

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Regular Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2025

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Tuesday, October 14, 2025. 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. Mayor Commissioner Glenn was absent. Also, present were Chris Sherer (City Attorney) Alan Hard, Tim Chumley (Street Superintendent), Ellen Christner (Pana News), Audra Elam, Sue Foster, Joan Vazzi (in at 7:25 P.M.) Margie Eisnebarth, Pam Pugh, Stan Urban, Suzann Kimbro, David Speagal (Benton Engineering) Sergeant Racheal Ehrhardt, Chief Talon Burton, Officers Nathan Brookshire, James Sands and Landon Collins, Josh Robison

VISITORS

Stan Urban of Hera Property Registry was present to explain what the Hera company and what they can do for the community. Mr. Urban stated that the company works for over 200 municipalities nationwide and 50 of those are in Illinois, his company will identify problem properties through foreclosures, code complaints, tax-delinquency and USPS vacancy indicators and help from the municipalities. They would then send out notices and tickets to the owners. Mr. Urban stated that the city would need to adopt their ordinance to replace the one we currently have on file. In the ordinance they would set new fee amounts. The Hera company would not issue invoices to the city but would collect 20% of the fees collected. Mr. Urban stated that the national average is \$325.00, the city would get \$200.00, and the Hera company would collect \$125.00. However, that is just an example, and the city would be able to set the vacant house registry at whatever fee they agree to. Discussion was held on the foreclosure timeline. Chief Burton stated that the city already does a lot of those things and already has most of the information needed. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he really liked the website and accessibility, stating that this would help refine our process. Mayor Goldsmith asked the council to consider approving the Hera Property Registry company to located and create a registry of the vacant house properties at the next meeting.

Pam Pugh was present to express her concerns about her sidewalk, tree and the alley behind her house. Ms. Pugh stated that she has lived in her house for over 14 years and has recently bought the house next door and it has been torn down and recently put in a new pool. Ms. Pugh stated that with the new business going behind her house she is concerned about the dust. Mayor Goldsmith stated that they do plan to oil and chip the rest of the alley to cut back on dust. Ms. Pugh stated that she would like to see the sidewalk replaced in front of her house, the tree roots have lifted and cracked her sidewalk and it has become a trip hazard, she has also stated that she has requested that her tree be taken down it drops crabapples and they are always hauling them out to the burn pile. Mayor Goldsmith stated that city unfortunately can't take down all the trees that need to be cut down and will only be replacing sidewalks in some areas. Discussion was held on her tree and sidewalk. Mayor Goldsmith stated that they would look into it and thanked Ms. Pugh for her patience. Visitor Alan Hard asked if her sidewalk is in the business district and if we can use business district funds to replace that sidewalk. Mayor

Goldsmith stated that it is in the business district, and he will look into potentially using those funds.

Discussion was held on the alley, Mayor Goldsmith stated that the rest of that alley will be oil and chipped.

Visitor Sue Foster stated that she is present from the Woman's club and just wanted to check and see if the plug-ins at the Fred B. Johnson Park have been fixed, last year after they put up the Christmas lights they did not always work. Mayor Goldsmith let her know that they have been fixed but if any other problem come up to let him know. Sue also stated that she was present with concerns about the K9. Mayor Goldsmith stated that they would get to that soon.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of September 22, 2025, public hearing minutes were presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

The minutes of September 22, 2025, regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

The minutes of September 8, 2025, closed meeting were presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner O'Malley seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

The minutes of September 25, 2025, special meeting were presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance and Communication:

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve ordinance 2144, an ordinance levying tax for all corporate purposes for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, for the City of Nokomis. Commissioner O'Malley seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris abstained; Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve reimbursement #2 for the lift station project in the amount of \$ 67,909.95. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Discussion was held on the change order request. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that he had spoken with Cameron from Bentons and Associates and the change order is not ready to be approved. Mayor Goldsmith requested that the change order be added to the next meeting agenda.

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve reimbursement #19 in the amount of \$435,150.30. Commissioner O'Malley seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

David from Benton and Associates was present to give an update of the wastewater treatment plant project. He stated that they will be out this week to start training on the new plant and run the bar screen.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Morris let the council know that the street department did a great job fixing the water leak last week.

Discussion was held on the water foreman taking the water operator's test. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that he would like to see him try in December then if he doesn't pass, he can try again in February, but they do offer testing in both Springfield and Edwardsville. Discussion was held on figuring out an incentive for passing the test.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the building permit at 518 N Cedar for a garage. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Arkebauer reported that they did have a leak on Thursday, but everyone did great job getting fixed. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that they are moving along with the Wastewater treatment plant, and they will be doing training tomorrow on the new plant. Brotcke will be in town this week and Cameron will be working on getting the change order updated.

Commissioner O'Malley made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 759,097.88. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith reported that the new jetter did come in.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that the city has also received a grant for engineering cost for the rebuild downtown grant in the amount of \$245,000.00. Discussion was held on the use of the grant funds.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that when he attended the IML he met a salesperson from Gogov they are a company that has an app that offers workflow technology that allows the resident to

reach out to the department they need for work requests. They would also be able to pay bills and permit application fees. With the app, whoever is over that department would get a notification and the ability to speak directly to the residents, it would also help with reminders. Mayor Goldsmith stated that it would be expensive starting at \$14,000.00 annually, he stated that he would like for the council to consider using the estimated \$15,000.00 that the city will collect once the solar project is done.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he is going to reach out to some other municipalities to see if they would be interested in doing a cost share for a code enforcement officer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he would like to make it clear that he would like to keep Luna, she is an asset to the community. Commissioner O'Malley agreed and Commissioner Morris agreed stating that we all know someone who struggles with addiction and would like to see the drugs off the streets. Commissioner Morris stated that it was the unexpected additional cost that kept coming up that was being questioned, not if we needed the dog. Discussion was held on the K9. Officer Brookshire stated he had told the council in the initial meeting that there would be additional cost involved but that to date he has only spent donation money on the dog. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that he agreed we need the dog but that there was not enough transparency initially and everything was rushed. Mayor Goldsmith asked if any of the visitors had any questions about the dog. Visitor Margie Eisenbarth asked how much it costs to keep the K9. Officer Brookshire replied, \$4,500.00 extra dollars in payroll a year. Discussion was held on the dog, contract, court costs and the distance Luna would travel to respond to a call. Commissioner O'Malley stated that if Officer Brookshire left then the city would have to find a new handler and that would be an added expense. Officer Brookshire stated that if Luna is here then he will be.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the asphaltting of part of the alley located at Farmers Station. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the employee flu clinic. Commissioner O'Malley seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Discussion was held on adding a 4- Way stop at Franklin and Oak Street. Commissioner Morris stated she was approached by someone that lives in the area who asked for a stop sign due to vehicles that speed down that road. Discussion was held at the intersection. Commissioner Morris made a motion to put in a 4-way stop at Oak and Franklin. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Morris made a motion to go into closed session at 8:12 P.M. to discuss (1) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of the employees (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(2), (2) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of the Public Body (5 ILCS 120/ 2 (c) (3) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6). (4) Discussion of minutes of meeting lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, for purposes of approval by the body or semi- annual review of the minutes as mandated by section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act (5ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Morris made a motion in enter regular session at 9:10 P.M. Commissioner O'Malley seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Adjournment

With nothing to report Commissioner Morris made a motion adjourn at 9:10 P.M. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Arkebauer, O'Malley and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Glenn was absent. Nays none the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Cassidy
City Clerk