

City of Nokomis
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2022

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, June 27, 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 and Chief Talon Burton. Visitors present: Adam Fox (Benton and Associates) Jodi and Steve Martinez, Kathy Daniels (Bernardini's) Dylan Goldsmith, Eric Emmerich and Jake Durbin (EJ water) and Ellen Christner (Free Press).

VISITORS

Jodi and Steve Martinez addressed the council in regards to the vacant house at 425 S. Maple. Jodi stated that the back of their house looks into the back of 425 S. Maple and it is just falling down and was wondering what needed to be done to condemn it. Commissioner Glenn stated that the Police Department is working on the property as it is in a tax sale and every four years it switches owners, but the fourth year is coming up soon and hopefully the City can get the issue solved. Chief Burton asked Jodi if she would be willing to come in and make a statement to help the City's case. Steve spoke up about the people in and out of that property and the issues they have had with that. Commissioner Nash stated that they need to put a call in to 911 if they notice anything at night.

Chuck Kessler was not present to address the council.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May 23, 2022 public hearing meeting were presented. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Stauder abstained. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the June 13, 2022 regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction to the visitor portion. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Nash abstained. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the June 20, 2022 special meeting were presented. Commissioner Stauder asked to table the minutes until all three engineering firms could look over the minutes. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to table the minutes until July 11, 2022 meeting. 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

Kathy Daniels from Bernardini's was present to ask the council for permission to stay open until 3am on Saturday July, 9, 2022 after the homecoming. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the extra hour on July 9, 2022. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried. Kathy wanted to make sure that this was just for her establishment and not the one next door, as they have had issues with that in the past. Commissioner Nash addressed Chief Burton and made sure he was aware that this is only for Bernardini's bar. Mayor Holliday asked what kind of crowd she had after two. Kathy stated it is a good size crowd.

Mayor Holliday asked for a motion to approve ordinance 2090 amending article IV-utility rates, division III wastewater system service charges, section 38-4-33 user charger system of the revised code of ordinance of the City of Nokomis, Illinois. Commissioner Stauder stated that this is the one tabled from the last meeting. Commissioner Glenn asked if we sign with EJ water if there will be a later revisions because it would be a lower rate than what would be passing now. Commissioner Stauder and Mayor Holliday both stated that we can always change it. Mayor Holliday stated that we need to approve this now and if we needed to amend it later we can. Commissioner Stauder stated it would be our (the City) rates and what we have set if we go with EJ it would change to what EJ wanted for rates we have no say in what those rates are. Eric Emmerich from EJ water stated that the rates would be passed in the ordinance, Commissioner Stauder interjected and stated we are passing this ordinance because we need to keep on going through our process and it also involves the DCEO grant for the million and half. Eric stated he was just saying if you pass it now and later you would want to partner it would drop \$10. Commissioner Stauder stated that we could revise them at that time. Eric stated at that point it would be EJ rates not the City's. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve Ordinance 2090. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Adam Fox from Benton and Associates presented the council with the renewal contract for the engineering services as the current one will expire June 30, 2022. Adam stated that this is the same contract as before it would start July 1, 2022 and will increase by \$200 a month, with the option of canceling at any time with a thirty day notice. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve Benton and Associates contract for Professional Engineering and Tech services. 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 in the amount of \$53,289.28.

Commissioner Glenn stated that Attorney Chris Sherer has prepaid an agreement for hiring and training for the Police Department and it is ready to be signed.

Commissioner Stauder asked Commissioner Glenn if he had been in contact with Moran to revise the business district to include the wastewater plant. Commissioner Glenn stated he was waiting on an email from Rachel.

Mayor Holliday present the council with the Police Department's monthly report.

Mayor Holliday stated that he had two applications for new liquor licenses one was for Frank Steel at 103 W State St. and the other one was for Chuck Kessler at 211 W State St. Mayor Holliday asked the Deputy Clerk how many was available to which Clerk Smith stated there was two. Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve both liquor licenses at 103 W State ST. and 211 W state St. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Commissioner Glenn stated he wasn't sure of anything else on going, he stated that the Police Department is working on the nuisance properties and how to get them cleaned up. Commissioner Glenn held a discussion on back taxes and who owned the properties'. Commissioner Nash stated he was approached by a guy that is willing to by the building next to the old library. Commissioner Stauder asked if the City needed to mow this property as the weeds are getting pretty tall. Commissioner Durbin stated that they mowed it that day. Commissioner Stauder asked if we should be putting leans on the properties that the City mows. Commissioner Glenn stated that we could but we would most likely not see any of the money due to the fact they will change ownership often. There was a brief discussion on how the surrounding towns are able to get all the nuisance properties clean up and taken down.

Commissioner Nash stated that the wastewater buildings took some damage to shingles during that last storm. Commissioner Stauder stated that replacing the roof is in this year's budget.

Commissioner Nash stated that the wastewater department is working on cameraing the lines and have come into a tech issue, and some lines that they can't get through.

Commissioner Nash asked Adam from Benton and Associates if the brown water issue had been addressed and fixed. Adam stated that it seemed to be, that we have not gotten any calls in a couple of weeks, and the numbers at the plant are good. Commissioner Glenn asked Adam how many filters are out at the plant, Adam stated that there are two working filters with a total of four. Commissioner Glenn then asked how long these two filters will last if we are only running on two of the four. Mayor Holliday stated that one was just redone a little more than a year ago maybe two or three years. Adam said that was before he was here not sure of the date that it was done. Commissioner Glenn just stated he was concerned with how long they will last while we wait on the grant money. Adam stated some are good for twenty years if you keep up on them. Commissioner Glenn asked how old the filters are. Adam stated that he is unsure on how long the media in the filters have been in there, but the filters themselves have been in there since the plant was built. Commissioner Stauder stated that some of the media has been replaced not sure when. Jake Durbin from EJ stated that #3 was done in 2017 when he was out there. Commissioner Nash asked if it was #3. Jake Durbin stated yes it was. Adam stated that's the one that has been down for a year now. Dylan Goldsmith said that one was down for a year or more. Adam stated that it needed some welding done in the under drain. Commissioner Glenn asked how long the new one that is down has been down. Adam stated that it was down

since last Thursday. Commissioner Glenn asked which number that one was. Adam stated it was #4. Commissioner Stauder stated that we was supposed to hear back from Farnsworth group today on the grant to see how it could be used, but we did not hear back from Roger. Commissioner Stauder stated that the whole question is if we can do it ourselves and get reimbursed for the work. Adam added with the two filter running the City is below regulatory standards for iron and magnesium, and that is what the filters are there for. Adam stated that we are 10 times below the regulatory standards with just the two filters. Adam stated that since going on the two filters there has been a high usage which he thought would stress them, but they seem to be doing just fine. Commissioner Glenn asked, so you are saying that we are over ten time the limit to which Adam replied that no we are ten times under the limit. Commissioner Glenn asked if we were near the limit on anything else like iron, to which Adam stated no we are ten times below the limit for that too. Commissioner Stauder stated that we were going to get the filters done any way no matter what, so you're not going to do them all at once so you do them one at a time or in our case two at a time. Adam state yes so you can keep the plant in operation that way. Commissioner Stauder stated that then we will do the other two. Adam said yes. Commissioner Stauder stated that we don't know what the issue with #4 is right now. Adam said yes at this time we don't know exactly what is wrong, there is still some investigating work that needs to be done to determine exactly what needs to be done. Commissioner Glenn asked what would happen if one of the two filters we are working with goes out. Adam stated that we would run on reduced capacity, like right now we are working with four of the six wells. Adam stated that we would just reduce the use of wells that would reduce the treatment and run the filters for longer each day which is not ideal this time of year with summer being your hire usage months, but we wouldn't be dead in the water. Commissioner Glenn stated that the logic thing would be to get water from another source and not have to rebuild the plant. Commissioner Stauder stated he didn't agree with that. Adam stated that would take a few years. Commissioner Glenn stated that in the long run it would cost millions of dollars to replace that plant and it's obsolete and shot. Commission Stauder I got a question who said it's obsolete. Commissioner Glenn stated that it is well beyond its expected lifetime. Adam stated if you only have a twenty year expediency of the water plant then you have the wrong kind of plant. Commissioner Glenn asked what life expediency of the plant we have. Adam stated in his opinion maybe fifty years. Dylan Goldsmith said there is regular maintenance you have to do on the plant. Adam stated you are not going to have any plant last fifty years without doing maintenance to it. Commissioner Glenn stated he would say that's a lot of money to nickels and dime it but it's a lot more than nickels and dimes it a lot of money. Adam adds he doesn't want to negate what Commissioner Glenn is saying, but we have funds coming to do that work and it would be a huge waste to operate that plant for twenty years and then just shut it off and throw it away, it has a lot of life left in it. With some money put in to it the last couple of years to keep it going general maintenance wares out over time. Commissioner Glenn state if we get cheaper rates for the next ten years I don't understand why we would go with that. Adam stated that's not my decision to make. Commissioner Durbin asked if this was a filtration issue or just from flushing the hydrants. Adam stated he thinks it's a combination on both. We obviously got some discolored water out in the system and the office fielded a few complaints from that. We went out flushed those areas and chased our tails for a couple days, but got it all cleared up. Mayor Holliday stated anytime we flush hydrates we have

this issue with discolored water. Adam stated that we did put out a notice that we were flushing and you could possibly get discolored water. Eric Emmerich stated that the discolored water in Coalton was near the water plant so it had to come from the plant due to no old mains to go through. Commissioner Stauder stated that it seems odd that it would go to Coalton and not the other side of town. Commissioner Stauder asked Eric when the last time Coalton flushed all of their hydrants. Commissioner Stauder stated the Eric didn't know the answer that the only time the hydrants where used was when the fire department need to use them. Dylan Goldsmith stated that they flushed the system last summer. Eric stated after EJ took over a year or so ago they flushed the whole system. Eric stated that from their side Coalton is all plastic main and couldn't get the discolored water from them. Adam stated that plastic lines could form a scale and with flushing it could be broken down and pushed out. Eric stated ideally if you flush once a year you don't get the discoloration if you have a good source of water, and since we are only a quarter mile away from the plant we should have the best water. Commissioner Glenn stated since we can't remedy our problem quickly and we don't have a lot of money to go in to putting new filters in right now, what Coalton is going to do right now to fix the issue. Jake Durbin stated they have been doing fine since the issue with filter four was found and shut off, with the bulk of EJ complaints coming in the middle of last week and they were right near the plant, 1000 to 1200 feet from the plant. Jake stated that he reached out to Adam and stopped by the plant to look at the filtration and run test on each filter individually to see if there was an issue, and that's when he found that filter #4 had a really high magnesium and iron. Jake stated that he then called Adam and told him that his #4 filter had fouled and should be shut down. Adam stated that there is nothing wrong with the water leaving the plant right now. Jake said he has not had any complaints since shutting down filter #4. Commissioner Stauder asked with all the stuff going on with the email and how someone said they was going to handle something. Commissioner Stauder stated that he considered that very unprofessional and kind of insinuating that we can't run our own plant. Commissioner Stauder continued with stating some of the emails and the filter truck, he thinks is totally unprofessional and not the way to handle things. Commissioner Stauder stated that there is a certain procedure you go through and Adam is the first person that you should contact or someone here. Eric stated that we did talk to Adam. Commissioner Stauder stated that EJ didn't do that first. Eric stated one hundred percent why they called the filtration truck was because of Coalton, which our water was horribly brown, and we had no control over the water plant because that's not our water source. Commissioner Stauder stated that the complaints should come to the City, and we only got a couple of calls, just because you see something on Facebook you can't necessarily believe that. Eric state that those pictures are real, and the water was indeed brown. Eric stated at the end of the day we are just taking care of Coalton and it has nothing to do with Nokomis. Commissioner Stauder strongly disagreed with that and the way Eric was handling thing, but that was his opinion not yours. Eric added if the City didn't get the grant and there is any way that EJ could help they are willing to help. Commissioner Stauder stated that we did get the grant that they have not released the funds yet for us to continue the work. Commissioner Glenn asked if we can reimburse ourselves for the work we do ahead of time. Commissioner Stauder stated that's what we are trying to find out. Commissioner Glenn asked if we can't and EJ is willing to front the money we could reimburse them later, then he doesn't see the problem in letting them front the money. Commissioner Stauder strongly disagrees. Adam said

that is what we are waiting on, to see if the grant can be reimbursed. Commissioner Stauder stated that if we can't then the City can afford to pay for it themselves, but we want to make sure if we can get reimbursed we get reimbursed, if not then we will just have to do what we have to do and get it fixed. Adam added if it is reimbursable then there might be certain procedures that need to be followed, and we need to make sure they are followed. Commissioner Glenn stated that we should at least fix one now so we have three out of the four going if we have the money. Commissioner Glenn stated he didn't realize we had the money to do that. Commissioner Stauder stated that we got the money to do one for sure.

Mayor Holliday asked Commissioner Nash to move on to something else, Commissioner Nash stated that the Vac. potholer jet truck is on hold for now.

Commissioner Nash asked for the surplus vehicles to be put back on the next agenda with no updates to report at this time as they need a better list.

Commissioner Nash asked Eric why he is pushing so hard on getting Nokomis. Eric stated at the begging it was supplying water and the emergency interconnect, and whole selling, then it just turned into what it would look like if we partnered. Eric stated since then it's just trying to answer that question. Eric stated we didn't just come in and tell you what we could do for you it was asked of us. Eric stated he wouldn't say pressing hard, I'm here to answer any questions about brown water tonight. Commissioner Nash stated that he was just asked and would like an answer. Eric stated that it's just us asking what the rates would look like, and he is trying to make sure we understand what that looks like. Commissioner Glenn asked Commissioner Nash if he had the rate sheets from the last working meeting to look over. Commissioner Nash stated he's not sure if he did or not. Eric stated their purpose is to help rural communities, EJ is in Witt and Irving, and their biggest play would be to truly help with the water and wastewater rates. Eric continued by stating with their rates it would be \$10 on water and \$10 on wastewater to lower what you have now which would save a resident \$20 a month. Eric stated that everything is in writing and they are just trying to help us out. Commissioner Nash stated he had just been asked around and would like to give them an answer. Commissioner Glenn stated that there is supposed to be an exchange of information between the engineers next week and work up something to give the citizens to say here is what we are working with. Commissioner Glenn asked Adam and Eric if that was still going to happen. Adam stated yes they are on track to get the information, and Eric stated yes. Eric stated that Cameron and Adam was going to sit down and get some answers to what EJ is proposing to do, so they can all be on the same page. Commissioner Glenn asked once that information is shared in a week how much longer will they need to sit down with the council for another meeting. Commissioner Stauder added that once they get all the information they can look over it and agree everything is on a level playing field to what will be provided by everyone. Eric stated they have been open and have given what their plans are to everyone. Adam added the nuts and bolts is what they have not seen and need to see from each other. Eric added he could have that ironed out in a couple weeks. Commissioner Glenn stated we should add it to the eleventh agenda and get an update. Commissioner Stauder asked if he wanted to do that at a regular meeting or a special meeting. Commissioner Glenn stated that he wants it on the agenda just so we stay on track, and see

where we are at, and then at that time discusses when we want to have a special meeting, or public meeting to let the citizens know what we are chewing on.

Commissioner Durbin gave the council the street department monthly report and stated that most of the curbs have been painted, and most of the storm damage has been picked up as well. Commissioner Durbin gave an update on the truck at S&R repair that is still not finished. Commissioner Durbin stated that if it don't get in soon he will take it somewhere else. Commissioner Stauder asked what about the mosquito spraying, and what they are doing about that. Commissioner Durbin stated that none of the guys have passed it. Deputy Clerk smith stated that they took a larva side class and are working with the county.

Kevin Turner joined the meeting at 8:02 and introduced himself to the council.

Approval of Bills

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve the monthly bills totaling \$98,125.99. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The reimbursement agreement was already talked about.

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to allow the girls at City Hall attend the 2022 IML conference in Chicago. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Durbin made a motion to table the Montgomery County Economic Development membership until we get more information on what they can do for the City. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, and Durbin; and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Mayor Holliday stated that there was no need to amend the liquor license ordinance right now with two open licenses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Durbin made a motion to enter closed session at 8:07 p.m. to address the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or the dismissal of the

specific employee of the public body (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). 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 8:14 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 stated that there was nothing to report.

Adjournment

Commissioner Nash made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Stauder 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