

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Regular Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Mayor Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the City Clerk Hill called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Also, present was Attorney Chris Sherer, and Chief Talon Burton; Ellen Christener (Pana News) Allan Hard, Keith Hancock (City Administrator), and Cheryl Miles.

VISITORS

None of the Visitors on the agenda were present.

Cheryl Miles was present at the meeting and approached the council to discuss her issue with a tree that needs to be cleaned up. Ms. Miles stated that she lives at 210 N. Spruce. She stated that she had worked out a deal with the neighbor about cutting down a tree. She let the council know that the neighbor owns both houses on both sides of her property, she let the council know that she paid her half of the cost of the tree to be taken down, but the neighbor has not cleaned it up. Ms. Miles stated that there are snakes and racoons that are living in the grass and weeds and the empty house. Commissioner Glenn stated that he, Chief Burton and Commissioner Morris have looked at the neighbor's property. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he has also spoken with Chief Burton about the property. Mayor Goldsmith let Ms. Miles know that someone will speak to the neighbor about cleaning up the remaining tree.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the September 11, 2023, regular meeting was presented. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the September 11, 2023, executive meeting was presented. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the September 14, 2023, special meeting was presented. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes,

Commissioners Glenn, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the September 25, 2023, regular meeting was presented. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, and Stauder; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Glenn addressed the council to let them know that he had spoken to Commissioner Morris about the fence permit and there were no issues on the application. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the fence permit at 615 Capps. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he has looked at the business district grant and sees no issues. It is for heating and air conditioning improvements. And is subject to payment upon receipt. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the business district grant for 206 W State St. Commissioner Stauder suggested we put the item on the next agenda when we have a full council to vote.

Commissioner Glenn stated that the Street Department has been busy cleaning up leaves and cleaning out catch basins, the truck has been fixed. Commissioner Stauder asked Commissioner Glenn what took the truck so long to get fixed. Commissioner Glenn stated that apparently the first person that was contacted was not responding and the street superintendent had to find someone else to come and look at it. Mr. Hancock stated that was his understanding as well. Tim Chumley had contacted a mechanic in Hillsboro, and he had not shown up to fix the truck, so he called someone else, and they had the truck fixed in 24 hours.

Commissioner Stauder asked for an update on the trailer court, stating that he thought that the trailer was supposed to be moved over the weekend. Chief Burton stated that he was supposed to have the trailer moved but that he could not get the trailer to move with his tractor. Chief Burtons stated that it would be up to the council to decide how they wish to move forward. Commissioner Stauder stated that the windows have been taken out and doors have been removed. It should be deemed unsafe. Discussion was held on the contract that the property owner had originally signed. Commissioner Glenn stated that he we could start fining him more, but he cannot afford to pay the fines. Commissioner Glenn asked Attorney Sherer what he would suggest. Attorney Sherer stated that the City could do a 30-day notice after title search with all parties notified, and published notice, then after the 30 days' notice the City would have 90 days to clean up the property. Discussion was held on the best way to move forward with getting that property cleaned up. Attorney Sherer stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to come up with a punch list of properties that the City could take to court all at one time. Mayor Goldsmith stated he would like to get it taken care of and to move forward with posting a 30-day notice, getting a salvage title and the additional fines for both cleaning up the property.

Commissioner Stauder stated that the detention tank rehabilitation bid opening will be on Thursday, October 12. And the SCADA system is waiting on approval from the federal EPA.

Mayor Goldsmith reported on the revenues in the amount of \$1,203,411.81.

Approval of Bills

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the bill's totaling \$226,177.89 Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn addressed the Chief to let him know that he is very happy with the Police Departments monthly report and can tell he is making a difference.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he had a meeting with EJ Water on the water and wastewater contracts and they are being fixed.

Mayor Goldsmith addressed the council to let them know that after looking at the lease program information he does not like the lease program, adding that the interest in the program would be enough to purchase a new car. He added that he would rather just buy the vehicle outright than spend that money on interest. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he has spoken with a few other municipalities, and they typically just purchase the vehicle outright with the extended warranty and then trade in a rotation. Mayor Goldsmith stated that its not just the Police Department vehicles its all of the City vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Goldsmith asked about the electric vehicle charging station. Clerk Hill stated that she has requested additional information but has not received a response.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the trick or treating hours for October 30 & 31 from 4:00- 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the flu shot clinic for the City of Nokomis employees. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that Commissioner Morris wanted to discuss creating a motorized bicycle ordinance. And would like to add it back to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve IEPA loan application pay request #4 for project L17-6047. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Nays none the motion carried.

Commissioner Stauder asked for an update on the SRO contract. Attorney Sherer stated that the other parties have reviewed the contract and have asked for additional changes to be made. Mayor Goldsmith asked Attorney Sherer if the Project Labor Agreement was ready to be sent to the Union. Attorney Sherer stated that he would like to wait.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he would like a decision to be made on the older dump truck that has been broken down. Commissioner Glenn stated that the truck is a junker and needs to be replaced. Commissioner Stauder questioned if we should even replace it. Commissioner Glenn stated that yes, he believes we should replace it, but we don't need a new truck but a nice used truck. Keith Hancock stated that he has started looking for nice used trucks and there are some in the area. Discussion continued on the need for the truck.

Commissioner Stauder addressed the council about the vacant house ordinance. Stating that he would like to see some changes made to the ordinance. Commissioner Stauder stated that a couple of the visitors listed were for vacant house ordinance violations and not all houses that are vacant doesn't mean that its not lived in. Chief Burton stated that is up to the council to decide. Commissioner Stauder stated that different people have different circumstances. Commissioner Stauder stated that he would like to have the ordinance revisited for some clarification and wording changes. Commissioner Stauder stated that we have people living in houses in worse shape than some of the houses that are being considered vacant. Chief Burton stated that some of the houses that are vacant could be for sale, and that would entice people to move into town. Discussion continued about vacant houses in town.

Adjournment

With nothing else to discuss and no need for executive session Commissioner Stauder made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioners Morris and Arkebauer were absent. Nays none. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Hill
City Clerk