

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

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its rescheduled regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, February 12, 2024. Mayor Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and City Clerk Hill called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Also, present was Attorney Chris Sherer, Ellen Christener (Pana News) Ben Schwarm (Journal news) Alan Hard, and Stephen Bowers.

VISITORS

Stephen Bowers was present to express his concern over receiving an ordinance violation at his home. Mr. Bowers stated that he feels like he has been targeted. Mr. Bowers stated that he knows of several homes that have junk vehicles that are in worse shape than his. Mr. Bowers asked the council how the city can write ordinance violation when the city has things that need to be fixed and replaced. Mayor Goldsmith stated that the city is working on making changes and doing projects around town and is hoping the community will help clean up also. Commissioner Morris addressed Mr. Bowers to let him know that he is not being targeted, she stated that the city has sent out over 400 citations. Mr. Bowers stated that he is trying to get things fixed but that it takes time and money. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he understands and would just like to see some progress made and to keep an open line of communication.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January 29, 2024, rescheduled regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Discussion was held on Ordinance 2112. Mayor Goldsmith asked about the requirements that would need to be changed. Commissioner Morris stated that she would like to see a few things changed and maybe add a medical exemption clause and a cap on the per household fee. Commissioner Glenn questioned the medical exemption clause. Commissioner Morris stated that there is a resident that has an electric bike and due to her health, she is unable to peddle a bike. Commissioner Morris stated that we could potentially waive the fee for specific situations.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve a building located at 112 Monroe St. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn stated that he has been made aware that there have been some problems at the sewer plant, and that the street department will be starting on pot- holing again soon.

Discussion was held on the pump station grant.

Discussion was held on the monthly bills. Commissioner Stauder requested that the city look into getting Microsoft 365 and adobe for everyone, not just the police department. Commissioner Stauder also asked about the affordable junk removal bill. Mayor Goldsmith explained that there was a unique junk issue at a property in town. Discussion was held on the property and if the city should put a lean on it.

Commissioner Stauder also stated that the bill to dispatch was it pay the difference, because the City was not made aware of a price increase.

Commissioner Stauder also stated that the new generator is in.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$129,383.83. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on the year-end bonus for employees. Nothing was decided on.

Mayor Goldsmith addressed the council to let them know that the plan commission met last week with Gisele Hamm a representative from Western Illinois University who gave a presentation on community planning. Mayor Goldsmith stated that she gave a really good presentation and that the plan commission would like to see the city move forward with a comprehensive plan. Attorney Sherer stated that WIU has had a lot of success helping other communities.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that a gentleman has reached out to him about purchasing the old tornado siren. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he is a collector and would refurbish it. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to declare the siren surplus property. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith addressed the council to let them know that Gerald Robinson asked the council to consider reimbursing him for a portion on his bill or helping in some sort of way with the cost of his water line replacement after his line was damaged during the water line replacement project. Mayor Goldsmith explained the city attempted to patch the line but material of his water line was not easy to tie into and ultimately broke again and had to be fully

replaced by a plumber. Commissioner Glenn stated that he did not think the city should be responsible. Commissioner Stauder also said no.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he and Commissioner Morris had a meeting with a solar company about getting quotes to potential put solar panels on the backside of the property at the water plant. Discussion was held on the location that the panels would go. Mayor Goldsmith let the council know that the solar company will be sending additional information for the council to review.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the transferring of business district funds into certificates of deposit at Lincoln land credit union. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to open two CDs in the amount of \$100,000.00 at 5.15% for 180 days at LLCU with Mayor Dylan Goldsmith, Commissioner Louis Stauder and City Clerk Rachel Hill listed as signatories. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to open a Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$50,000.00 at 5.05% for 12 months at LLCU with Mayor Dylan Goldsmith, Commissioner Louis Stauder and City Clerk Rachel Hill as signatories. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Discussion was held on the easement that was provided by Hurst- Rosche.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he would like to get additional quotes for repairs on the roof for the City Hall building. Discussion was held on the life span of the roof.

Discussion was held on the easement that was provided by Hurst- Rosche. That includes the legal description needed for the EJ Water easement.

Commissioner Morris stated that she doesn't see an issue with the vacant house structure ordinance, however if someone wants to make changes, she thinks they should mark it up and bring it to the council for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve obtaining a judicial deed to real estate located at 511 ½ S Spruce St. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none. the motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the BLH electronic recycle day to be held on 5/11/2024. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none. the motion carried.

Commissioner Morris stated that she would like to enforce the business license application and charge a fee of \$100.00 and get the application up to date. Commissioner Glenn stated that he did not see where the fee was listed. Discussion was held on the application. Commissioner Stauder questioned if this includes business that are in homes. Commissioner Glenn questioned the purpose of charging a fee and stated that he would not want to aggravate the business owners. Commissioner Stauder agreed, stating that he did not think a fee was ever charged in the past. Commissioner Stauder asked visitor Alan Hard if remembered ever enforcing the business license application when he was on the council. Mr. Hard did not remember ever enforcing a fee for the application. Commissioner Morris stated that it is not to annoy the business owner only to make sure they are a legit business. Commissioner Stauder asked Attorney Chris Sherer if he was aware of Hillsboro dose. Attorney Sherer stated that is not sure how Hillsboro handles it. Commissioner Morris stated that he is just trying to follow the code. Mayor Goldsmith stated that he does not mind the businesses applying for a license but is not ok with charging the fee but maybe we could list the business information on our website.

Commissioner Morris stated that she did not know that a tiny home ordinance was something the council needed to consider. Commissioner Stauder stated that the previous ordinance council reviewed a tiny home ordinance but that it was dropped and never approved. Mayor Goldsmith stated that Litchfield has been struggling to set the parameters of their tiny home ordinance.

Commissioner Morris stated that she has reached out to Benton and Associates to use their structural engineer to do inspections on the downtown business. Commissioner Stauder stated that the city has looked into that before and was advised not to open that can of worms. Discussion was then held on how in depth the city should be in building inspections. Commissioner Glenn suggested we get some additional quotes from other firms before we decide to start doing building inspections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Morris made a motion to go into executive session at 8:09 p.m. for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee of the public body (5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and the setting of price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body (5ILSC 120/2 (C) Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to enter regular session at 8:52 p.m. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer was absent. Nays none, the motion carried.

Other Business

Mayor Goldsmith stated that the city will host a Special Meeting on Thursday February 15, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. but nothing else was decided in executive session.

Adjournment

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 P.M. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Commissioner Arkebauer. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Hill
City Clerk