

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Regular Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, March 9, 2026. Mayor Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., and City Clerk Cassidy called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Also, present were Chris Sherer (City Attorney) Alan Hard, Audra Elam, Chief of Police Earin Land, Ben Schwarm (Journal News), Ellen Christner (Pana News) Kaitlyn Fath (MCEDC), and Jake Lenord was in at 7:07 P.M. Officer Sands was in at 7:22 P.M.

VISITORS

Audra Elam from WIU Fellow of Community & Economic Development & AmeriCorps Volunteer serving the City was present to give the council her activity report, Ms. Elam reported on all of the projects she has been working on with the City of Nokomis and the Newkomis Group. Ms. Elam discussed the Newkomis Small Business Competition and how the Newkomis Group plans to host a small business competition to allow businesses to pitch their business plan for the chance to win the old Hippy Trip building, the competition would include a set of rules. Ms. Elam explained the rules, the claw backs of the competition and the possibility of long-term benefits to the community. Discussion was held on the condition of the building.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Goldsmith stated that the consent agenda for the March 9, 2026, regular meeting minutes, and the March 9, 2025 closed meeting minutes.

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner O'Malley seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn abstained, Nays none, the motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance and Communication:

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve ordinance 2148, an ordinance amending section 38-8-5 of Chapter 33 Street Regulations Article VIII of the City Code of the Nokomis in regard to Snow Removal. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith, Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve ordinance 2149, an ordinance amending section 1-2-26 and 1-2-50 of the revised code ordinance establishing an anti-nepotism policy. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith, Nays none, the motion carried.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Morris reported to the council that the new truck is back from getting the bed put on and is operational.

Commissioner Arkebauer reported that he and Dylan met with Cameron from Benton Engineering and took a tour of the wastewater plant. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that everything looks really nice, and KMAX will be back once everything dries out to seed for grass, and they are supposed to have the road fixed by June 30th.

Commissioner O'Malley reported on the revenues in the amount of \$42,286.26.

Mayor Goldsmith held discussions on the water wells and potential funding for a new water well or purchasing an existing well from a neighboring community.

Approval of Bills

Commissioner O'Malley made a motion to approve bills in the amount of \$118,349.76. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the on the community rummage sales that will take place April 17th and 18th. Discussion was then held on the City Wide Clean up days and the electronic recycle days.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the City Clean up days to be May 18th – 25th pending availability. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve electronic recycle day with BLH on May 30th. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Kaitlyn Fath from Montgomery County Economic Development was present to address the council and discuss the Great Rivers and Routes and Montgomery County Economic Development Contracts to explain all the great benefits and what they have to offer. Ms. Fath did a run down of the history of the projects that the MCED has completed in the last several years. Mayor Goldsmith stated it was Great Rivers and Routes that helped get the interview to promote the Snowkomis Celebration.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the Great Rivers and Routes contract. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Officer James Sands was present to present the council with a request to apply for a body camera grant. Officer Sands explained to the council that the current body cameras are not performing like they should, they are not holding charge, and the system is deleting footage.

Officer Sands stated that there are different options, but they would like to get eight body cameras and one in car camera. The in-car camera would be for the squad that Luna is in. Discussion was held on the current body camera contract and if they can be fixed through the warranty. Discussion was held on what was included in the grant. Officer Sands stated that the request for today was just to move forward with the grant process due to time restraints.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to apply for the 8:1 grant. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith, Nays none, the motion carried.

Discussion was held on the difference between this grant and the body cameras we currently have and the radios we purchased a few years ago.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that the Newkomis group has asked if the council would be willing to create an exception grant for the small business grant competition by raising the grant amount to \$50,000.00. Discussion was held on what that should look like and how involved the city will be in the process. Commissioner O'Malley stated that the building has good bones, but it will need a lot done to the interior. Commissioner Glenn stated that he would like to go see the building. Commissioner Morris asked what happens if we make this exception, and other businesses want exceptions. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he encourages people to ask for additional help if they need more help than the basic grant covers. Discussion was held on the small business competition. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he would like to set up a business license and incentives for the Business district grant that require a building inspection. Ms. Fath from MCED stated that Great Rivers and Routes could help promote the competition and they could promote it through the DCEO newsletter and the SIUE small business development center.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the creation of a small business exception grant up to \$50,000.00. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Closed Session

Other Business

Adjournment

With nothing else to report Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion adjourn at 8:16 P.M. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Cassidy
City Clerk