

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Regular Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. 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 and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Also, present City Clerk Rachel Cassidy, Attorney Chris Sherer, Ellen Christener (Pana News), Jake Lenard, Stevie Guinn and Trevor Loafman.

VISITORS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the October 15, 2024, regular meeting was presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the revised meeting minutes. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Minutes of the November 4, 2024, rescheduled regular meeting was presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer abstained. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Minutes of the November 4, 2024, closed meeting was presented. Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer abstained. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the business district grant application for 105 W. State St. in the amount of \$12,438.10. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none, the motion carried. Commissioner Morris stated that they were approving the grant with the stipulation that from March to recently the council has approved four out of the five grant applications and the council knew there would be some issues while they were revamping the application, and unfortunately Mr. Burton got caught in the middle of it.

Commissioner Glenn stated that the street department has been busy with cleaning up leaves, brush and installing services. Commissioner Glenn stated that he would like to look into getting

a leaf vac and will look into it and would like to put in for it in the next budget. Discussion was held on the potential purchase of a leaf vac. Visitor Steven Guinn stated that they are not cheap, but it depends on what you're looking at.

Discussion was held on the fire hydrants that need to be replaced. Commissioner Glenn stated that he would reach out to Chief Smalley and figure out where he would like the hydrant.

Commissioner Arkebauer addressed the council to let them know that it has been business as usual at the wastewater plant and the construction is on going at the wastewater plant. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that the water department has finished flushing hydrants for the year and that the water department has been changing out million-gallon meters.

Discussion was held on the review of dormant utility accounts and the utility billing timeline. Commissioner Arkebauer questioned if we could send out some type of letter requesting customers to update their information in our system. Discussion continued on the need to update customer information, the need to get on-line bill pay, and what the write off steps will look like in the system. Commissioner Glenn questioned what happens if we write off these old accounts and then someone comes in that still owes us money, but we have written the account off. Discussion was then held on what steps we take to collect funds. Clerk Cassidy stated that she will have Karri look into the write off process with more detail, because the process has never been done before.

Revenues were reported in the amount of \$70,917.19

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve bills in the amount of \$31,384.85. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith addressed the council to ask if the city would be willing to purchase the cable that would be needed to run the decorative lights down Rt. 16. Then one of the community groups would purchase the lights. The present council had no problem with the city purchasing the cable. Discussion was held on the lights and cable. Mayor Goldsmith stated that we would just be purchasing cable for one side of the street this year. Then the other side next year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Goldsmith provided the council with a handout that went into detail on what he would like to request from the engineering companies on the city hall renovations. The description of the work is planned out in three phases. Discussion was held on the engineering cost, design types, metals and other materials. Mayor Goldsmith stated he would just like to get everyone on the same page. So, everyone knows what the scope of work is we are requesting. Commissioner Morris stated she just doesn't want to see additional cost later. Commissioner Arkebauer does like the idea of having the project phased out but wants to start with the front. Discussion was held on having the community vote on the design once we get some ideas. Mayor Goldsmith questioned the council on how much they are willing to spend on the renovation so that we can phase it out through the next budget our two. Mayor Goldsmith stated he would like each company to give three options. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that

he would be fine with three options, potentially 120K, 100K and one for around 80K. Discussion was held on just putting metal on the front. Commissioner Glenn stated that he had received a quote for 15- 20 thousand to put metal on the front. Mayor Goldsmith stated that Tyler Johnson had quoted an estimated thirty thousand and Commissioner Arkebauer stated that could work but he would like to see different options, because there are different types of metals and one could look better than the other, stating that he wouldn't want to pick one out, have it done then everyone hate it. Commissioner Morris stated that although some taxpayers may not want to spend the money on the project something has to be done, or we won't have a City Hall building. Mayor Goldsmith stated that we wouldn't have to include the parking lot resurfacing in the final price but may want to keep in the plans as a reminder that it is something we may want to do. Commissioner Glenn stated that something needs to be done, because we don't want mold to become a problem where the top has gaps. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he spoke with two different engineers and the front of the building is not made to shed water but that the barrier behind the decorative wood is what sheds water. Commissioner Glenn stated that he would have no problem dipping into savings to fix the wall, but he doesn't want to spend a lot of money on it. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that he has no problem with that but that he would like to see it first, we have to have some sort of barrier behind it and if you're worried about mold then you want to make sure it is done right. Commissioner Arkebauer then stated that he would like to see some sort of rendering and submittal to fall back on. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he would provide the three engineering firms we have been talking to with a copy of the scope of work that was discussed, and any other firms the council may want an opinion from. Discussion was also held on the need to clean out the drain in the parking lot and the need to have it cleaned out.

Mayor Goldsmith addressed the council to request that we switch the MFT program to Farnsworth Group, because they know what upcoming projects we would like to work on, that way they will know if we can use MFT funds to help pay for those projects. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve Farnsworth Group to manage the 2025 MFT program. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve Tyler Johnson to place a roof cap on the front of the building in the amount of \$800.00 to help keep the rain out until we can get the front of the building fixed. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes. Commissioners Morris, Glenn and Arkebauer. Mayor Goldsmith voted no. Commissioner Stauder was absent. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he had been in contact with Beyers Surveying to get a quote on surveying the water treatment plant property for re- subdividing the lots.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held on renewing the BCBS health insurance plan for 2025. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the renewal of the cities BCBS health insurance plan for 2025. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Discussion was held on the City of Nokomis being a sponsor for the Snowkomis coloring book. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he would get more information. Commissioner Arkebauer suggested the council members individually donate \$10.00 for a council donation.

CLOSED SESSION

Other Business

Adjournment

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 P.M. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays none, the motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Cassidy
City Clerk