

IX. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORTS

A. **Planning, Zoning and Building Committee**

No Report

B. **Public Health, Safety, Judiciary and Ethics Committee**

No Report

C. **Public Works Committee**

- i. Approval of Final Payment to Ciosek Tree Service, Inc. for the FY 2024 Tree Trimming Program in the Amount of \$30,367.70*

A motion was made by Alderman Artie Woods, seconded by Alderwoman Ames, to *Approve Final Payment to Ciosek Tree Service, Inc. for the FY 2024 Tree Trimming Program in the Amount of \$30,367.70*. When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

*Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods*

*Nays: None*

*Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.*

ii. *A Resolution to Accept Planning Technical Assistance Services Delivered by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*

A motion was made by Alderman Artie Woods, seconded by Alderwoman Ames, to *Approve A Resolution to Accept Planning Technical Assistance Services Delivered by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.* When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Artie Woods

Nays: Alderman Art Woods

Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

iii. *An Ordinance Amending Regulations to Ensure Compliance with the Fair Housing Act*

*A motion was made by Alderman Artie Woods, seconded by Alderwoman Ames, to Approve An Ordinance Amending Regulations to Ensure Compliance with the Fair Housing Act.*

Alderman Curiale asked if this would stay under Public Works since it has an Administrative Task required for Training. Director Lange explained this establishes who in the City will handle these types of concerns when raised by the Community. This has been delegated to the City Manager's Office so Personnel and the Administration Office will be training how to handle and direct these complaints.

*When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:*

*Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods*

*Nays: None*

*Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.*

iv. *A Resolution Authorizing the City of Wood Dale Participation in the 2025-2026 Program Year, DuPage County Neighborhood Investment, Community-Wide Benefit, Accessibility Improvements, and Planning Projects Community Development Block Grant Program*

A motion was made by Alderman Artie Woods, seconded by Alderwoman Ames, to *Approve A Resolution Authorizing the City of Wood Dale Participation in the 2025-2026 Program Year, DuPage County Neighborhood Investment, Community-Wide Benefit, Accessibility Improvements, and Planning Projects Community Development Block Grant Program.* When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods

Nays: None

Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

- v. *Approval of Demolition and Remediation Services for Properties Located in the City, Submitted by Fowler Enterprises LLC*

A motion was made by Alderman Artie Woods, seconded by Alderman Susmarski, to *Approve Demolition and Remediation Services for Properties Located in the City, Submitted by Fowler Enterprises LLC*. When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods

Nays: None

Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**D. Finance and Administration Committee**

- i. *A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Wood Dale and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150*

A motion was made by Alderwoman Ames, seconded by Alderman Susmarski, to *Approve A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Wood Dale and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150*.

When the question was put, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods

Nays: None

Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

**A. Airport Noise Report**

No Report

**B. Stormwater Commission Report**

No Report

XI. APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS: September 5, 2024 **\$640,145.91**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Ames, seconded by Alderman Susmarski, to approve the September 5, 2024 payment of the List of Bills, for the total amount of **\$640,145.91** for the following:

• General Fund	\$	253,532.00
• Road & Bridge Fund	\$	13,228.23
• Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	101.11

• Tourism Fund	\$	12,656.09
• Narcotics Fund	\$	763.43
• TIF District #1	\$	7,321.00
• TIF District #2	\$	126.00
• TIF District #3	\$	1,575.00
• Capital Projects Fund	\$	70,387.94
• Land Acquisition Fund	\$	-
• Commuter Parking Lot Fund	\$	2,123.18
• Sanitation Fund	\$	75,825.54
• Water & Sewer Fund	\$	126,790.01
• CERF	\$	75,716.38
• Special Service Area Fund	\$	-
<b>Total of all Funds:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>640,145.91</b>
<b>Total Number of Checks:</b>		<b>85</b>

When the question was put a roll call vote was taken with the following results:  
Ayes: Alderwoman Ames, Alderman Catalano, Alderman Curiale, Alderman  
Messina, Alderman Susmarski, Alderman Art Woods, Alderman Artie Woods  
Nays: None  
Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION  
None

XIII. ITEMS TO BE REFERRED  
None

XIV. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY  
None

XV. ADJOURNMENT  
A motion was made by Alderman Susmarski, seconded by Alderwoman Ames, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 5, 2024. When the question was put, all Aldermen voted in the affirmative. Whereupon the Mayor declared the City Council Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.