

City of Nokomis
City of Nokomis Council Regular Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2023

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, May 8, 2023. Mayor Holliday called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the City Clerk called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Durbin, and Nash; and Mayor Holliday. Also present City Clerk Hill, Deputy Clerk Smith, Attorney Chris Sherer; Ellen Christener (Pana News) Ben Schwarm (Journal News) Clarann Hulbert, Gary Hulbert, Tim Chumley, Scott Arkebauer, Beth Arkebauer and kids, Dylan Goldsmith, Kelsey Goldsmith, Sadie Goldsmith, Carol Wright, Brett, Goldsmith, Kim Goldsmith, Tisha Morris, Roger Morris, Mason Morris, Josh Robison, Joann Stauder, Steve Guinn, Alan Hard, Talon Burton, Adam Fox (Benton & Associates) Roger Nuxoll and Andy Hanfland (Farnsworth) Jake Leonard, Terra Mills.

Recognition of Departing Council Members

Swearing in of New City Officials

Oath of Office- City Clerk Hill swore in newly elected City Officials Mayor Dylan Goldsmith, Commissioner Louis Stauder, Commissioner Scott Arkebauer, Commissioner Michael Glenn and Commissioner Tisha Morris.

Mayor Goldsmith appointed Commissioner Stauder to Finance, Commissioner Arkebauer to the Public Properties, Michael Glenn to the Street Department, and Commissioner Tisha Morris to the Department of Public Health and Safety.

City Clerk Hill called roll. Those present were Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to appoint Rachel Hill to the position of City Clerk, Commissioner Morris seconded the motion, voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to appoint Sonya Maretti to the position of Treasurer, Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to appoint Chris Sherer as the City Attorney. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none the motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to appoint Talon Burton to the position of Chief of Police. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to appoint Keith Hancock to the position of City Administrator. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

VISITORS

Terra Mills was present to voice her concerns about the new vacant house ordinance, Ms. Mills let the Council know that she is trying to help her father Brett Mills who owns several rental properties throughout town, stating he is a very ill man and is currently in the hospital again. Ms. Mills asks the Council to give her time to sort everything out as she tries to navigate her father's properties, she let the council know her dad has gotten several ordinance warnings, she stated the tickets were very vague and was only given thirty days to get everything cleaned up. Ms. Mills went on to explain the hardship rental property owners went through during COVID and the loss of revenue they had from not being able to evict renters who refused to pay. She also went on to let them know that not all of her father's properties are homes but used as warehouses. Ms. Mills also states that she has received a warning on her property that caught fire on 2/22/2023, she stated that the loss of her house has been very hard on her and her family. She stated that thirty days is not enough time to clean up her broken home, she stated that she works two full time jobs, stated and thinks this it is very insensitive of the City not to come directly to the home owner and the City hasn't offered to help.

At this time several people left and Kevin Schmitz entered the Council meeting.

Commissioner Glenn spoke with Ms. Mills to empathize with her and her situation, but that this is why we have the new vacant house Ordinance to help clean up these houses and she should still get a permit, but that the City will work with her and suggests she keeps in touch. Discussion continued about the vacant house ordinance and the fees for the permit. Ms. Mills stated she should get at least six months and not have to apply for a vacant home permit because her house caught fire. Commissioner Glenn stated that the Cities Ordinance is cheaper than other towns. Ms. Mills asked if the Council would consider waiving the fees for her father Brett Mills. Mr. Schmitz asked if they will have to pay fee if someone else buys the property. Commissioner Glenn stated yes they would, the new owner would. Discussion continued about the fees for vacant home. Mayor Goldsmith stated that she should keep in touch with the City but that we are moving on to the other visitors.

Roger Nuxoll and Andy Handfland from Farnsworth were present to introduce themselves and the company. Mr. Nuxoll described the projects they are working on including the water main project. Mr. Hanfland described the work that Roger has done including the grants and let the council know that they have helped the City get over one million dollars in grant forgiveness.

Mr. Hanfland went on to give the council a breakdown of the long history Farnsworth Company has with the City of Nokomis.

Scott Hunt from WHKS was present to introduce himself to the new City Council. Mr. Hunt let the council know that he currently helps the City with their MFT program and had previously applied to for a grant for the downtown. Unfortunately the City did not receive the grant as it went to mostly bigger Cities. Mr. Hunt went on to the let Council know his company is a full service Civil Engineering Company and he is available for any help the City may need.

Adam Fox from Benton and Associates was present to introduce himself to the City Council. Mr. Fox stated that he is the current licensed operator for the City of Nokomis water department and has been working with the City for the last three years. Mr. Fox stated that as the water operator he really appreciates the updates being done with water plant and water system and the work that Farnsworth has done. Mr. Fox continues to let the Council know that Benton and Associates are working to get the Waste Water treatment plant and lift stations updated. And look forward to working with the City on these upcoming projects.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April 24, 2023 regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Roger Nuxoll from Farnsworth Group explained the pay application for the most recent round of bills to be paid for the water main project. Discussion was held on the IEPA loans for the water main project and the grants the City has received for projects. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the pay application for the IEPA approval. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Stauder reported monthly revenues of \$716,085.19

Commissioner Stauder also reported that the City should not have to do the additional audit this year because we have not received more than \$750,000.00 in federal grant monies.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the fence permit at 825 Young St. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried. Discussion was held on the property and making sure the fence was far enough back from the alley.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve a fence at 102 N Oak St. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Discussion was held on adding the approval of the additional grant fund for Frank Steele on the next meeting agenda. Discussion was also held on revising the business district grant.

Chris Coss arrived at the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor Goldsmith asked Chris Coss if the City could get a list of the equipment, frequency and if we have anything specific for the City on the tower. Mr. Coss stated that he can get that information and that there is nothing specific to the City on the tower. Commissioner Glenn asked several questions about what is on the tower and what the radios are for. Discussion was held on who owns the tower and who is responsible for any repairs to the tower. Chris Coss stated he has paid for a lot of it himself. Commissioner Stauder asked if he would be available to come to the next meeting. Chirs Coss agreed and states that shouldn't be a problem.

Commissioner Glenn stated that we are still working on a maintenance ordinance with the City attorney.

Approval of Bills

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the bill's totaling \$799,946.44. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays, none. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Goldsmith stated he would like to see some language changes to the water and waste water contracts. Discussion was held on making revisions to the water and waste water contract with EJ Water for the Village of Coalton.

Commissioner Glenn stated that he has been in contact with the Mayor of Coalton and Commissioner Glenn proposed \$1,000.00 a month. But the Village doesn't meet until Wednesday. But that the Village doesn't want to pay that much. Commissioner Glenn stated they may come back with another amount but he may come up with a letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve Dylan Goldsmith, Louis Stauder and Rachel Hill to be listed on all City of Nokomis Checking accounts, savings accounts and certificates of deposits at the First National Bank of Nokomis. And to remove Michael Holliday from all banking accounts. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn a motion to approve Dylan Goldsmith, Louis Stauder and Rachel Hill to be listed on all Certificates of deposit accounts. Including CDs ending in 4992 and 0104. At Nokomis Savings Bank for the City of Nokomis. And the removal of Michael Holliday from all banking accounts. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve Dylan Goldsmith, Louis Stauder and Rachel Hill be listed on all Certificates of Deposit accounts at Witt Security National Bank including CDs including accounts ending in 7245, 7246, 7247. And the removal of Michael Holliday from all banking accounts. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Mayor Goldsmith stated he would like to revise the planning committee to include residents that live within a mile and a half of the City limits. Commissioner Glenn stated he did not think that needed to be done and it would probably be better to just use the members that are currently in the economic development committee. Commissioner Morris asked if they own business in the City. Mayor Goldsmith stated that Coalton would be on their own and would not be included. But we have some residents that live on the edge of town that he believes should be included. Commissioner Glenn stated again that he does not believe that is necessary, and that we should just keep the committee as is. Mayor Goldsmith let the council know you could name it whatever you want.

Commissioner Glenn provided the Council with a document and stated he would like to make a motion to resume discussions with EJ Water. Commissioner Glenn stated that he believes EJ water can provide us water at a cheaper rate. Mayor Goldsmith asks Commissioner Glenn what they can provide for us. Commissioner Glenn stated that he think they can provide the City cheaper rates. Discussion was held on EJ water and the projects at the waste water plant. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to resume discussions with EJ water. Visitor Alan Hard attempted to ask a question. Commissioner Glenn interrupted Mr. Hard stating he did not think a member of the public has the right to do this during our meeting. Mayor Goldsmith allowed Mr. Hard to address the Council. Mr. Hard asked the Council if this is the same company who has refused to sign a contract with the City for two years. Mayor Goldsmith stated, yes this is the same company and the same company who is having issues with water because they have allowed the CO2 company access to bulk water, which caused multiple people to not have water. Commissioner Glenn stated he recommends we make a motion to resume discussions with EJ Water Cooperative and wants a second. Mayor Goldsmith stated he does not see a need for a second. Commissioner Arkebauer stated he would second the motion because he was not here before and would like to weigh all of the options. Mayor Goldsmith stated that that was fine but that it took up so much time the last time. Commissioner Morris asked if speaking with EJ Water would stop the projects we currently have with the water main. Mayor Goldsmith stated not it doesn't stop the work but that it is a waste of time, time that could be used working on other projects. Commissioner Stauder stated that we have a motion and we have a second, we need a roll call. City Clerk Hill requested Commissioner Glenn restate his motion clearly and the restate the second. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to resume

discussions with EJ Water on all water and waste water issues. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn and Arkebauer. Commissioner Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith voted No. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Stauder made the motion to enter executive session at 8:22 p.m. for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body is being considered, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, or where the public body is considering the setting of a price for the sale or lease of its property. 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(5). Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to enter back into regular session at 8:36 p.m. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none, the motion carried.

Other Business

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the purchase of the lots at 110 N Maple St. Parcel number 08-23-114-013. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on the 2023-2024 budget. Commissioner Stauder stated he will get a new copy of the budget sent out and we will be ready to vote on it at the next meeting

Adjournment

Commissioner Morris made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 P.M. Commissioner Arkebauer seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Morris, Glenn, Arkebauer, Stauder and Mayor Goldsmith. Nays none. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Hill
City Clerk