

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Regular Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2024

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, September 23, 2024. Mayor Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and Deputy Clerk Smith called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Also, present was Attorney Chris Sherer, Ellen Christener (Pana News), Donald Baxter, Stevie Guinn, Karen and Mike Vancura, Brian Hayes, and Cameron Jones (Benton and Associates).

VISITORS

Donald Baxter was present to ask the council about the City's water loss. Donald asked the cost of water per gallon billed, and how many water bills are sent out. Donald stated that he is going to work on numbers to give to the council pertaining to water loss.

Karen VanCura was present to dispute the water charges at 904 E Union. She stated that she has never lived in this residence, it is owned and occupied by her stepbrother Telles Jone La Londe after the passing of her Stepfather. Karen gave the council a timeline of all events dating back to 2019 with Angie Keage the City Clerk. Karen started going through the timeline with Mayor Goldsmith asking for her to give a simple version of the events. With Mayor Goldsmith stating that the City will be putting a lean on the property and removed all responsibility from Karen, Karen asked to get that in writing, so a letter will be sent to her stating that she is not responsible for the water bill at 904 E Union.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the August 30, 2024, regular meeting was presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the September 9, 2024, regular meeting was presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn and Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Commissioner Stauder abstained. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Ordinance 2129 an ordinance amending ordinance 2125 and the façade site improvements, and sign grant assistance program in the amending business district for the City of Nokomis was presented with corrections made by Attorney Sherer. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he would like the redlined version before he approved it. Attorney Shere will get the council a redlined version.

Ordinance 21XX amending portions of chapter 38 of the revised code or ordinances regarding delinquencies was presented with Deputy Clerk Smith stating that she had not had the meeting she requested to go over her questions, so the ordinance was not ready to pass. Commissioner Arkebauer stated he would come in tomorrow and discuss her questions.

Reports of City Officers

With Commissioner Morris absent Commissioner Glenn presented a fence permit 316 Albert St. A brief discussion was had with Commissioner Glenn stating he would call the homeowner with questions.

Commissioner Glenn presented a building permit at 507 Williams stating the homeowner asked to pull the permit as he will be making changes.

Commissioner Glenn stated that the street department has been busy replacing water meters with Stevie Guinn present he stated that the water department are replacing the million-gallon meters themselves and the street department has been cleaning up brush, patching holes, dug a ditch, and replaced a water meter at the water plant.

A discussion was had on the fire hydrant at the nursing home and the need to get this done, with Mayor Goldsmith and Commissioner Arkebauer setting up a time on Thursday to go and mark the hydrants new placement out, so the Street Department can place the new hydrant.

Commissioner Arkebauer let the council know that a pump needed to be replaced or rebuilt at the wastewater plant, with this pump already being rebuilt twice all was in agreement to purchase a new pump. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that filter 2 at the water plant went down over the weekend and lost all of its media and will need to be repaired. The Council discussed the possibility of doing both filters 1 and 2, and no decision was made. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that the water and wastewater departments are working on replacing million gallon read meters, and a new meter was placed at the water plant.

Commissioner Stauder reported the revenue of \$381,637.05.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$362,515.68. Mayor Goldsmith asked if this included the WHKS invoice from the last meeting. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith asked why the street department rented a backhoe, Stevie Guinn stated that a sensor went out and it took a week to get in and fixed, and the issue was under warranty.

Mayor Goldsmith stated the discussion on advertising for part time help at City Hall. With all agreeing this will be put out in the papers. Mayor Goldsmith also stated that he had been in contact with Chris Coss about the tower owned by the City. Chris stated that the 911 service is still on the tower and will need a yearly inspection. Mayor Goldsmith stated that we would need to get a contract with someone like Creg Antenna's for a yearly inspection. Mayor Goldsmith stated that the IML conference went well with a lot of discussion on TIF districts.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Glenn started the brief conversation on 511 ½ S. Spruce St. with him stating he would reach out to Jo Cervi to get a detailed proposal to remove and clean up the property.

A brief discussion was held on the resurfacing of the City Hall complex parking lot and the front facing wall and fence replacement. No decision was made at this time, but all was in agreement that the wall needed to be fixed first.

The IRWA water rate study was discussed, with no report back from RCAP, Mayor Goldsmith will have a meeting with Roger from Farnsworth Group to discuss the IRWA rate study that was submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the closed meeting minutes from May 2024 to June of 2024. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Cameron Jones from Benton and Associates was present to present the IEPA funding request #6 for \$285,475.29. Commissioner Stauder asked if the rock issue was solved with Cameron stating yes, we are getting some from down south and some for here in town. Cameron stated that the project is going slow as the contractors are waiting for materials. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve IEPA fund #6 for \$285,475.29. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Cameron went on to the awarding of bids for the CDBG lift station grant project by stating that DCEO needs to look over the bids and this is not ready to be awarded, but Benton's will be recommending EL Prutt for \$1,623,097.50.

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the purchase of a new pump for the wastewater plant for \$19,520 to C&C pumps. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to go into executive session during its regular session at 8:05 P.M. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee of the public body (5ILCS 120/2 (C) (1). Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Other Business

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to resume the regular session at 8:11 P.M. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to hire Dylan Cloe for water, wastewater, and meter reading. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried

A brief discussion was held on the Stombaugh property. Mayor Goldsmith stated that the title company has the City owning 15x30 square where the well is placed and a 25-foot permanent easement around the square. Mayor Goldsmith asked Attorney Sherer to send a letter stating that to Mr. Stombaugh. Commissioner Stauder asked if we needed to put a fence around the well.

Adjournment

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 P.M. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Karri Smith
Deputy Clerk