

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL 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, JUNE 7, 2021.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Koos called the Special Meeting of the Normal Town Council to Order at 5:15 p.m., Monday, June 7, 2021.

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 Chemberly Cummings, Karyn Smith, Stan Nord, and Kathleen Lorenz, also present were City Manager Pamela Reece, Corporation Counsel Brian Day, and Town Clerk Angie Huonker.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Kevin McCarthy and Scott Preston.

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.

Councilmember Scott Preston arrived at 5:21 p.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Koos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. PRESENTATION BY TOWN STAFF TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE UPTOWN UNDERPASS PROJECT:

Public Works Director, Wayne Aldrich began the presentation by introducing the project team and providing a list of project partners, including U.S. Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Commerce Commission, Union Pacific Railroad, and Amtrak.

Mr. Aldrich then provided a comprehensive outline of the project history, phase one engineering to-date, the funding plan, and next steps of the project. Mr. Aldrich also included information on previous Council decisions pertaining to the advancement of the project.

Mr. Aldrich then reviewed phases one through three, explaining the scope of work for each of those phases. Mr. Aldrich then provided the current funding plan for the \$22.69 million project and the anticipated timeline for completion.

A Council discussion followed the presentation. Councilmembers discussed the project budget and funding, project management, and the use and availability of grant funding.

Councilmembers also discussed an underpass versus overpass scenario, potential uses of the underpass and the long-term maintenance and repair of the structure.

5. 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.

Mike Raikes, President of the McLean County Building and Trades spoke in support of the project indicating the project is beneficial for all the trades and with open up economic development opportunities for the other side of the underpass.

6. ADJOURN TO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Koos announced a 10-minute break before beginning the Regular Council Meeting. The break began at 6:50 p.m.