

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, JULY 6, 2020.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Koos called the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council to Order at 7:01 p.m., Monday, July 6, 2020.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll with the following persons

PRESENT: The Meeting was conducted virtually. There were no persons physically present in Council Chambers.

REMOTE: 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, Assistant City Manager Eric Hanson, Corporation Counsel Brian Day, and Town Clerk Angie Huonker.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Chris Koos made the following statement:

Due to recent changes in the Open Meetings Act, I felt compelled to make the following statement that the Governor has issued a disaster declaration related to the public health concerns caused by the statewide COVID-19 pandemic.

As mayor, I have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus stemming from an indoor gathering, and that the remote meeting is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the council, staff, and general public.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Koos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Given the circumstances necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis, and in accordance with a mandate of social distancing, public comment was made available virtually through the use of Zoom Meeting.

Doug Fansler, Normal Resident, spoke regarding concerns over various issues including in-person Council Meetings and the hiring of a Communications Director.

Matt Hawkins, Normal Resident and Director of Sports and Market Development for the Bloomington-Normal Convention & Visitors Bureau, spoke in full support of the Illinois Fire Juniors Sports Complex and that the complex also has the full support of the BNCVB and the Sports Commission.

Ginny Eves, Bloomington Resident and Member of the Illinois Fire Juniors Capital Campaign Committee, spoke in support of the Illinois Fires Junior Sports Complex.

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 JUNE 15, 2020; APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF JUNE 22, 2020; APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2020:

B. REPORT TO RECEIVE AND FILE TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF JULY 1, 2020:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Council Approval of 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.

Item B was removed from the Omnibus Vote.

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA:

REPORT TO RECEIVE AND FILE TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF JULY 1, 2020:

MOTION:

Councilmember Nord moved, seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Council Accept a Report to Receive and File Town of Normal Expenditures for Payment as of July 1, 2020.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Nord asked why the Bloomington Normal Public Transit System contribution is lower than the usual monthly rate. City Manager Pam Reece responded.

Councilmember Nord asked about the expense for a Communications Director. Mayor Chris Koos responded.

GENERAL ORDERS:

7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ANNUAL SUPPORT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER: Resolution No. 5783:

MOTION:

Councilmember Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Approve a Resolution Authorizing Annual Support of the Small Business Development Center.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Kevin McCarthy commented that it is good to see the report summary of the activities and how far they reach into high schools and colleges. He stated this is a great program with expanded activity.

Councilmember Stan Nord requested that the Small Business Development Center make a full report to the Council regarding their activities. Mr. Nord also asked what could the Council do beyond the funding to help the organization. Mrs. Reece responded with the website information for the Small Business Development Center.

Councilmember Karyn Smith stated the annual report that was included in the Council Report is quite extensive and very informative. Mrs. Smith asked if the target audience is getting the message that the Center is available to help. Karen Bussone, Director of the Small Business Development Center, responded.

Councilmember Kathleen Lorenz asked how does the Small Business Development Center complement the Economic Development Council. Ms. Bussone responded. Mrs. Lorenz also asked about the past funding versus the current funding request. City Manager Pam Reece responded.

Councilmember Chamberly Cummings commented that she knows someone who has used the Center to help start up a business and it was very successful. She also spoke about the fair that the Center hosted for new businesses in the area.

Councilmember Stan Nord asked if there is a mechanism to weigh out the negative issues that businesses may have. Mrs. Bussone responded.

8. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT TO STARK EXCAVATING, INC. FOR THE NORTH BRANCH SUGAR CREEK BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$630,505: Resolution No. 5784:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Approve a Resolution to Accept Bids and Award a Contract to Stark Excavating, Inc. for the North Branch Sugar Creek Bank Stabilization Project in the Amount of \$630,505.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Karyn Smith asked if the expenses could be explained and is the Stormwater fund an Enterprise fund. Town Engineer Ryan Otto responded.

Councilmember Stan Nord spoke regarding the overbrush and maintenance. Mr. Otto responded.

9. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE TOWN'S AMENDED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN: Resolution No. 5785:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Filing of the Town's Amended Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Participation Plan.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

10. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM'S REVISED 2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND PROGRAM YEAR 2020-2021 ACTION PLAN: Resolution No. 5786:

MOTION:

Councilmember Preston moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Filing of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program's Revised 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and Program Year 2020-2021 Action Plan.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

11. ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDED POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Ordinance No. 5835:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Council Approve and Ordinance Adopting an Amended Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Stan Nord requested information regarding Councilmembers two-on-one meetings and how they relate to this policy. Councilmember Chamberly Cummings responded. City Manager Pam Reece also responded.

12. ORDINANCE AMENDING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR JOURNEY CHURCH AND GRANTING A VARIATION CONCERNING SIGN REGULATIONS (1320 E. COLLEGE):

MOTION:

Councilmember Preston moved, seconded by Councilmember Lorenz, the Council Approve an Ordinance Amending a Special Use Permit for Journey Church and Granting a Variation Concerning Sign Regulations (1320 E. College).

AYES: Nord.

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

Motion declared failed.

City Manager Pam Reece explained that this Motion is in the affirmative, however the Zoning Board of Appeals does not recommend this Special Use Permit.

Councilmember Karyn Smith requested information regarding the permanent versus temporary signage and how does that relate to residential signage. Mrs. Reece responded. Inspections Director Greg Troemel also responded. Corporation Counsel Brian Day spoke regarding First Amendment Rights to have signs in residential yards.

NEW BUSINESS:

13. PRESENTATION BY ILLINOIS FIRE JUNIORS SOCCER CLUB.

City Manager Pam Reece introduced Illinois Fire Juniors President Tim Koch and Jeremy Kelley, Secretary and Co-chair of the Capital Campaign. Mr. Koch is excited to announce Phase 1 to begin work for a multi-sports complex.

Mr. Kelley has had positive feedback since this was announced in the media last week. Mr. Kelley spoke regarding concerns on road work and traffic flow. Mr. Kelley then asked for a few items of the Council: to publicly support the project, to help to work through the process and to refer all concerns and questions back to the Illinois Fire Juniors. He also spoke regarding the timing of being able to begin the construction and said the fund raising will drive the timing.

Mr. Koch spoke regarding the multi-sports field possibly being used for lacrosse, rugby, cricket and football. Illinois Fire Juniors will own and operate the fields and will be open to renting the fields to any organization.

14. PRESENTATION BY CONNECT TRANSIT.

Mrs. Reece introduced Isaac Thorne, General Manager of Connect Transit and Julie Hile, Board Vice Chair.

Mr. Thorne spoke regarding Connect Transit, the Connect to the Future work groups, update on the budget and the Covid impact. Mr. Thorne first thanked all the Connect Transit employees and stated how they are considered essential workers. He also spoke about the Covid policies and procedures.

Julie Hile spoke regarding Connect to the Future recommendations regarding One Rate for All, expansion of service, Better Bus Stop campaign, sustainable funding and future action with additional funding.

Mr. Thorne spoke regarding the investment request and budget challenges. Mr. Thorne stated customer satisfaction is the primary driver on whether to choose public transit. He also stated Connect Transit has partnered with McLean County Regional Planning Commission to help best service the service gaps in the area.

15. MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION:

Councilmember Lorenz moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Accept a Motion to Approve Appointments and Re-Appointments to Various Boards, Commissions and Committees.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Nord.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Karyn Smith is thankful that there is a Connect Transit representative to be added to the Board however is frustrated that there was not time to speak with the representative before the vote. Mayor Chris Koos responded.

Councilmember Kathleen Lorenz reminded the residents of the link on the Town of Normal website where someone can go to show their interest in being on a Board or Commission.

Councilmember Stan Nord spoke regarding the chance to have an interview with an individual before a vote is taken for the Boards and Commissions. Mayor Chris Koos responded that this process will be discussed at the next Council Retreat.

16. CONCERNS:

Councilmember Chemberly Cummings wished Mayor Chris Koos a Happy Birthday.

Councilmember Stan Nord thanked the Town staff for repairing the potholes on College Ave. He also thanked the Mayor for the comment at the beginning of the meeting regarding Council meetings as legal meetings.

Councilmember Kevin McCarthy reminded everyone of the Craft Beer Bingo which supports the Children's Discovery Museum.

Councilmember Karyn Smith stated that the SOAR registration begins tomorrow.

Councilmember Stan Nord stated that Midwest Food Bank is having a raffle drawing for a tiny home.

17. 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 Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember McCarthy, the Council Accept a Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Koos adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council at 10:04 p.m., Monday, July 6, 2020.