

**CITY OF NIOTA
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners
August 8, 2022**

Date of Approval: _____

Approved by Commissioners: _____ and _____

Call to Order: A meeting of the City of Niota Board of Commissioners and Mayor was held in the Niota City Municipal Building, Niota, Tennessee, on August 8, 2022. The meeting convened at 6:00 P.M., Mayor Preece presiding, Jeannie Anderson as City Recorder.

Members in attendance: Commissioner's Baker, Brakebill, Dilbeck and Watkins

Invocation: Commissioner Baker

Pledge of Allegiance: Linda Ward

Reading of the Regular Minutes:

Commissioner Dilbeck made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 11, 2022 as read. Commissioner Watkins, seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.

Reports from the Commissioners, Members of the Governing Body and Other Officers:

Depot Committee – Fried Green Tomato Festival planning is in full swing.

Reports from Members of the Governing Body:

Finance report: Jeannie Anderson gave the budget report that we are now into the 2022-23 budget year.

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

Police report: Mayor Preece gave the Police report stats for:

June: 6 arrests, 31 traffic stops, 17 traffic citations, 3 medical calls, 88 dispatched calls.

A total of \$1555.00 was paid in citations for the month.

East Tennessee Warehouse demolition of the warehouse is underway.

Fire Department report: Chief Slack reported: 18 calls, 7 vehicle accidents, 3 med assists, 8 misc.

Sewer Department report: No violations or overflows, all is going well. Preparing for new aerators. Electrical work has begun. Will complete the mandate order with most being covered by the CDBG grant.

Street Department report:

Commissioner Brakebill reported that paving on Main Street will begin on August 17, 2022. Sidewalk work on Main Street has been completed and with Shultz and Farrell work begin within a couple of weeks.

Water Department report: Commissioner Dilbeck reported that parts for the water lines and meters are becoming extremely hard to get.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Tap Refund Request – Ord. 18-104

Cassandra Nowotnik requested a refund on a tap fee in the amount of \$1050. City Attorney, Chuck Pope read the Ordinance 18-104 out loud and gave his opinion that the Ordinance was clear and should be followed. Water Department Commissioner, David Dilbeck agreed. Discussion was held around the matter, however, this request was denied by the Board of Commissioners based on Ordinance 18-104.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

a. Tina White: Spoke regarding the Water Department and the cost of the water rates. Jen Cagle, the Water Department Office Manager and Richie Layman, the Water Department Superintendent, spoke as well to explain how and why the water rates are determined. Ms. White asked if a 3rd party audit could be done at her expense and was told that as far as the City was concerned that was no problem as there was nothing to hide. Further discussion was postponed until the requested audit is completed.

b) Mark Ward: Spoke asking if the City or the Mayor had anything to do with the water rates or if it is strictly based out of the water department. It was clarified that the water rates are determined through the Niota Water Department based on the costs incurred to the Niota Water Department for purchased water and the infrastructure repairs and maintenance and that they must stay in compliance with the State office TAUD. Additionally, it was clarified that the Commissioners vote on the annual budget which approves any water rate increases for the next fiscal year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bingo - Aug. 12, 2022 – Held at Niota Elementary - Speaker -Tennessee Overhill
- Called Planning Commission Meeting - Aug. 18, 2022 at 5:00pm
- Next Board Meeting - Sept. 12, 2022
- Fried Green Tomato Festival – Sept. 9 – Bingo, Speaker Joe Guy, History of the Depot and Movie - Saturday, Sept 10, 2022 - Festival

Adjournment:

Commissioner Dilbeck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Watkins, all voted aye, meeting adjourned.

CITY RECORDER

MAYOR