

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NORMAL TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NORMAL CITY HALL, FOURTH FLOOR UPTOWN STATION, 11 UPTOWN CIRCLE, NORMAL, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS – MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Chris Koos called the regular meeting of the Normal Town Council to order at 7:02 p.m., Monday, August 17, 2015.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll with the following persons physically

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Koos and Councilmembers Jeff Fritzen, Scott Preston, R.C. McBride, Kathleen Lorenz, Kevin McCarthy, and Cheryl Gaines. Also present were City Manager Mark Peterson, Deputy City Manager Pamela Reece, Corporation Counsel Brian Day and Town Clerk Wendy Briggs.

ABSENT: None.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Koos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA:

Mayor Koos read aloud the items to be considered by the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2015:

B. APPROVAL OF TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF AUGUST 12, 2015:

C. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A MOBILE STAGE FROM CENTURY INDUSTRIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,900 FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

D. RESOLUTION APPROVING A SALARY SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT FOR CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES TO REFLECT A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT: Resolution No. 5150:

E. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AWARDED A CONTRACT TO STARK EXCAVATING, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$669,203.00 PLUS A POSSIBLE BONUS OF \$5,000 FOR TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, FOR THE NORTH BRANCH OF SUGAR CREEK STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT:

F. RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING A SITE PLAN FOR DOLLAR GENERAL (1100 S. COTTAGE):

G. ORDINANCE DESIGNATING 1301 S. FELL AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK AND IMPOSING AN S-3 ZONING OVERLAY (VAN LEER'S BROADVIEW MANSION): ORDINANCE No. 5592:

Mayor Koos excused himself from voting on any bills he may have incurred while performing his Mayoral duties.

Councilmember Fritzen excused himself from voting on any bills submitted by Bloomington Offset Process, Inc.

Items B, C, E and F were removed from the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Fritzen, the Council Approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

AYES: Fritzen, Preston, McBride, Lorenz, McCarthy, Gaines, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Koos announced Items A, D, and G were approved by the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA:

B. APPROVAL OF TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF AUGUST 12, 2015:

MOTION:

Councilmember Fritzen moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Approve the Town of Normal Expenditures for Payment as of August 12, 2015.

Councilmember Fritzen posed questions concerning the expenditure that was noted as a refund from the softball tournament. City Manager Mark Peterson responded these refunds were for teams that encountered transportation difficulties that did not allow the teams to get to Normal. City Manager Mark Peterson also stated the final reports were not yet available on the financial outcome of the tournament, but would be distributed once the final numbers were in.

AYES: Preston, McBride, Lorenz, McCarthy, Gaines, Fritzen, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

C. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A MOBILE STAGE FROM CENTURY INDUSTRIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,900 FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:
Resolution No. 5151:

MOTION:

Councilmember Lorenz moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Adopt a Resolution Accepting Bids and Authorizing the Purchase of a Mobile Stage from Century Industries in the Amount of \$74,900 for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilmember Lorenz questioned the need to purchase a mobile stage, rather than continuing with the “borrowing” of a stage from either the City of Bloomington or Illinois State University when a stage was necessary in Normal. City Manager Mark Peterson responded the request for a mobile stage has been requested for several years at budget time and it is included in the 2015-16 Parks and Recreation Budget. City Manager Mark Peterson further indicated it was becoming increasingly difficult to borrow a stage from the City of Bloomington or Illinois State University. Parks and Recreation Director Chris Cotten further stated if a stage is not available from the City or ISU, it is expensive to rent and set up a portable stage at events.

AYES: McBride, Lorenz, McCarthy, Gaines, Fritzen, Preston, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

- E. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AWARDING A CONTRACT TO STARK EXCAVATING, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$669,203.00 PLUS A POSSIBLE BONUS OF \$5,000 FOR TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, FOR THE NORTH BRANCH OF SUGAR CREEK STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT: Resolution No. 5152:

MOTION:

Councilmember Fritzen moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Adopt a Resolution Accepting Bids and Awarding a Contract to Stark Excavating, Inc., in the Amount of \$669,203.00 Plus a Possible Bonus of \$5,000 for the Timely Completion of the Project, for the North Branch of Sugar Creek Streambank Stabilization Project.

Councilmember Fritzen posed questions concerning the public benefit from the extension of Constitution Trail from Vernon to Chiddix Junior High School. City Manager Mark Peterson indicated the extension of the trail will provide access to Anderson Park and Chiddix Junior High School directly from Vernon Avenue.

AYES: Lorenz, McCarthy, Gaines, Fritzen, Preston, McBride, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

- F. RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING A SITE PLAN FOR DOLLAR GENERAL (1100 S. COTTAGE): Resolution No. 5153:

MOTION:

Councilmember Fritzen moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Adopt a Resolution Conditionally Approving a Site Plan for Dollar General (1100 S. Cottage).

Councilmember Fritzen posed questions concerning the store design, which questions were responded to by Building Commissioner Greg Troemel. Councilmember Gaines questioned if this store design was allowed in other

municipalities, to which City Manager Mark Peterson responded this store design appeared to be the “brand” of Dollar General Stores, as it is an inexpensive budget, no-frills store. Town Planner Mercy Davison indicated considerable landscaping was required around the building.

Councilmember McCarthy posed questions concerning the dumpsters, which questions were responded to by Building Commissioner Greg Troemel.

AYES: McCarthy, Gaines, Fritzen, Preston, McBride, Lorenz, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

GENERAL ORDERS:

There were no General Orders.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Koos explained the Council would adjourn to a Committee of a Whole for a Discussion on the possible increase in the Home Rule Sales Tax Rate.

6. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO A COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE FOR A DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE HOME RULE SALES TAX RATE:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Gaines, the Council Adjourn to a Committee of a Whole for a Discussion Pertaining to a Possible Increase in the Home Rule Sales Tax Rate.

AYES: Gaines, Fritzen, Preston, McBride, Lorenz, McCarthy, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

The Council meeting was adjourned to a Committee of a Whole at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Koos stated the Mayor and City Manager of the City of Bloomington, the County Board Chairman and Administrator, and the Mayor and City Manager of the Town of Normal had had some preliminary, information discussions on the possibility of an increase to the local Home Rule Sales Tax Rate. Mayor Koos announced this meeting was an opportunity for discussion on this topic.

County Board Chairman Matt Sorensen, County Administrator Bill Wasson, and former McLean County Sheriff Mike Emery explained the needs of the County concerning mental health issues and responded to questions from Council.

Mr. Dave Majors, Mr. Frank Schuler, Ms. Teresa Dubravec, and Mr. Myron King, all addressed the Council expressing the need for a soccer facility in the twin cities.

Connect Transit General Manager Andrew Johnson explained how an increase in funding from the communities would enhance the funding the transit system would qualify for from the state and federal governments.

Mr. Kyle Hamm and Mr. Charlie Moore pitched the need to be pro-active in economic development in the communities and suggested now is the time to invest in the economic future of McLean County.

Ms. Crystal Howard also addressed the Council, expressing the need to invest in tourism, including sports tourism, in Normal/Bloomington.

Mayor Koos opened the floor to public comments on this matter; there were none.

Considerable Council discussion ensued concerning investing in the future of Normal and being proactive in investing in our community.

Former Mayor Paul Harmon requested permission to speak and stated that none of the concepts put before the Council for discussion were actually new topics to Normal and considered the discussions to be appropriate for the future of Normal.

There being no further comments, Mayor Koos requested a Motion to Return to the Regular Council Meeting.

MOTION:

Councilmember Gaines moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Return to the Regular Meeting.

AYES: Fritzen, Preston, McBride, Lorenz, McCarthy, Gaines, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

The Council returned to the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council at 9:30 p.m.

7. CONCERNS:

1. CHICAGO TRIBUNE ARTICLE:

Mayor Koos mentioned an article that had been in *The Chicago Tribune* on Sunday, August 16, 2015, concerning “pension boosting” and the implications of such on units of government. City Manager Mark Peterson explained the process of “pension boosting” and stated the Town of Normal does not use the practice of “pension boosting” with retirements.

2. CORN FEST:

Councilmember McCarthy reminded everyone of the upcoming Sweet Corn Blues Festival to be held in Uptown Normal on August 22 and 23, 2015.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Koos called for a Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION:

Councilmember McBride moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council be Adjourned.

AYES: Preston, McBride, Lorenz, McCarthy, Gaines, Fritzen, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Chris Koos adjourned the regular meeting of the Normal Town Council at 9:40 p.m., Monday, August 17, 2015.