

City of Nokomis
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2022

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, July 11, 2022. Commissioner Stauder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the City Clerk called the roll. Those present were Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Also present City Clerk Rachel Hill and Attorney Chris Sherer and Adam Fox (Benton & Associates). Visitors present: Bryan & Kim Mclean, Andrea & Zech Barding, Gloria Wendling, Donald Baxter, Jodi Reynolds, Lance Lehnan, Alan Hard, Dylan Goldsmith, and Ellen Christner (Free Press).

VISITORS

Bryan Mclean from the Village of Coalton was present to voice his concerns with recent reports of brown water around Coalton and Nokomis. Mr. Mclean stated he is newly elected to the Village of Coalton board and wanted to come before the council to make a formal complaint about the brown water they have been experiencing at his house and few others houses in Coalton. Mayor Holliday stated that the problem started once the water department started flushing hydrants but that the water leaving the plant is clean and clear. Mayor Holliday stated that the flushing of the hydrants churned up the sediment that settles in the lines. Commissioner Glenn went on to state that the council has been in contact with EJ Water and the possibility of a different water source but that no decisions had been made. Commissioner Nash asked if Adam Fox had anything to add to the discussion. Adam Fox (Benton & Associates) addressed the City council and the visitors, letting them know that flushing the hydrants will cause sediment in the lines to break free in the lines, he let the visitors know that the main things the city treats for at the plant is the iron and magnesium, and that they have tests that they preform every day, and the water is clear as it leaves the plant. Mr. Fox also stated that the complaints he has seen on Facebook do not all look believable and that any of the complaints from Coalton need to be made with EJ water first, so that they can then relate the message to the City of Nokomis, because the City of Nokomis does not maintain the Coalton water lines. Coalton maintained them before EJ Water took over and Now EJ is responsible for maintaining the lines. Mr. Mclean stated he just wanted to come before the Council and make a formal complaint, because it was his understanding that no one had. Andrea and Zech Barding of 520 Crickenburger was also present to address the council, stating they understand discoloration can happen during the flushing of the hydrants but wanted to voice their frustration with sediment coming in and settling in there appliances, the Bardings stated that they have had to replace there appliances because they get so much sediment in there house, they don't believe they should have to put in a filtration system when they pay for water. Mrs. Barding then asked the Council what they should do if they get their water tested and it comes back unfit to drink and unsafe for her children, where do you even go to get your water tested. Mrs. Jodi Reynold addressed the Barding's to let them know they can take the water to Montgomery County Health Department for water testing, because they test well water for

rural residents of Montgomery County. Commissioner Durbin stated that he understands there frustration but the City cannot replace there appliances. Stating he lives in a part of town that has sewer back up issues and that before he knew about the backflow prevention grant the City offers he had to pay for all of that work out of pocket. Discussion was then held about the water lines in Coalton and the line from the meter pit to Coalton. Commissioner Glenn stated that when EJ Water runs there new line to Coalton it won't be our problem. The Barding's then asked who do they go to if the water at their home is tested and it comes back unsafe for them to drink and unsafe for their children, the Council let them know that if their water did come back unsafe then they need to let EJ Water know and City. Mr. Fox went on to state that the lines move a lot more than you would think, stating that flushing hydrants will shake things up in the lines but that other ground disturbances can also dislodge sediment that could case discoloration, but they need to contact EJ Water with any complaints first.

Lance Lehnen addressed the council to let them know that he has submitted a business district grant for assistance with HVAC cost and would like to use C&C Heating and Cooling as they are the only local company that offers those services.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the June, 2022 special meeting were presented. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Commissioner Stauder seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash and Mayor Holliday. Commissioner Durbin abstained. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the June 27, 2022 regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections to spelling errors. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the June 27, 2022 executive meeting were presented. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash; Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Commissioner Stauder stated that we have not received all of the information the City has requested from EJ Water and no discussion is needed. Commissioner Glenn then questioned Commissioner Stauder on what exactly we are asking for. Discussion was then held about the information discussed during the special meeting where the Farnsworth Group, Benton and Associates and EJ Water all discussed what information they need to get together and provide for the City. Mayor Holliday stated that is why they had the special meeting.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Stauder reported monthly revenues in the amount of \$43, 217.41

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve a fencer permit at 415 S Spruce. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes. Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none. The Motion carried.

Mayor Holliday stated he had received an update from Chief Burton about the fundraiser for the K9 and an update on junk properties. Commissioner Nash stated there is someone interested in the property by the old library. Commissioner Glenn stated that he has been working with Chief Burton on the property Ordinances. Commissioner Glenn then went on to discuss the process of gaining a property for back taxes, stating it is a complicated system. The council went on to discuss the process and if there are other ways to get these properties cleaned up.

Approval of Bills Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve bills in the amount of \$99,647.55. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no news on the sale of surplus vehicles

Commissioner Glenn asked how the videoing of the sewer lines has been going. Commissioner Nash responded that they have ran into some issues and haven't gotten very far.

Commissioner Stauder asked if we have received any update on the agreement with EJ Water for the removal of the old water tower because Roger from Farnsworth Group was contacted from the company we received a quote from asking for an update on the project.

Mayor Holliday stated he had not had time to read through the information provided on the MCED membership. Commissioner Nash asked Jodi Reynolds if she had anything to add. Mrs. Reynold stated she was present to be available if the council had any questions she could answer. Commissioner Glenn stated he had time and may reach out to Valerie Belesko to ask about the grant writing program. Commissioner Stauder asked if the MCEDC could potentially help with the ESDA grant for a new tornado siren. Discussion was then held on the tornado sire and the price of a new one. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to table the approval of the Montgomery County Economic Development Membership until the August 8, 2022 Council meeting. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Adjournment

With no new business to discuss and no need for executive session, Commissioner Glenn made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Hill
City Clerk