

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, MAY 6, 2019.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Chris Koos called the regular meeting of the Normal Town Council to order at 7:06 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2019.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll with the following persons physically

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Koos and Councilmembers Kevin McCarthy, Chemberly Cummings, Stan Nord, Karyn Smith, Kathleen Lorenz, and Scott Preston. Also present were City Manager Pamela Reece, Corporation Counsel Brian Day, and Town Clerk Angie Huonker.

ABSENT: None.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Koos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Shields, Normal Resident, welcomed the new Councilmembers. Mr. Shields spoke about the importance of integrity and accountability as a Council Member. Mr. Shields cited several occasions recently where Councilmember Nord made false statements and asked that Mr. Nord acknowledge his mistakes.

Conan Calhoun, Life Center for Independent Living representative, spoke about the importance of access to public transportation and cited concerns over rate increases and route eliminations.

Aleda Diggins, Normal Resident, spoke regarding affordable and accessible public transit, and asked to see accountability from the Connect Transit Administration regarding these issues.

Pat Turner, Normal Resident, asked that a moratorium on route eliminations and fare increases be considered until a thorough review of the Connect Transit Comprehensive Operational Analysis can be completed.

Marc Tiritilli, Normal Resident, asked for a review of the Town's public comment policy, encouraged a no vote on agenda item #7, and asked that Mayor Koos appoint him to the Town's vacant seat on the Connect Transit Board.

5. 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 COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2019:
- B. APPROVAL OF TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF MAY 1, 2019:
- C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ACTION PLAN FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019:
- D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROCUREMENT AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE 2018 TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE CONNECTION GRANT TO THE TOWN STAFF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,340 AND AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT:

Mayor Koos excused himself from voting on any expenses he incurred while performing his duties as Mayor.

MOTION:

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

AYES: McCarthy, Cummings, Nord, Smith, Lorenz, Preston, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Item A was approved by the Omnibus Vote.

Items B, C, and D were removed from the Omnibus Vote.

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF MAY 1, 2019:

MOTION:

Councilmember Nord moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Approve the Town of Normal Expenditures for Payment as of May 1, 2019.

AYES: Cummings, Smith, Lorenz, Preston, McCarthy, Koos.

NAYS: Nord.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Nord spoke about his concerns over the loss of service to Connect Transit routes and suggested payment be withheld until the issue could be resolved. Mr. Nord also indicated he had concerns over the leasing of space at One Uptown and suggested there should be a review on how to reduce the cost or relocate staff that is currently located there. Mr. Nord then questioned the energy consumption of the parking

decks, indicating he has concerns over the cost affiliated with the electric vehicle charging stations.

Mayor Koos noted the Town owns approximately 14 electric vehicles that are charged in the deck, citing significant use by the Town. Mayor Koos also noted that Tesla pays for the expense of the Tesla charges to be used.

Councilmember Chamberly Cummings stated she has been in communication with Connect Transit regarding the elimination of the Olive line. Mrs. Cummings further stated she will continue to work on solutions specific to fare increases and route eliminations.

Councilmember Karyn Smith stated she has attended recent Connect Transit meetings, indicating there was a worthwhile exchange of information. Ms. Smith reviewed the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability benefits available to disabled individuals and how an increase in bus fare could affect those individuals.

Councilmember Kathleen Lorenz stated that she has had very productive conversations over the transit issues recently as well. Mrs. Lorenz indicated the importance of having open dialogue discussions over the transit issues.

Councilmember Kevin McCarthy reminded everyone the purpose of this line item is a spending review and not meant to relitigate dollars spent, noting that is done during the lengthy budget review process. Mr. McCarthy then reminded everyone that just a couple of years ago there were very little public dollars available for the transit funding. Mr. McCarthy went on to state other funding opportunities were being missed, and the decision was made to invest in transit in order to obtain additional federal dollars. Mr. McCarthy also stated that he will not support turning funding and transit system issues into political issues.

City Manager, Pamela Reece stated the transit working group is just beginning to meet and move forward. Ms. Reece encouraged those with concerns to participate.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ACTION PLAN FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019: Resolution No. 5670

MOTION:

Councilmember Cummings moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Filing of the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan for Program Year 2019.

AYES: Nord, Smith, Lorenz, Preston, McCarthy, Cummings, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Chamberly Cummings stated she had concerns pertaining to equitably diverse housing and asked what the next five years of the plan may do to address that issue.

Assistant Planner, Taylor Long, briefly reviewed the creation process of the current five-year CDBG Plan. Mr. Long then stated they are in the information gathering phase of the upcoming five-year plan, noting this is the right time to share concerns and address community needs.

Councilmember Karyn Smith asked questions regarding mortgage assistance funds that were not used, the broad definitions of what funds can be used for and expressed a preference on areas of concern. Ms. Smith also indicated she would like to see increased effort on local outreach.

Assistant Planner, Taylor Long reviewed the current outreach and discussed plans for future outreach.

Town Planner, Mercy Davison also responded on future outreach. Ms. Davison also made a clarification on opportunity zones that are apart of the housing authority.

City Manager, Pamela Reece stated the time is right to have these conversations. Ms. Reece noted once these plans are finalized there is less flexibility so it's important to get all the feed back now in order to hit the comprehensive plan targets.

A brief discussion continued on how funds can be allocated.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROCUREMENT AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE 2018 TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE CONNECTION GRANT TO THE TOWN STAFF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,340 AND AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: Resolution No. 5671

MOTION:

Councilmember Nord moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Approve a Resolution Authorizing Procurement and Fiscal Management Authority for the 2018 Transportation and Land Use Connection Grant to the Town Staff in the Amount of \$40,340 and Authorizing an Appropriate Budget Adjustment.

AYES: Smith, Lorenz, Preston, McCarthy, Cummings, Nord, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Stan Nord asked why the Town is taking the lead on this item. Mr. Nord stated he feels the county is in a better position to manage the project.

City Manager, Pamela Reece stated that should the item not pass the County would manager the project. Ms. Reece further stated that Public Works Director, Wayne Aldrich has been a leader of the initiative and it is low risk for the Town to continue to lead the initiative and prepare for grant opportunities.

Public Works Director, Wayne Aldrich stated the intent of the group is to find, compile and archive the historical documentation.

GENERAL ORDERS:

7. ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCES WHICH ESTABLISH AND ENCOMPASSED CONTIGUOUS PORTIONS OF TERRITORY WITHIN THE BLOOMINGTON, NORMAL, MCLEAN COUNTY, GIBSON CITY, FORD COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE AND ALL AMENDATORY ORDINANCES THERETO:
Ordinance No. 5783:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, to Approve the Ordinance Amending Ordinances Which Establish and Encompassed Contiguous Portions of Territory Within the Bloomington, Normal, McLean County, Gibson City, Ford County Enterprise Zone and All Amendatory Ordinances Thereto.

AYES: Lorenz, Preston, McCarthy, Cummings, Nord, Smith, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion to Amend the Original Motion declared carried.

City Manager, Pamela Reece stated this item has been presented to the other Enterprise Zone partners, and indicated approval is required in order to expand the Enterprise Zone boundaries. Ms. Reece indicated the purpose of this item is to extend the Enterprise Zone to include a portion of land for Brandt Industries.

Councilmember Karyn Smith asked for clarification on the property in which would be included in this request.

Mike O'Grady, representative of the Bloomington Normal Economic Development Council responded.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. There was no New Business.

9. CONCERNS:

Councilmember Karyn Smith asked about the possibility of sending the Council Packet in an email blast. City Manager, Pamela Reece reviewed the process on how someone can be notified of upcoming Town information on the Town website.

Councilmember Stan Nord stated that he would like to see the Veteran's Memorial located at the City Hall Annex relocated to Uptown Station.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Koos called for a Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council.

MOTION:

Councilmember Chamberly Cummings moved, seconded by Councilmember Lorenz, the Council Accept a Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council.

AYES: Preston, McCarthy, Cummings, Nord, Smith, Lorenz, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Koos adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council at 8:40 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2019.