

City of Nokomis
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, January 24, 2022. Mayor Holliday called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the City Clerk called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Stauder, Durbin, Nash, and Mayor Holliday. Also present were City Clerk Hill and Attorney Chris Sherer, Commissioner Glenn was present on Zoom. Visitors present: Eric Emmerich (EJ Water), Jennie Snyder (SIUC), Roger Nuxoll (Farnsworth) and Ellen Christner (Free Press), Tim Chumley, Scott Hunt (WHKS) and Gary Hulbert. Jack Tosetti entered the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

VISITORS

Jennie Snyder from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale introduced herself to the Council. Ms. Snyder informed the council that she is a researcher and she and her team from the collage have been working with the Illinois Nutrient Research and Educations Council to help farmers reduce nutrient loss, they will begin evaluating streambank and in-stream erosion in two streams in the Kaskaskia River Basin. They will study several banks in the stream and even use a drone that will create a topographical map of the stream.

Eric Emmerich from EJ water provided the Mayor and Council members last year's annual packet of information about the company. Mr. Emmerich stated he had spoken to Commissioners Nash and Glenn about doing an assessment for the City. Mr. Emmerich continued to inform the Council about the history of EJ water and their scope of services. He went on to state the company would put together a 10 year plan, he stated that the company would look at the debt to meter gain. Commissioner Nash asked if EJ water would take on the City's debt, Eric said yes, and they would create a ten year plan and work with our current City engineers. The city would keep our current funds in our water accounts and EJ would assume our debt. Commissioner Nash then asked if they would pay to take down our old water tower. Mr. Emmrich went on to discuss a similar project they had done in Shumway. Commissioner Stauder asked if we would have to cap our current wells. Mr. Emmerich went on to talk about a similar water take over at another town. He stated eventually EJ would decide what to do with the plant and potentially retire the plant, gut it and return it to the property owners. They would do the same with the wells. He stated other towns have retired the plant, gutted it and turned it into a shop. Commissioner Nash asked if they would cap off the wells and he stated that they would probably lease the wells from the City until they can furnish the City with water then cap them off, fill them in and return them to the City. Tim Chummley asked Mr. Emmerich if EJ would use our new water tower to furnish water to towns around us. Mr. Emmrich said no, they would not use our tower because it is not tall enough, it is only big enough for the City of Nokomis. Commissioner Nash asked if EJ water would fix the water breaks. Mr. Emmerich let the Council know that yes they would come in and fix the water line breaks. Our employees would have the option to apply for EJ water. Mayor Holliday asked what EJ water would do

with the lead service lines? Eric let the Council know that EJ is looking for grants for other communities for replacement and they would do the same for Nokomis. Scott Hunt asked Mr. Emmerich if EJ comes in where would the water come from. Emmerich stated the water would come from the Kaskaskia south of Effingham where they have a reservoir. He went on to discuss other plans EJ water has in there ten year plan including a new plant near the Wabash River. There was then a brief discussion about booster stations for chlorination, and the size of EJs wells. Discussion was then had about how long it will take Coalton to get water supplied from EJ. Eric stated it would probably be at least three years until they could get a water tower. The council then discussed other matters with EJ. Eric stated that they currently are 70 Million in debt, but that the City of Nokomis would be one of the largest Cities they would be proving water with and that any problem with the EPA would be EJs problem not the City's problem. Roger Nuxoll with Farnsworth was present to answer any questions for him, at this time Mr. Nuxoll did speak up and let the Council know that he believes rates are regional. Commissioner Stauder asked about a timeline if the city was to go with EJ water, how long would it take. Emmerich stated that they could take over in about three months then full transition in about a year. At this time Jack Tossetti spoke up from the crowd stating he was born in Nokomis and will die in Nokomis and then expressed his opinion on the matter letting the Council know he thinks the Council should listen to what EJ has to say. Mr. Nuxoll then spoke up and stated he believes the City should let EJ water do an assessment but that usually communities go with EJ water because they do not have another option, but we currently have options and that City has projects in motion and an ordinance in place for the water rates. With rate forgiveness for our current project and new projects. Nuxoll also stated that EJs water rates would be comparable to what we currently have and the system would be our, and city would have control of the rates. Commissioner Nash states he would like to see the assessment done, the rest of the present Council agrees. Nuxoll asked about the water emergency interconnect contact. Emmerich stated that he would like to wait until the assessment is finished and that could take three weeks to a month. The Council agreed to wait on the contract and allow EJ to do the assessment. Mr. Emmerich stated he will be in contact with Commissioner Nash.

Scott Hunt with WHKS was present to address the Council with the 2022 MFT plan. Mr. Hunt let the Council know that the prices of rock, oil and chip have all gone up. He let the Council know that we will set a bid date after IDOT approval. He also updated the Council on the downtown grant letting them know we should hopefully find out around April or May.

Roger Nuxoll updated the Council on the IEPA loan, stating that the loan was submitted and the permits have be submitted for approval for the work that will need done on Rt. 16.

Discussion was then had on the importance of water quality, source of water and water pressure.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January, 10 2022 Public Hearing meeting were presented. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Nash seconded the

motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Nash and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Commissioner Durbin abstained Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the January 10, 2022 Regular Session meeting were presented. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Nash and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Commissioner Durbin abstained. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the January 10, 2022 Executive meeting were presented. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Nash and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Commissioner Durbin abstained. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Stauder reported monthly revenues in the amount of \$110,765.43

Commissioner Nash reported that he and Lou had a meeting with a plant alarm system out of St. Louis. He also let the Council know everything is going good. He then presented the Council with a building permit for 422 Williams St. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the building permit. Commissioner Durbin seconded motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Stauder Abstained and Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none. The motion carried. Commissioner Nash then suggested we have a sale of surplus property, the Council members all agreed to the idea, Commissioner Durbin also stated we have some materials we could get rid of. Commissioner Nash stated he would have the department superintendents get a list of materials together.

Commissioner Durbin read a letter of thanks from Commissioner Glenn to the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their work put into collecting information for the Downtown Nokomis Beautification Grant. He then provided the Mayor and Commissioners with a five year rotation plan for the trucks and equipment. Commissioner Durbin let the Council know that we have equipment breaking down a lot and we are spending money on repairs. A short discussion was then had on rotating mowers between plants. Commissioner Durbin also informed the Council that bids are being put together for a new dump truck but it could be 2023 before we get a new one.

Approval of Bills

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$45,737.35 Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was had in regards to the lease agreement with the Nokomis Fire Department, with Gary Hulbert the Council discussed who would be in charge of mowing and taking care of the grounds. Mr. Hulbert said the fire department would be taking charge of that. They also discussed the contract term and price to rent the ground. The council decided on a 99 year term for \$1.00 a year. Commissioner Nash then suggested the city add in a termination clause in the contract incase either party wanted to part ways. Mr. Hulbert then wanted to add that if the City decided to sell the property they City would reimburse the Fire Department for work put into the property with the option for the fire department to purchase the property first.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Commissioner Durbin for WHKS to take over the 2022 MFT program. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Stauder, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Durbin made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:56 p.m. for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of the Public Body (5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1)). Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Durbin made a motion to resume regular session at 9:06 p.m. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Other Business

Mayor Holliday reported that he will start interviews for Chief of Police and potentially set up a Special Meeting for later in the week.

Adjournment

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Hill
City Clerk