

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, OCTOBER 7, 2019.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Chris Koos called the regular meeting of the Normal Town Council to order at 7:05 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2019.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll with the following persons physically

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Koos and Councilmembers, Kevin McCarthy, Chamberly 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.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Koos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Craig Stimpert, Normal Resident, spoke about his experience addressing councils in the past. Mr. Stimpert also spoke about his concerns with Connect Transit indicating he feels they are not hearing the concerns of residents.

Heidi Zimmerman, Normal Resident, stated she was pleased to see an open discussion with Connect Transit. Ms. Zimmerman noted concerns over accessibility, bus shelters, para transit services and the prioritizing of capital projects such as a customer service center and HVAC units.

Marc Tiritilli, Normal Resident, stated he feels Connect Transit is making bad decisions, indicating there is a lack of board representation. Mr. Tiritilli then stated he doesn't feel the work group is being taken seriously and he is also concerned about the data being presented.

Karl Sila, Normal Resident, spoke about his concerns with the Town's public comment policy, indicating he feels it is contrary to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Ron Ulmer, Normal Resident, spoke about his concerns over Connect Transit's extension of hours and route changes leading to lower ridership revenue. Mr. Ulmer then reviewed his concerns of rider convenience, Connect Mobility rates, disabled ridership, and areas of service.

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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2019:
- B. REPORT TO RECEIVE AND FILE TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF OCTOBER 2, 2019:
- C. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL BIDS FROM NOVEMBER 2019 THROUGH OCTOBER 2020: Resolution No. 5717:

Item C was approved by the Omnibus Vote.

Items A and B were removed from the Omnibus Vote.

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2019:

MOTION TO AMEND:

Councilmember Nord moved, seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Council Amend the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 3, 2019 to include Expanded Discussion of Comments.

AYES: Nord, Smith.  
NAYS: Cummings, Lorenz, Preston, McCarthy, Koos.  
Motion to Amend declared failed.

MOTION:

Councilmember Nord moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 16, 2019.

AYES: Lorenz, Preston, McCarthy, Cummings, Koos.  
NAYS: Nord, Smith.  
Motion declared carried.

Discussion included a request to amend the minutes, concerns over the content of the proposed minutes, and whether the minutes should include expanded content. It was also discussed that minutes are not required to be verbatim, noting the video of council meetings is archived and available to the public on the Town website. A spelling correction was also noted in the proposed minutes.

Discussion ensued, noting that if minutes are amended to reflect one Councilmember's perspective, it should then be expanded for all Councilmembers and that Councilmembers could choose to allow additional funding for transcribed, verbatim minutes.

REPORT TO RECEIVE AND FILE TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF OCTOBER 2, 2019:

MOTION:

Councilmember Nord moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Approval of the Report to Receive and File Town of Normal Expenditures for Payment as of October 2, 2019.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Chamberly Cummings excused herself from voting on any expenses incurred while performing her duties as a Councilmember.

Discussion included the Town procurement policy, obtaining competitive pricing quotes on expenditures, and councilmembers' role in the procurement process.

NEW BUSINESS

7. OPEN DISCUSSION WITH CONNECT TRANSIT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVES:

Representatives of the Connect Transit Board of Trustees provided information on the transit system, stating that the rise in ridership levels is an indicator of a good, healthy transit system. Representatives also noted the number of competitive grants Connect Transit has received and the dollar amounts of those grants is a strong indicator of a well-managed, fiscally sound transit system. A review of items being considered under those grant funds include bus replacement and a potential new transfer center.

Discussion included clarification on the use of federal grant funds intended to purchase electric or low/no emission buses, the removal of bus services from parking lots and private roads for safety reasons, and data used by the Connect Transit Board based on Federal Transit Administration and Department of Transportation standards.

Additionally, there was discussion regarding individual ridership, transit dependent ridership, and low-income ridership. It was noted that in order for Connect Transit to serve low ridership areas, additional funding would be required.

Discussion ensued over Medicaid coverage and reimbursements, and the designated Connect Transit Staff person responsible for that program. There was discussion over the Connect Transit Working Group, the availability of recordings of those Work Group meetings, topics being discussed in the meetings, and the need to let the Working Group finish their recommendations. There was also discussion on current and future Transit funding and infrastructure projects.

8. CONCERNS:

Councilmember Stan Nord stated the Town should begin to look at additional revenue sources, such as renting Town owned properties or selling properties not being used.

Councilmember Kevin McCarthy spoke about the World Wide Day of Play event, noting he was approached with multiple positive comments.

Councilmember Karyn Smith spoke about ISU athletes with high academic achievement and the banquet to celebrate them.

Councilmember Stan Nord thanked staff for helping to host a recent visit by the Boy Scouts to City Hall.

Councilmember Scott Preston noted the Rivian event to be held in Uptown, and the job recruiting they plan to do.

Mayor Koos stated he was recently in the Detroit area for a conference, noting accolades from large and small communities now know Normal is the home of Rivian. Mayor Koos also reviewed a portion of the Town Charter about road repair which allowed the Town to call up residents to help repair the streets or pay a fine.

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

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Koos adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council at 9:09 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2019.