

**CITY OF NIOTA
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners
April 20, 2020**

Date of Approval: May 11, 2020

Approved by Commissioners: Watkins and Dilbeck

Call to Order: A meeting of the City of Niota Board of Commissioners and Mayor was held in the Niota City Hall, Niota, Tennessee on April 20, 2020. This meeting was conducted via telephone due to the COVID-19 by administration guidelines put in place by Governor Lee. Additionally, this meeting was held in place of the Regular Meeting scheduled for April 13, 2020 due to lack of a quorum. The meeting convened at 6:00 P.M., Mayor Preece presiding, Jeannie Anderson as City Recorder.

Members in attendance: Commissioner's Baker, Wallace and Watkins

Invocation: Todd Baker

Pledge of Allegiance:

Reading of the Minutes:

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 9, 2020 as read. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Called Meeting held on March 16, 2020 as read. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.

Reports from Members of the Governing Body:

Depot Committee: No report at this time.

Library report: No report at this time.

Finance report: Jeannie Anderson reported that we are keeping on track in our budget. Also, reported that she is currently working the 20-21 budget and will hopefully have it for 1st reading by the May 8, 2020 meeting.

Mayor made a motion to accept the Finance reports as read, Commissioner Baker seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.

Police report: Commissioner Watkins gave the Police report stats for February: 4 arrests, 6 calls for medical, 10 traffic citations, 99 dispatched calls, 12 traffic stops. Municipal Court has been rescheduled due to COVID-19. Calls are up due to people getting aggravated and being at home more due to COVID-19.

Fire Department report: Fire Chief Slack gave the Fire report that the call volume is way down. ISO correction plan has been submitted and waiting for a response.

Sewer Department report: Mayor gave the report that cameras will be ran on about 25% of the sewer lines and manholes. The second new clarifier is being installed and the old ones are ready to be hauled away as scrap. The sledge recertification has been done with the State. There have been no over flows and no violations on our State reports.

Street Department report: Commissioner Wallace gave report that the street department will be finishing the bridge on N. Burn Rd as soon as weather permits.

Water Department report: Richie Layman has been selected to be hired as the new Water Superintendent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Sewer Consent Order Update: On March 25, 2020 the Correction Action Plan was approved by the State. An extension was granted until July 1 2022. The fine of \$2950 was removed. CAPER reports will be due January 31, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

No Dog Ordinance 20-6 1st reading: An Ordinance to amend Title 10, Chapter 2, Dogs, by adding language to regulate the disposal of animal waste, by adding the following new provisions to Title 10, Chapter 2, Dogs, as follows: Section 10-2-208.Excrement: A dog owner shall clean up and remove any excrement left by his or her dog(s) on any public property or private property not owned or lawfully possessed by the dog owner. Violations of this section shall be punishable by a fifty-dollar fine.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve Ordinance 20-6, first reading, to amend Title 10, Chapter 2, Dogs, by adding language to regulate the disposal of animal waste, by adding the following new provisions to Title 10, Chapter 2, Dogs as follows: Section 10-2-208.Excrement: A dog owner shall clean up and remove any excrement left by his or her dog(s) on any public property or private property not owned or lawfully possessed by the dog owner. Violations of this section shall be punishable by a fifty-dollar fine. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.

Library Closure: Discussion took place on the permanent closure of the library. Due to the expense of operation and lack of use it was decided to close it permanently.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to close the library permanently, Commissioner Baker seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.

Shultz Street Closure: Motion to un-table made by Commissioner Baker, seconded by the Mayor.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close Shultz Street, Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hiring of Richie Layman: Richie Layman to be hired beginning April 20, 2020, full time for the Water Department with pay rate is to begin at \$19.25/per hr and raise to \$19.75 after 90 days.

Mayor made a motion to hire Richie Layman as the Water Superintendent at the pay rate of \$19.25 and to raise to \$19.75 in 90 days. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.

Hiring of Eric Brown: Eric Brown to be hired beginning April 22, 2020, full time for the Streets Department pay rate to begin at \$13./hr. after 90 days raised to \$14./hr. after evaluation.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to hire Eric Brown full time for the Streets Department at \$13 per hour, Commissioner Baker seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.

SRTS Grant: TDOT has decided to do an 80/20 grant for \$230,000. This will make the City's portion \$46,000 which will come from the State Grant on April 30, 2020.

Building Purchase on W. Main Street: The City has been approached by Tracy Simpson of Dycho to see if we would be interested in purchasing the Dycho building adjacent to our City lot. More information, pricing and a walk through is needed of the building done before making a final decision.

Personnel Policy: Ordinance 20-7 to update the Personnel Policy Manual, first reading.

Mayor made a motion to accept Ordinance 20-7 to update the Personnel Policy Manual for the first reading, Commissioner Wallace seconded, all voted aye, motioned passed.

Barge Infrastructure Grant: Attorney Estes will review the contract for approval with Barge for the Infrastructure Grant.

Mayor made a motion that the contract with Barge for the Infrastructure Grant be approved with any changes that attorney Estes recommends, Commissioner Watkins seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.

Robert Clowers: Change of Position: Mr. Clowers has worked in the Street Department since 2012. After a short layoff due to COVID-19, Mr. Clowers is returning to work at the City but will be moved into a new position under the Sanitation Department under Commissioner Baker. Mr. Clowers will begin in this new position on April 27 2020 with an hourly rate of \$12./hr.

Mayor made a motion to reinstate Mr. Clowers in a new position under the Sanitation Department, Commissioner Baker seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.

Announcements:

- a. Next meeting will be held May 11, 2020

Adjournment:

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baker seconded. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

CITY RECORDER

MAYOR