

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NORMAL TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NORMAL CITY HALL, 100 EAST PHOENIX AVENUE, NORMAL, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2008.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Chris Koos called the regular meeting of the Normal Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 18, 2008.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Deputy Clerk called the roll with the following persons physically

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Koos and Councilmembers Sonja Reece, Adam Nielsen, Jeff Fritzen, Chuck Scott, Jason Chambers, and Cheryl Gaines. Also present were City Manager Mark Peterson, Assistant City Manager Pam Reece, Corporation Counsel Steve Mahrt, and Deputy Clerk Ann Frels.

ABSENT: Town Clerk Wendy Briggs.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Koos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA:

Mayor Koos excused himself from voting on any bills he may have incurred while performing his Mayoral duties and on any bills submitted by Vitesse Cycle Shop. Councilmember Reece excused herself from voting on any bills submitted by BroMenn Healthcare and on any bills she may have incurred while performing her duties as Councilmember.

Councilmember Fritzen excused himself from voting on any bills submitted by Bloomington Offset Process, Inc.

Item I was removed from the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

MOTION:

Councilmember Reece moved, seconded by Councilmember Fritzen, the Council Approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

AYES: Reece, Nielsen, Fritzen, Scott, Chambers, Gaines, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2008: Omnibus Vote.

B. APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF NORMAL EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 13, 2008: Omnibus Vote.

C. MOTION TO ACCEPT BIDS, AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THREE NEW KNUCKLEBOOM TRASH LOADER TRUCKS FROM CENTRAL ILLINOIS TRUCKS, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$334,449 FOR THE PUBLIC

WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND SELL THREE USED TRUCKS TO SCHMIDY'S MACHINERY CO. FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$96,800:
Omnibus Vote.

- D. MOTION TO ACCEPT A BID AND AWARD THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT SCBA (BREATHING AIR) COMPRESSOR SYSTEM FROM TOWERS FIRE APPARATUS CO., INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,884 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Omnibus Vote.
- E. MOTION TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR BEE TANK MIXING UNIT FOR THE WEST RESERVOIR AT A TOTAL COST OF \$54,865:
Omnibus Vote.
- F. MOTION TO ACCEPT A BID AND AWARD A CONTRACT TO AMPRIDE COMMUNICATIONS, INC., OF CHAMPAIGN, IL, FOR THE PRINTING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S FALL/WINTER/SPRING AND SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,108: Omnibus Vote.
- G. MOTION TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF BACKWASH PUMP REPAIR PARTS FROM HARRIS PUMP REPAIR AND TOOL CO.: Omnibus Vote.
- H. MOTION TO ACCEPT BID FROM STARK EXCAVATING, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,188,248.00 AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR REPLACEMENT OF COLLEGE AVENUE BRIDGE OVER THE NORTH BRANCH OF SUGAR CREEK: Omnibus Vote.
- J. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES FOR THE 2008 CONSTRUCTION SEASON WITH TERRACON AND TESTING SERVICE CORPORATION (TSC): Resolution No. 4163: Omnibus Vote.
- K. RESOLUTION FOR THE USE OF MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS TO FINANCE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE USED FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS IN UPTOWN NORMAL: Resolution No. 4164: Omnibus Vote.
- L. RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY AND PARTIALLY APPROVING AN AMENDED FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE OMNI SPORTS PUD: Resolution No. 4165: Omnibus Vote.
- M. RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING A RESUBDIVISION OF LOT 3 IN THE RESUBDIVISION OF LOT 3 IN THE OMNI SPORTS CENTER SUBDIVISION: Resolution No. 4166: Omnibus Vote.
- N. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF EASEMENTS – HEARTLAND : Resolution No. 4167: Omnibus Vote.
- O. ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITY PURPOSES – HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Ordinance No. 5174: Omnibus Vote.

P. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF NORMAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Ordinance No. 5175: Omnibus Vote.

Q. ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2008 NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE, WITH AMENDMENTS, AND AMENDING SECTION 11.3 DIVISION 4 ELECTRICAL CODE OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF NORMAL: Ordinance No. 5176: Omnibus Vote.

5. ITEM REMOVED FROM OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA:

I. RESOLUTION URGING THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO 1) STOP MAKING COSTLY BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS TO POLICE AND FIRE PENSION PROGRAMS; AND 2) ADOPT REFORMS THAT PROTECT POLICE AND FIRE PENSIONS: Resolution No. 4168:

MOTION:

Councilmember Chambers moved, seconded by Councilmember Scott, the Council Adopt a Resolution Urging the Illinois General Assembly to 1) Stop Making Costly Benefit Enhancements to Police and Fire Pension Programs; and 2) Adopt Reforms that Protect Police and Fire Pensions.

Councilmember Chambers stated that he had pulled this item for information purposes and gave background on the proposed resolution and its relation to property taxes. He also stated that although Town of Normal Police and Fire Pension Board members had expressed concern that they were not informed about this resolution in advance, there was no reason to wait to consider it, since the resolution was not binding. Councilmember Chambers further discussed the fact that the Town must fund these enhancements but has no other real input into the process. He fears that the system could have real problems in 30-40 years and feels that we need to try to get people talking about this issue before future pensions and the Town are weakened.

Councilmember Reece was in agreement with Councilmember Chambers and emphasized the need for reform in the way that pensions are enhanced as well as the need for good management of the funds that exist.

Councilmember Nielsen acknowledged those firefighters and police officers in the audience and thanked them for all they do for the Town. He mentioned how effective their lobbies are in Springfield and stated that Illinois needs to get its “house in order” in regard to pensions. He also described some of the enhancements that are currently being proposed.

Councilmember Fritzen explained that this resolution was an attempt by the Illinois Municipal League to have the voice of Illinois municipalities heard in Springfield. He stressed that these enhancements are unfunded mandates. If they are adopted, we must pay for them. He also stated that this resolution is not controversial – we do not wish to change existing benefits. We just want the General Assembly to adopt reforms to protect our position and to protect benefits.

Councilmember Gaines added that we need to have our voice heard as stewards of tax dollars. We can only do so much with the money available.

Councilmember Scott agreed that we need to maintain the integrity of our existing fire and police pensions but stated that we can't keep increasing property taxes, either.

Mayor Koos also stressed the need to protect the long-term viability of our pension plans. He feels that the system is broken because the people making the decisions don't have to fund the enhancements. He emphasized that we were not taking anything away. We are trying to insure that what we have in place is there for the long term.

Councilmember Fritzen added that funding for these plans must come from property taxes and that taxes will have to be raised to meet them. He also explained that the Town has traditionally tried to minimize our part of the property tax "bite."

Councilmember Reece added that we have no input into how this money is invested, and we need to have this input.

City Manager Mark Peterson stated his agreement with the Council discussion. He added that he had met with some of the representatives of the Town of Normal Fire and Police Pension Boards today to discuss this resolution. He stressed how responsible our local pension boards are and how we want to protect these funds. He added that the Town and the pension boards have many common interests in these funds and that we can work closely together to see that information is shared and that our mutual interests are protected.

AYES: Reece, Nielsen, Fritzen, Scott, Chambers, Gaines, Koos

NAYS: None

Motion declared carried.

GENERAL ORDERS

6. RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING AN AMENDED SITE PLAN FOR THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETIC COMPLEX: Resolution No. 4169:

MOTION:

Councilmember Fritzen moved, seconded by Councilmember Reece, the Council Adopt the Resolution Conditionally Approving an Amended Site Plan for the Heartland Community College Athletic Complex.

City Manager Mark Peterson stated that representatives from Heartland Community College were present and would be glad to answer any questions if needed. He described the project and discussed the issues that the Planning Commission had with it. These issues basically concerned noise and lights. He said that staff had been surprised that the Planning Commission had voted to deny the project and said that there would be small crowds at the sporting events and that said events would only be held during part of the year. He also added that no one from North Meadow Village had come to voice any concerns with the project.

Councilmember Scott asked where the minor league ballpark would be located if we, in fact, have a minor league team in the future.

City Manager Peterson stated that Heartland’s plan does not suppose a minor league stadium, but, if there was one, it would be in approximately the same location.

Councilmember Reece posed questions concerning lighting and hours of use. City Manager Peterson stated that it would not be lighted and invited Jon Astroth, President of Heartland Community College, to discuss hours of use. President Astroth stated that it would be used in the afternoon – probably around 3:00 p.m. for games and from approximately noon till dark for practice. The stadium would be used from approximately September 1 to mid-October and again from approximately mid-March to mid-May. He also added that there were no plans for lights.

Councilmember Reece further questioned the type of “trail” which would connect the stadium to the rest of the campus. President Astroth stated that a mowed trail is there and that, depending on need and funding, a hard-surfaced trail might be added later.

Mayor Koos posed questions concerning a bus shelter near the site. President Astroth stated that one could be added as the need arose.

AYES: Reece, Nielsen, Fritzen, Scott, Chambers, Gaines, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

7. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN LIQUOR CODE TO ALLOW SALE OF ALCOHOL AT IRONWOOD GOLF COURSE AND TO PERMIT ALCOHOL FOR CORPORATE EVENTS AT THE CHILDREN’S DISCOVERY MUSEUM: Ordinance No. 5177:

MOTION:

Councilmember Gaines moved, seconded by Councilmember Scott, the Council Approve the Ordinance Amending the Town Liquor Code to Allow Sale of Alcohol at Ironwood Golf Course and to Permit Alcohol for Corporate Events at the Children’s Discovery Museum.

Councilmember Nielsen stated that if this ordinance is approved, he would like a report to be made concerning how well these proposed changes have gone after the first year of implementation and also including how the Homeowner’s Association feels about it after a year.

City Manager Mark Peterson stated that we would certainly do that after the first year and that doing so was a part of the plan from the beginning.

Councilmember Fritzen posed questions concerning what would constitute a corporate event at the museum. Mayor Koos also posed questions concerning the definition of a “business entity” and whether it would include non-profits. City Manager Peterson responded to said questions and added that this proposal would include non-profits.

Councilmember Fritzen asked if this question could be divided so that a vote could be taken on the Ironwood section and another on the Children’s Discovery Museum section. Corporation Counsel Steven Mahrt stated that the question could be split.

Councilmember Nielsen suggested that the Council allow this action through common consent. The Council concurred.

Further Council discussion ensued.

The question was called for the section of the proposed ordinance concerning liquor changes at Ironwood Golf Course.

AYES: Reece, Nielsen, Fritzen, Scott, Chambers, Gaines, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

The question was called for the section of the proposed ordinance concerning liquor changes at the Children's Discovery Museum.

AYES: Reece, Nielsen, Scott, Chambers, Gaines, Koos

NAYS: Fritzen

Motion declared carried.

NEW BUSINESS

8. PRESENTATION OF REPORT PREPARED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE STUDYING THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

Mr. Doug Oehler and Mr. George Farnsworth presented the bicycle and pedestrian transportation system report for the Ad Hoc committee. They expressed their appreciation for being allowed to bring their findings and suggestions before the Town. Mr. Oehler and Mr. Farnsworth also responded to questions and comments from the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Koos thanked them for all of their work and advised that he felt that the Council was in favor of the committee continuing their efforts.

9. MAYOR'S MOMENT:

There was none.

10. CONCERNS:

1. HANDICAP PARKING:

Councilmember Reece mentioned that as we are working on streets and adding parking facilities in Uptown, we need to be sure to provide adequate handicap parking spaces on the streets and not to just rely on the parking decks for these spaces.

2. STUDENT RENTALS:

Councilmember Fritzen brought up the fact that Illinois State University's residence hall space will be limited in the fall. He indicated that this will likely have an impact on off-campus housing and that the Town Inspections Department will need to be especially mindful of two unrelated occupants in single-family zones. He also indicated it would be helpful for the Inspections Department to do some pro-active education to make sure that all student renters understand this limitation within single-family zoning districts.

3. POTHLES:

Councilmember Nielsen discussed the pothole situation. He commended the Public Works Department for all of their hard work and posed questions concerning how potholes should be reported and what the turn around time was for repair. City Manager Mark Peterson stated that potholes should be reported to the Public Works Department through telephone calls or emails. Public Works Director Mike Hall stated that the repairs were generally made within a day or two of notification.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Koos called for a Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION:

Councilmember Fritzen moved, seconded by Councilmember Gaines, the Regular Meeting of the Normal Town Council be Adjourned.

AYES: Reece, Nielsen, Fritzen, Scott, Chambers, Gaines, Koos.

NAYS: None.

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Chris Koos adjourned the regular meeting of the Normal Town Council at 8:25 p.m., Monday, February 18, 2008.