

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, FEBRUARY 17, 2020.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Koos called the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council to order at 7:28 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2020.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll with the following persons physically

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Koos, 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 Deputy Clerk Theresa Denham.

ABSENT: Angelia Huonker, Town Clerk.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Koos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ron Ulmer, Normal Resident, gave public comment in opposition of the proposed pay increase for City Manager, Pamela Reece.

Dave Shields, Normal Resident, gave public comment in support of the proposed pay increase for the City Manager, Pamela Reece.

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 BUDGET WORK SESSION SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 16, 2020 AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020.
- B. REPORT TO RECEIVE AND FILE TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020.
- C. RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$379,100 OF MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS FOR THE TOWANDA AVENUE BRIDGE OVER SUGAR CREEK REPAIR PROJECT.
- D. RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$405,750 OF MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS FOR THE GREGORY STREET CULVERT OVER SUGAR CREEK REHABILITATION PROJECT: Resolution No. 5741:

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

MOTION:

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

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Item D was approved by the Omnibus Vote.

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORK SESSION SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 16 2020 AND THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020:

MOTION:

Councilmember Nord moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Approval of the Minutes of the Budget Work Session Special Meeting January 16, 2020 and the Regular Council Meeting of February 3, 2020.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Stan Nord stated that he would like it noted the Council Priority Setting and Citizen Summit information was not provided to Council before the preparation of the budget.

REPORT TO RECEIVE AND FILE TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020:

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 February 12, 2020.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Stan Nord asked for a summary of the "One Voice" trip which appeared in the expenditures. City Manager, Pamela Reece and Mayor Chris Koos responded. Councilmember Nord also asked for clarification on the Uptown TIF reimbursement to the CVS building.

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$379,100 OF MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS FOR THE TOWANDA AVENUE BRIDGE OVER SUGAR CREEK REPAIR PROJECT: Resolution No. 5742:

MOTION:

Councilmember Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Approve a Resolution to Appropriate \$379,100 of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for the Towanda Avenue Bridge over Sugar Creek Repair Project.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Karyn Smith asked for clarification as to which budget year the project is applied to, and whether any of those funds would be forfeited outside of the fiscal year allocation. Town Engineer, Ryan Otto clarified that those funds would not be forfeited.

Councilmember Smith also asked for the specifics on the improvement plans and had concerns about pedestrian and bike access at the bridge North of Vernon Avenue. She inquired if the plans were to widen the sidewalk along the bridge.

Mr. Otto clarified the project as one concerned with maintenance and repair of damage and wear, not widening, the bridge.

City Manager, Pamela Reece noted the pedestrian walkway adjacent to Vernon Avenue would be addressed after trail resurfacing and additional horticulture work.

GENERAL ORDERS:

7. RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RECARBONATION BASIN NO. 1 COATING PROJECT TO RP COATINGS, INC. AT A TOTAL COST OF \$74,000 AND AUTHORIZING AN ASSOCIATED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: Resolution No. 5743:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Lorenz, the Council Approve a Resolution to Award the Bid for the Water Treatment Plant Recarbonation Basin No. 1 Coating Project to RP Coatings, Inc. at a Total Coast of \$74,000 and Authorizing an Associated Budget Adjustment.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

8. RESOLUTION WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH HENSON DISPOSAL OF BLOOMINGTON, IL FOR PROCESSING OF RECYCLABLE RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION,

DEMOLITION AND BULKY WASTE COLLECTED BY THE TOWN OF NORMAL
AT A RATE OF \$54.65 PER TON: Resolution No. 5744:

MOTION:

Councilmember Preston moved, seconded by Councilmember Nord, the Council Approve a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Process and Authorizing a Contract with Henson Disposal of Bloomington, IL for Processing of Recyclable Residential Construction, Demolition and Bulky Waste Collected by the Town of Normal at a Rate of \$54.65 Per Ton.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

9. ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF NORMAL – 3495 E.
RAAB ROAD: Ordinance No. 5817:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Adopt an Ordinance Rezoning Property in the Town of Normal – 3495 E. Raab Road.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Lorenz asked for the general opinion and success of property owners in the area of the proposed rezoning.

City Manager Pamela Reece stated only three parcels are undeveloped and there has not been a notable amount of public feedback.

Town Planner Mercy Davison said she is not aware of any complaints and anticipates additional items in the area to come before the Zoning Board.

10. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN BASE PAY FOR THE CITY
MANAGER FOR FY2019-20: Resolution No. 5745:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Cummings, the Council Accept a Resolution Authorizing an Increase in Base Pay for the City Manager for FY2019-20.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: Nord.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Karyn Smith expressed her approval of the raise for Ms. Reece. Ms. Smith noted Ms. Reece's professionalism, availability, and consistent representation of the Town.

Councilmember Chamberly Cummings expressed her approval of the proposed raise for City Manager Reece. Ms. Cummings highlighted Ms. Reece's availability as a resource to Councilmembers and considers Ms. Reece's work as going above and beyond the call of duty.

Councilmember Kevin McCarthy expressed his support of the proposed raise. Mr. McCarthy commended Ms. Reece's skill at handling a large budget cut at the beginning of her tenure as City Manager. Mr. McCarthy also clarified the proposed raise pertains to FY2019-20 during which time Ms. Reece spearheaded the comprehensive plan, strengthened the relationship with Rivian, and executed the grant work that brought significant funds to the Town.

Councilmember Kathleen Lorenz expressed her support of the increase in the City Manager's salary and noted that the previous City Manager's raises were approved without a Council vote. Mrs. Lorenz also expressed her disappointment in Councilmember Stan Nord's abstinence from the vote.

Mr. Nord indicated he abstained during the Executive Meeting as well.

Councilmember Scott Preston expressed support and added that Ms. Reece was the clear best candidate from a large group of candidates at the time of her hiring two years ago.

Mayor Chris Koos recapped Ms. Reece's history with the Town and spoke to her significant contributions throughout the years. Mayor Koos noted that Ms. Reece has the firm respect of her peers and indicated that if she were not employed in this capacity at the Town she would surely be in high demand.

NEW BUSINESS:

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING ZONING CODE VARIANCES FOR 105 – 111 W. LOCUST: Resolution No. 5746:

MOTION:

Councilmember McCarthy moved, seconded by Councilmember Preston, the Council Accept a Resolution Approving Zoning Code Variances For 105 – 111 W. Locust.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Councilmember Karyn Smith commended the property owners for using discretion in the size of their property in order to enhance the design of the facility. Ms. Smith noted changing trends in parking, and indicated the setback, greenspace and circle drive would likely be an asset to the Town.

Mayor Koos expressed support and noted that the area needs updates. Regarding the variances, Mayor Koos noted that the property owners are the entity at risk should the parking variance be a problem. He further explained the Parking Impact Zone, which was created with demand for one parking space per bed. He noted that this is not necessarily an accurate representation of needed parking. He believes this instance might be a good test case to observe the current trends in needed parking.

Councilmember Kevin McCarthy expressed support considering its compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. He expressed his appreciation to the owners for creating an especially lucrative option for themselves as their primary goal, but the best option for the Town.

Councilmember Chamberly Cummings commended the owners on the thoughtfulness of the design based on emerging trends and overall aesthetics.

Councilmember Stan Nord expressed his agreement with the Mayor and noted that the choice to acknowledge the changing concept of car ownership fits well with the presence of Rivian in the Town.

Councilmember Scott Preston asked for clarification on whether there was concern about the accessibility or usability of underground parking spaces.

Inspections Director, Greg Troemel explained that “stacked parking” and narrower parking widths were a result of the 2001 Parking Impact Zone. He noted that underground parking is more difficult than open surface parking but doesn’t typically present a problem in practice.

Councilmember Kathleen Lorenz referenced a parking variance approved in the past as something giving her trepidation toward approving the variance.

City Manager Pamela Reece noted there are plans to evaluate the Parking Impact Zone this year.

12. CONCERNS:

Councilmember Stan Nord thanked the Mayor for his comments which Mr. Nord felt served to unite the Council on the final item.

Councilmember Kevin McCarthy noted a recent story on the significant \$750,000,000 investment Rivian has made in the Town. He highlighted how rare this type of investment is.

Mayor Chris Koos added to previous statements concerning the addition planned for the Rivian plant. He considers it a major economic investment in the Town.

Councilmember Scott Preston thanked the Public Works Department for managing the roads during recent weather events.

Councilmember Karyn Smith reminded residents that registration for space in the Community Garden opens Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

13. 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 Preston, 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 8:28 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2020.