

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Regular Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, December 11, 2023. Mayor Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and Deputy Clerk Smith called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Morris, Glenn, and Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Also, present was Attorney Chris Sherer, Ellen Christener (Pana News) Keith Hancock, Dolan O'Malley, Stevie Guinn, Andy Hanfland (Farnsworth Group), Cameron Jones (Benton and Associates), Darrell Jett (Local 1084) Mike Young (Local 1084), Kathy Pierce, and L. Kevin Turner in at 7:28 p.m.

VISITORS

Kathy Pierce was present to ask the council's permission to put up a remembrance bench at Fred B. Johnson Park. She presented the council with a photo of the bench and where she would like to place it. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he did not see a problem with it. All commissioners were in agreement that she could move forward with the purchase of the bench.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the November 27, 2023, regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris abstained. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the November 27, 2023, executive meeting were presented. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Morris abstained. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Commissioner Morris stated that she would like to pass resolution 2023-12 which will be an agreement with the Department of Revenue to see where the sales tax revenue is coming from exactly. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-12 a resolution approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a "reciprocal agreement on exchange of information between the City of Nokomis, Illinois and the Illinois Department of Revenue." Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn,

Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Cameron Jones was present to give details on ordinance 2110 increasing the bond amount for the wastewater project. Mr. Jones stated that the last bond was set at \$9 million and will need to be increased to \$10 million as the project is coming in at \$9.6 million with \$3.7 million in forgiveness. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve Ordinance 2110 -An ordinance of the City of Nokomis, Montgomery County, Illinois, proposing the incurring of a loan and issuance of sewerage revenue bonds of the City in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 for the purpose of defraying the cost of acquiring and constructing improvements to the sewerage system of the City. 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 began the discussion on Ordinance 2111 stating that the State passed a policy for paid leave and this ordinance will mostly impact part-time employees, as the full-time employees already get forty hours of paid leave. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to pass Ordinance 2111 - An ordinance amending Chapter 22 of the revised code of Ordinance of the City of Nokomis, Montgomery County, Illinois and approving a policy for paid leave. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Mr. Jones began the discussion on the awarding of a contract for the wastewater project. Mr. Jones stated that he has a meeting with the contractor on Thursday to discuss the purchase of the rock and stated that the council is at the deadline and will need to pass this tonight to not exceed the time allowed. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the awarding bid to Kamadulski in the amount of \$8,475,000 for the wastewater project. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Morris stated that she would like to see a special meeting set up before the end of the year to review the business district grant application and vacant structure ordinance. With the commissioners looking at their calendars and with the holiday's coming up, all were in agreement to look them over by the next meeting and have a special meeting in the new year. Commissioner Glenn stated that he will be gone for the January meetings.

Commissioner Glenn stated that the Street Department has been busy. They have done sixty-five potholes and replaced a service in the last week. With the April 21st deadline approaching they will continue to work on the pot holing. Keith Hancock stated that we can have Mark Sowarsh start his portion of the process. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that he would contact him and let him know. Commissioner Glenn added that the Street Department helped with the

work on the water tank at the water plant. Commissioner Glenn stated that he would like to set up a tree program to approve the kind of trees planted in the boulevards, but more information will be coming on this.

Commissioner Arkebauer stated that the sewer plant is going well, and the iron and magnesium numbers at the water plant which caused the discoloration of the water have been addressed and was due to filter #3 having a leak. Commissioner Arkebauer stated that Korte is waiting on parts to start the detention tank repairs.

Mayor Goldsmith reported the revenue of \$238,378.97.

Mayor Goldsmith also reported that he spoke with Chief Burton, and he would like the ok to start the process of hiring Nathan Brookshire as full-time police officer as the academy deadline is fast approaching. Commissioner Morris asked why we needed another full-time officer as she thought that we were fully staffed. Mayor Goldsmith stated that Harley Hedderman is going back to part-time. All were in agreement to allow Chief Burton to move forward with the process.

Mayor Goldsmith wanted to thank everyone for all their hard work during the past weekends Snowkomis event, especially the Street Department's help with the closing and unclosing of the streets and putting up all the barricades.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve bills in the amount of \$303,118.96. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the release of executive meeting minutes dating from May 8, 2023, until September 11, 2023. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the raw water main replacement to Korte in the amount of \$28,400 as there were only two bids. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Goldsmith started the conversation about opening accounts by stating that he spoke with Sonya and Karri on what kind of accounts they thought were best, and he is suggesting that we do checking accounts.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve opening a checking account at First National bank of Nokomis for the lead line grant with the grant number listed having Mayor Goldsmith, Lou Stauder, and City Clerk Hill as signers. Commissioner Arkebauer 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 opening a checking account at First National bank of Nokomis for the water treatment plant grant with the grant number listed having Mayor Goldsmith, Lou Stauder, and City Clerk Hill as signers. Commissioner Morris 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 opening a checking account at First National bank of Nokomis for the IEPA loan with the loan number being listed having Mayor Goldsmith, Lou Stauder, and City Clerk Hill as signers. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith began the discussion on the new wastewater foreman. He stated that Greg has been doing it since Brian retired. Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to hire Greg Scoles as the wastewater foreman. 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 stated that he would like to open an apparel store for the employee appreciation with the city allowing so much for each employee to spend. A brief discussion was had with all in agreement. Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the opening of an apparel store with the city paying \$100 of the purchase for each employee. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith started the discussion on the renewal of the City health insurance coverage stating that with Brian being taken off the policy and the slight rate increase it is a wash. Mayor Goldsmith stated that there are two policies, one is a national policy and one is just a state policy. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the renewal of the same National policy that the city currently has. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to go into executive session during its regular session at 7:37 p.m. to speak about the 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). Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Other Business

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to resume the regular meeting at 7:52 p.m. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Arkebauer made a motion to approve the public works union contract with changes agreed upon dating from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2025. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried. Commissioner Glenn stated that the Deputy Clerk is by herself this week and would like to have a date set of retro pay being done as of December 20, 2023.

Adjournment

Commissioner Morris made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 P.M. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer; and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Stauder was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karri Smith
Deputy Clerk