

City of Nokomis
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2022

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, April 9, 2022. Mayor Holliday called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the Deputy Clerk called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Durbin, Nash; and Mayor Holliday. Also present were Deputy Clerk Smith, Chief Talon Burton, and Attorney Chris Sherer. Visitors present: Adam Fox and Cameron Jones (Benton and Associates), Eric Emmerich (EJ water), Mark Bernardini, Gary Hulbert, Keith Carlock, Ben Schwarm (Journal News) and Ellen Christner (Free Press).

VISITORS

Mark Bernardini was present to voice his concerns about the brick road on Spruce Street. Mr. Bernardini asked the council what their plan was on fixing the holes in the road on Spruce Street. Commissioner Durbin stated that the street department just got the new hot mix this past week and will begin to fix the pot holes in town this week. Mark stated that this has been an issue for at least five years now and needs to be dealt with, we don't need to wait on the project to move forward. Commissioner Durbin stated that the project got pushed back due to the price of supplies. Mark stated as long as the holes get fixed now. Mr. Bernardini added that the trash on 617 Sanford Ave. needed to be addressed it was getting out of hand. Mayor Holliday added that the police department is working on ordinances' and it takes time, the Police department will talk to the resident and give them a time frame to get it all cleaned up, if they don't get it cleaned in the time allowed the resident will then get a citation. Mr Bernardini added that there is a trailer with no sticker and a sailboat at 618-619 Sanford Ave. that needs to be addressed as well. Mr. Bernardini added that he would like the Rood Street to be oiled it has not been done in five or six years. Mayor Holliday stated he was not sure that was a City road. Mr. Bernardini added that the main drain behind his house needs to be addressed also, he stated that the trash trucks have been breaking the rock and pushing it down to block the drainage of water.

Cameron Jones with Benton and Associates was present with the engineering services proposal for the lift station improvements, the technical services proposal for the lift stations, and the amendment to the agreement for engineering services related to wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Jones started off by stating that there was a DECO grant for 1.5 million that would be ideal for the City's lift station issue. This is a construction only grant. Cameron stated that with a deadline of October the City would need to start the design immediately for the EPA to evaluate and approve by July. This project would replace three of the lift stations and rehab the other three. Cameron stated that this is a point biased grant application and the City would need to have permits in hand, which would give the City twenty additional points. Commissioner Stauder asked if the generator will be part of the grant because he has that coming out of the ARPA funds for this year's budget. Cameron stated that he didn't put that in

the grant. Mr. Jones added that with the current EPA violations and failing lift stations that the City would have a strong grant application with scoring between seventy-four and eighty-six points out of one hundred. Commissioner Glenn asked what the cost was for the grant application in which Cameron stated that it was \$5,000 and the design proposal will be \$148,000. Cameron stated that the grant application usually cost more but we are already customers of theirs so it won't cost as much. Commissioner Glenn asked if the grant could be used if we went with EJ water. Eric Emmerich stated that the grant would have to be put in care of EJ for them to be able to use it. Cameron stated that it is a timing issue and EJ would not have time to submit for this grant. Mr. Emmerich agreed that it would be a timing issue and Benton and Associates should move forward with the grant application. Cameron added if we didn't move forward with this grant that it would have to be put into a three cycle project that could take between six to ten years. Cameron added that we could get more points for the project if we put out surveys to the community and get a response back. Mr. Emmerich asked what the plans for the rates would be. Cameron stated that the raise would be moved up to this summer instead of fall, but would not be more than anticipated. Eric added that doing the project with the DECO funds is something he couldn't commit to, but it is worth going after. Commissioner Stauder asked if the ARPA loan will be reimbursable after we get the loan, Cameron stated yes it would be. Commissioner Glenn asked if we were to go with EJ mid project what the cost would be. Cameron stated that it would be what work is done to that point.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April 25, 2022 regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes with two corrections needing to be made. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the April 25, 2022 executive meeting were presented. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the April 25, 2022 special meeting were presented. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction to be made. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve Benton and Associates engineering services proposal for the lift station improvements for \$5,000 with funds coming out of the sewer account. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve Benton and Associates technical services proposal for the lift stations with funds coming out of the sewer account for \$148,000. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to table Benton and Associates amendment no.1 agreement for engineering services related to wastewater treatment plant improvements till the next meeting May 23, 2022. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn stated that he had been in contact with Moran and they were going to cut the fee down for the amended business district. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve Moran Economic to amend the business district for the cost of \$9,900. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Stauder reported monthly revenues of \$73,298.65.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve building permit at 619 School Street for a fence. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve building permit at 310 West Front Street for a fence. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve building permit at 405 North Vine Street for a fence. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve business district application at 211 West State Street for a grease trap in the amount of \$1047.50. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn began the discussion on holding a town hall meeting for the water wastewater projects. Commissioner Glenn stated he wanted to give the public notice of what the City has planned for the water and wastewater plants and what that would do to the rates. Commissioner Stauder asked if he was going to set a date and if he thought that the council would have all the answers to the questions that will be asked. Commissioner Glenn stated that the public needs the full information about those projects. Mayor Holliday stated that we have

to proceed with what we have started and can't stop now. Commissioner Stauder stated that he wants to see what exactly was said when the EPA came to a meeting about the water. Commissioner Glenn stated it was likely ten years or so ago and he would be willing to look at old meeting minutes to find the information needed. Commissioner Glenn stated that the City just needs to start thinking ahead. Mayor Holliday I think we are thinking ahead. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to set a town hall meeting for June 2, 2022 at 7 P.M. at the park house. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Nash stated that Jason Beason with J&M heating and cooling will be in the next couple of weeks to get started on the repairs. Jason will be in contact with Chief Burton to set a plan and coordinate with what needs to be done. Commissioner Nash made a motion to move forward with the HVAC repairs with J&M heating and cooling and triple A Asbestos. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Nash stated that the cameras at the parks are moving forward and they will be going with option two which is better cameras, expandable storage, and better capability totaling no more than \$13,000. Commissioner Glenn asked if the cameras will be secured to prevent destruction. Chief Burton stated that the cameras will be encapsulated and on a utility pole.

Commissioner Durbin stated that the hydro cylinder had been rebuilt for the street department dump truck, but no update on the truck. Commissioner Durbin stated that the rebuild cost is \$800. Mayor Holliday asked why the truck hasn't been started on, Commissioner Durbin will make a call tomorrow and get update.

Approval of Bills

Commissioner Stauder presented the bills with a questions regarding the bill for The Stewart Law Firm. Commissioner Nash stated he thought this was done and we did not need his services anymore, added that the City needs to wash their hands of this, the City has paid enough. Commissioner Glenn added the City just needs to send a letter of termination of services. Mr. Glenn asked Attorney Chris Sherer to look into that for the City. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the monthly bills totaling \$105,881.81 which has the IEPA loan payments. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Stauder asked to move the budget discussion until after executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Stauder brought up the possibility of needing an administrative consultant to handle all the paperwork that will be coming in with the grants and projects. Commissioner Durbin stated he thought that was a good idea just to keep the ball rolling. Mayor Holliday asked where they would be coming from. Commissioner Stauder stated that we would need to advertise for the position when ready, and pay would be negotiable, and would only be a part time position. Commissioner Stauder stated that he just wanted to put that out there.

Eric Emmerich addressed the council stating that he had new business that was not on the agenda. Eric added that EJ got quotes for \$20,000 - \$30,000 to take down the old water tower for the City at 100% of the cost going to EJ water. Commissioner Glenn asked if the City would have any obligation to EJ water. Eric Emmerich said there was no obligation to the City at all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Durbin made a motion to enter closed session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss 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)). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of the employees (5ILCS 120/2 (C) (2)). Discussion of minutes of meetings 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 Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Other Business

Commissioner Durbin made a motion to resume regular session at 8:52 p.m. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Mayor Holliday asked that the council hire Landon Collins for the water wastewater department. Commissioner Nash made a motion to hire Landon Collins for the water and wastewater department effective May 2, 2022. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

The Council then began a discussion for the 2022-2023 budget. Commissioner Stauder added that with the Benton and Associates agreements being approved he will have to add that to the sewer budget, with no questions and no motion needed at this time, the council agreed to put in on the next agenda. Commissioner Stauder added that the budget will have to be posted for seven days before passing.

Adjournment

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karri Smith
Deputy Clerk