

City of Nokomis
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2022

The City Council of the City of Nokomis, County of Montgomery, Illinois held its regular meeting at the Nokomis City Hall on Monday, August 22, 2022. 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, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Also present was City Clerk Hill, Attorney Chris Sherer, and Chief Burton. Visitors present were Frank Steele, Jim and Judy Ruppert, Dylan Goldsmith, Gary and Clarann Hulbert, Keith Hancock, Randy Herzog, Jack Tosetti, Carrie Tosetti, Danita Odle, Bobbie Dean, Ellen Christner (Pana News) Ben Schwarm (Journal News). Arriving late, Kelly Loskot, L. Kevin Turner.

VISITORS

Jim Ruppert addressed the council to let them know that several communities around the Carlinville area have joined a similar co-op to EJ water and let the council know he believes the City should continue discussions with EJ water and looking at different options. Jack Tosetti added that he also believes the City should continue discussions with EJ water and that he thinks the City is going downhill and the key to bringing business's to town and a better community is good water. He stressed that weather we continued discussions with EJ water or not he just wants the City Council to make a smart decision.

Frank Steele provided the council with pictures of the building next door to his downtown property. He expressed his concern with the back of the building stating it appears to be bowing out and the mortar between the brick is crumbling. He let the council know that he is trying to get a contractor to pour concrete behind his building but none of the contractors are ok with pouring concrete because the neighboring building looked unsafe. He also stated that there was an air conditioner on his property that was not his and that he has been unsuccessful in getting ahold of the owner.

Kelly Loskot was present to voice her concern about the water. Stating she works at Casey's but is not present to represent Casey's. She stated that she would like to see changes in the water because they experience issues with the ice machine. She let the Council know that she has been at the store for the last two years and it has always been like that.

Mayor Holliday stated that the City is working very hard to get the plant up to snub and stated that he is not against EJ Water, He just doesn't believe now is the right time. He stated that the Council is working very hard to get the necessary improvements done and improve the quality of water for Nokomis.

Gary Hulbert stood to address the Council. Mr. Hulbert stated that for sixty years the City treated the water with lime because the EPA told us we could and for sixty years the water was

fine and safe to drink. He stated it doesn't matter who is providing the City water the problem is in the lines, the sediment is the lime breaking free. He let everyone in the room know that we can't stop now we just have to keep it up and see these projects though. Danette Odle asked who would be replacing the lines. Commissioner Durbin stated that we are working on that. If we went with EJ it would be at least two years before we could get water and another five to seven years to start the projects we have already started. Commissioner Durbin also stated he is not against EJ Water but that now is not the time. Discussion was then had about the loss of jobs, revenue and the cost to run everything. Commissioner Glenn added to the discussion that EJ Water had stated that they could hire two of our employees and that he doesn't think keeping Karri would be an issue. Danita asked if we even have a meter reader because her daughters bill is always high. Commissioner Durbin stated that the water department reads the meters, and the rates are in place to help pay for the projects. EJ Water is surface water and will descale the lines just the same. Dylan Goldsmith stated that if we put in the work at the plant then the plant would still be good for the next twenty years. Discussion was then had again about the City's current employees. Commissioner Glenn proposed the resolution 2022-04 to continue discussions with EJ Water.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the August 8, 2022 regular meeting were presented. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections to spelling errors. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Minutes of the August 8, 2022 executive meeting were presented. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays, none. The motion carried.

Resolutions, Petitions, Ordinances, Remonstrance

Mayor Holliday stated that he believes the Utilities Easement Agreement with CTI should be tabled for language changes that need to be made. Bobbie from CTI suggested that Chris reach out to their attorney and Rocci Romano. Commissioner Stauder stated he wasn't sure the property description was correct because Spruce St is a state highway. Commissioner Glen asked Bobbie if CTI would be willing to reimburse the City for legal fees involved with the agreement. Bobbie stated she did not believe that would be an issue. Mayor Holliday asked about the company CTI signed with. Bobbie stated that they had joined another company to hopefully be able to serve more underserved areas.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve resolution 2022-04. A resolution by the City of Nokomis, Montgomery County, Illinois authorizing the continuance of discussion and or/ agreement regarding the City of Nokomis's Water System and EJ Water. Mayor Holliday stated he believes they (EJ Water) understands that now is just not the right time and that maybe the

next Council should be the ones to make that decision. He stated we have enough going on right now and this council doesn't need to be the ones to make this decision. Commissioner Stauder stated that the resolution doesn't state that as individuals they can't still talk with EJ Water, just as a whole. Commissioner Stauder also stated that he never did get the information from EJ Water that he has asked for, there for he never really could make a decision. Discussion was then had about the proposed rate freeze and how Carlinville got a grant to go from surface water to well water. Commissioner Glenn stated going with a Co-op is currently a regional trend and that he believes the City should continue to talk with EJ Water. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve resolution 2022-04. Commissioner Durbin stated he would not second the motion at this time and would like to keep moving forward. With no second on the motion Mayor Holliday stated the motion dies for lack of a second.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve resolution 2022-05 a resolution approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of an agreement to settle litigation. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none, the motion carried.

Reports of City Officers

Commissioner Stauder reported the revenues in the amount of \$230,273.03

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve a building permit for a fence at 629 Water St. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none, the motion carried. Commissioner Glenn made a motion to approve the request for a farmers market at Fred B Johnson Park on September 17, 2022. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioner Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none the motion carried. Commissioner Glenn brought to the Council the discussion of reimbursing the Catholic Church for the cost of the concrete that the church paid for during construction on the front of the church. Commissioner Durbin stated that he had been in contact with the Street Department and a member of the church. They had discussed how many yards of concrete of the City sidewalk the City would be responsible for paying for. Commissioner Durbin made a motion to approve payment for the concrete. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Abstaining from voting was Commissioner Stauder and Glenn.

Commissioner Nash stated that the camera for the camera van is still broken down. Commissioner Nash also stated that the roof at the waste water plant and other out buildings will be getting fixed in the next few weeks. Commissioner Stauder stated that we have in the budget for a new generator, Commissioner Nash stated that Cameron and Adam (Benton & Associates) are working on that.

Commissioner Durbin stated that he and Tim Chumley went to the high school to ask the school superintendent if the art club would be interested in repainting the sign on the front of the City Hall building. He stated that the superintendent would talk with the art teacher and find out. L

Kevin Turner spoke up and stated that he could paint the sign as a public service, he let the council know that he has a lot of experience with painting. Commissioner Durbin stated he would wait to hear from the school. A small discussion was had on a storm drain that needed a new covering.

Mayor Holliday reported on the Police Department monthly report. Discussion was had on how the K9 funds were doing. Mayor Holiday stated that the Police Department will be conducting an active shooter drill at the school on September 2, 2022

Approval of Bills

Commissioner Stauder made a motion to approve bills in the amount of \$38,290.58. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the Animal Control contract with County. Commissioner Glenn stated he was not sure he agrees with the contract. Chief Burton added that they often have a hard time getting anyone to answer the phones or respond.

Discussion was held on the need for mosquito spraying. Commissioner Nash stated that Landon will be taking the spray test soon. Commissioner Glenn stated he would see if he can find a guy from another town that has a license that the City could hire.

Commissioner Stauder stated he believes the City should look into hiring an Administrator Consultant to help navigate the grants and loans the City is receiving. Commissioner Durbin and Nash agree, that may be worth looking into.

NEW BUSINESS

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss Commissioner Nash made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Commissioner Durbin seconded the motion. Voting yes, Commissioners Stauder, Glenn, Nash, Durbin and Mayor Holliday. Nays none. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Hill
City Clerk