

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Special Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2023

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held a Special Meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on August 16, 2023. City Clerk Hill called roll. Those present were Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer. Commissioner Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith were absent. Also present was City Clerk Hill, Deputy Clerk Smith. Keith Hancock, Jim Ruppert, Derek Durbin, Gary and Clarann Hulbert, Alan Hard, Steven Guinn, Dolan Omalley, Ellen Christner (Pana News) and Lee Beckman (Milano & Grunloh)

Commissioner Glenn requested a motion be made for someone to be temporarily in charge of running the meeting in the absence of Mayor Goldsmith and Commissioner Stauder. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to appoint Michael Glenn a temporary chairman of the meeting. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn and Arkebauer. Nays none the motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn stated that he called this meeting for information purposes, Commissioner Glenn requested that all public comment be limited until the end of the meeting, and there will be no motions or resolutions for tonight. Visitor Clarann asked why Mr. Beckman was not at the regular meeting. Commissioner Glenn explained that his items were not on the last agenda, so he asked Mr. Beckman to come for a special meeting.

Mr. Beckman provided some papers to the council that included a copy of the Cities NPDES permit and a calculation sheet and existing layout of the wastewater plant, Mr. Beckman stated that they came to the city about a year a half ago with EJ Water. They are not associated with EJ Water, but they do work for them, they came to look at the wastewater plant and did an evaluation. Looking at violations with ammonia and BODs. Mr. Beckman explained that they worked with another municipality that had the same issues and similar treatment techniques that Nokomis currently uses, he stated that they were able to downgrade the type of plant they were to a less mechanical plant. The plant has aerated lagoons with a biological factor to help remove the ammonia and that plant cost 1.8 million dollars and it is a smaller plant than Nokomis and in conversations it was talked about that Nokomis could do something similar. Mr. Beckman stated that he has not done any studies for Nokomis or talked to the EPA. Just only conversations. Mr. Beckman stated that there may be a couple other items that are being addressed with the current plans, but that he is not sure what the city is doing with our improvements. Mr. Beckman stated that is not sure what our current plans are, but that Milano

and Grunloh do a lot of the things not just water and sewer, street, site plans grant applications. Mr. Beckman went on to describe the system they built for the City of Neoga. Discussion was held on the wafer system that they use. Mr. Beckman went on to describe the MBBR system and how it works, and how a rock filter system works. Commissioner Arkebauer asked if the MBBR system would be cheaper. Mr. Beckman responded that it would depend on the design calculations but could be cheaper or comparable. Commissioner Glenn stated that he thought the plant in Neoga could serve a population of 2500 people. Discussion was held on infiltration. Commissioner Glenn asked if there is a smell difference between a mechanical plant and an aerated basin. Mr. Beckman stated that there is probably less with an aerated basin because sludge stinks. Discussion was held on dissolved oxygen limits. Commissioner Glenn explained what he saw during his tour of the Neoga plant. Mr. Beckman explained that this concept can be done by anyone, and this is a widely known concept that a lot of places use. Commissioner Glenn asked what would it cost for a system like this for a city the size of ours. Mr. Beckman stated that he would estimate it to cost around four million dollars but would want to double check that with some verification because he is not sure what is in our current scope of work, and he has not seen the exact scope of work. Commissioner Glenn asked if that would include engineering services, Mr. Beckman's stated that he believes so, Commissioner Arkebauser asked if the City got on board with his plan how would that work with the EPA. Mr. Beckman stated that he has not seen where its stated that the City of Nokomis has to have a new plant built by a certain date but he would want to double check that. Mr. Beckman stated that the permitting plans could take at least six months. And it would have to be approved by the EPA. Discussion was held on the soil and if the current lagoons have liners. Commissioner Glenn stated that one of the concerns was that the EPA could start fining us if we switched companies. Mr. Beckman stat that you would want to get that in writing but that no one can say yes they will or no they won't, but that the City would want to get that is writing. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that the City is second on the list to receive funds will that go away if we switch. Mr. Beckman responded that they have a funding list, and they rescore every year, if the City did not go through with the funding, we would go back into the funding pool next year. Stating that it depends on where we ranked, but that we may just go back into the pool for next year's funding. Discussion was held on loan forgiveness and what the EPA offers and if they City would lose that. Discussion was also held on the noncompliance funding.

Commissioner Glenn stated that the City does not have a licensed water operator, Commissioner Glenn asked if Mr. Beckman's firm was doing the wastewater project and what there fee be to be a water operator. Mr. Beckman stated that they currently have a class A operator on staff, and they currently charge the City of Toledo \$600.00 a month and there he is required to be there two hours a week, but it would depend on what the plant requires because Toledo is smaller than Nokomis, he would need to know how many hours a week are required. A discussion was held on the licensed operator for a water plant. Mr. Beckman stated

that that it depends on the scope of services for the cost. Commissioner Arkebauer asked what municipalities they work for in this area. Mr. Beckman stated that they currently work for Witt, Coffeen, and Litchfield and about forty different municipalities. Commissioner Arkebauer asked what other local sewer plants they have designed. Mr. Beckman stated that they are working with Witt on a sewer replacement project but that they have done a lot of work in the Effingham area.

Mr. Beckman stated that that it would be a couple months to verify with the EPA that we could switch there would be paperwork to file, and we would have to get the EPAs blessing to move forward. Discussion was held on preliminary information that would be needed to submit to the EPA for permitting. Mr. Beckman stated that the review process for the sewer could take 60 to 90 days. Discussion was held on the media wafers, and the buildings and potential maintenance that would need to be done. Commissioner Arkebauer asked Mr. Beckman on a scale of one to ten how confident he is that the same system would work for Nokomis. Mr. Beckman stated that assuming there is nothing crazy in our compliance he would say on 8, it not a guarantee. Commissioner Glenn asked if there were any more questions. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that he has no other questions.

Commissioner Glens stated that he believes that they are planning to have another special meeting for another date that they can all make a motion to adjourn this special meeting for another date next week that all five can be at and Milano and Grunloh and Benton and Associates, Commissioner Arkebauer stated asked Mr. Beckman if that was ok to which Mr. Beckman stated, he has no problem with that he just wants to be available to the City if they want help. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that they just want to hear both options. Discussion was held on the city's population, and the wastewater plants size.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to adjourn to a date to be determined in the future. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn and Arkebauer. Nays none the motion carried. The time was 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Hill
City Clerk