

CITY OF NIOTA

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners

October 8, 2018

Date of Approval: November 12, 2018

Approved by Commissioners: Preece and Baker

Call to Order: A meeting of the City of Niota Board of Commissioners and Mayor was held in the Niota Memorial Building Fellowship Hall, Niota Tennessee on October 8th, 2018. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., Mayor Preece presiding, Yolanda Sanchez as City Recorder.

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

Invocation: Todd Baker

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Preece

Reading of the Minutes:

Mayor Preece made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 10, 2018 as read. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.

Reports from Members of the Governing Body:

Mayor Preece gave a report on the municipal court judge, Derick Green:

Letter of resignation was read from our municipal Court judge for the city of Niota. Resignation was due to numerous schedule changes. Judge Evan Walden will be taking his place.

Mayor Preece called for a motion to except his resignation, seconded by commissioner Reed, all voted aye, motion passed.

Introduction of Mr. Evan Walden to those present as the interim municipal city judge. Mayor Preece recommended that Mr. Walden be hired to replace Judge Derrick Green. Mr. Walden tells about himself and his experience with the City of Niota.

Motion to hire Judge Walden to replace Judge Green is seconded by Commissioner Dilbeck. Motion to hire immediately judge Walden at the same rate of pay in the ordinance book. All voted aye, motioned passed.

Mr. Walden was duly sworn in by Mayor Preece as the new Municipal Judge for the city of Niota.

Commissioner Baker gave the Library report: We still need to see about getting a table and chairs for the children. Chief Brown still looking into setting up the government auction account route.

Yolanda Sanchez gave the Finance report: We are in the 3rd month of our fiscal year so we should be up about 25%. General fund is at 18% however, taxes have just started coming in and are not accounted for in this report. Expenditures are at 20% which is good. Solid waste is at 24% revenues with expenditures at 29%. Depot is at 25% revenue with expenditures at 12%. Water and sewer is at 28% revenue with expenditures ant 25%.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to accept the Finance report. Seconded by Commissioner Reed, all voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Watkins gave the Police report: 9 arrests, 46 traffic citations issued, 86 dispatched calls, 171 stops.

Fire Chief Harrison Slack gave the Fire report: Only traffic accidents responded to, no fires in September. Would like to do fundraiser at traffic light.

Commissioner Watkins, makes a motion to allow for the fundraiser, seconded by commissioner Dilbeck. All voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Watkins states that last month it was voted on to purchase a used police car, discussion on whether it was to be just researched or actual purchase could be made. Com Watkins recommends not to buy used as it has always cost the city more to upkeep the automobiles. He prefers to buy new to keep repair and maintenance cost down. New cars avg \$36K per Jeb Brown. Looking into lease/purchase options. Used will have approx. 40k miles on them. Discussion to take bids from dealers on new police car packages to replace our old vehicles. Sell the old ones at surplus auction at govdeals.

Discussion on listing all our old and non-used equip on govdeals. Jeb taking the action to list the equip. on govdeals.

Mayor Preece gave the Sewer dept report: Received over 6 inches of rain, with no overflows. Doing fine.

Commissioner Reed gave the street dept report: Nothing new, trimming trees and restriping main street before the Halloween event. Will improve appearance of city hall and main street.

Commissioner Dilbeck gave water dept report: Jen Cagle spoke on the water bills that cannot be collected which are unpaid and uncollectable. In order to go to collections the bill must be at least \$30.00 and within the last 7 years. The City can put these uncollectable debts under debt forgiveness, by asking the board to forgive the amount of \$2428.93 in order to remove them from the financial books. Local gov will assist in removing from our system and we can include it on next year's audit.

Commissioner Dilbeck made motion that we accept and forgive the uncollectable amount. Reed seconded. All voted, motion passed.

Commissioner Dilbeck, asked attorney Estes about the affidavit from Wakefield regarding a collection debt. We're seeking approval to sign the affidavit asking permission to let Wakefield provide an attorney on our behalf. Att. Estes stated that if our records were right then we could sign it but whoever signs it is taking on the responsibility of our records being accurate. Jen Cagle states that our records are good and clean and she will review once more and if it is ok with the Board she will sign it. Additional discussion as to what the letter actually states took place. Commissioner Dilbeck states that we are trying to clear up our records and books. States that we are making great headway in our cut offs and improving all areas of the water department. Thanks to Jen Cagle and Jeannie Anderson for the job they are doing in that department.

Comm Watkins makes a motion to run an ad in the paper to hire a part time police officer. Post cert. Comm reed seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.

Comm Watkins makes motion to accept bids on new police cars. Run it in the paper. Not limited to Dodge. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. After discussion, all voted aye, Motion passed.

Discussion of where additional funds to cover costs will come from...Commissioner Watkins states fines, and drug money can be used. At this point in time we are just collecting bid packages to see what can be done. Bid packages need to be good for at least 6 months. Looking for good deals on 2018 models. Ad to be ran for 2 weeks and open in next meeting at 6:45.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Preece states that attorney Will Estes had been contacted in regards to the old Capital Bank asking what the city would be willing to pay for it. Discussion to remain firm on not taking on the building due to the extensive repairs needed, putting in a real low bid, or seeing if they

would just donate the building. Building will need to be gutted and brought up to ADA code. Decision to hold on motion made at last meeting not to purchase.

Attorney Estes slum clearance act. Need to take up with new judge and need to find a new inspector?

New Business:

Traffic signal discussion. AUB does not feel like they can repair anymore. Comm. Reed is looking into purchasing a new traffic light. May be able to obtain one through govdeals. Will have to be maintained by the city.

MTAS training: Comm Baker recommends Dwight Stapleton out of Knoxville, will come to us and do training for free. Can help us get grants and monies for the city as well. Mayor Preece states she will follow up with him to set up training for Commissioners.

Yearly training for Courtware Oct 25th 2018, held in Nashville, TN and free to attend. Yolanda Sanchez requested for her and Tiffany Denton to be allowed to attend. City Hall will be closed for the day. Discussion as to whether both need to attend and that it is tax season. Opinion is to send one, not both so that the office is not closed. Decision is to only send Tiffany Denton.

Motion made to send Tiffany only by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Reed. All voted aye, motion passed.

Pay for substitute Librarian: Substitute currently working in Library is Margaret Broome while Emily is out. This would be the recommendation for future substitute. Mayor suggests paying \$8-9 an hour for the sub. After brief discussion, \$8 is decided upon.

Motion is made by Com Watkins to hire Margaret Broome as a substitute Librarian at \$8 an hour, seconded by Commissioner Reed. All voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Dilbeck requests a performance raise of \$1 increase an hour be given to Jeannie Anderson. Commissioner Dilbeck states that Mrs. Anderson has done everything asked of her and has gone above and beyond what is expected.

Motion made by Commissioner Dilbeck and seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Commissioner Reed asked what current pay is and how long Jeannie has been with the city. All voted aye, motion passed.

Commissioner Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Comm Dilbeck. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Mayor Lois Preece

City Recorder Jeannie Anderson