

# CITY OF NIOTA

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners

August 12, 2019

Date of Approval: September 9, 2019

Approved by Commissioners: Watkins 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 August 12, 2019. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., Mayor Preece presiding, Jeannie Anderson as City Recorder.

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

**Invocation:** Todd Baker

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Tammy Carver

**Reading of the Minutes:**

**Mayor Preece made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on July 8, 2019 as read. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.**

**Reports from Members of the Governing Body:**

**Depot Committee:** FGTF is coming together well with vendors and activities being put into place. Thursday, speaker for the Bicentennial event and tour of Crescent Sock Factory, Friday night will be BINGO and the movie, and Saturday, the main festival.

**Library report:** Will be holding an energy efficiency program. Attendees will receive a packet of goodies to help promote energy efficiency in the home.

**Finance report:** Jeannie Anderson gave the financial summary report for each department. Also, books are clean and beginning to prep for 2018-19 year end close and audit. Training will continue with Sondra Denton as needed. Ms. Anderson discussed the need to restructure the USDA loan for the water dept in order to pay it off at a much earlier date and save substantial interest. Will have more information and budget amendment at next meeting. Additionally, Ms. Anderson stated that payments need to begin being made to the McMinn Board of Education out of the Mix Drink Tax. Again, more details will be brought to the August meeting with plans to proceed.

**Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the finance report as read, Commissioner Baker seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Police report:** Commissioner Watkins gave report to: 28 stops, 6 arrests, 7 medical, 27 traffic citations issued, 113 dispatched calls.

Chief Davis is expecting an update on grant on 8/13/19.

**Fire Department report:** None at this time

**Sewer Department report:** Commissioner Baker reports that the parts for the clarifiers should be coming in next month. The sewer plant needs a weed eater to be purchased for its use.

**Commissioner Baker makes a motion to purchase a weed eater under \$500 and to be owned by the Street Dept. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.**

**Street Department report:** Commissioner Wallace reports that the bridge on Burn Rd. has tiles washing out and it needs to be repaired before it gets much worse. The repair can be done with gravel until it can be fixed permanently with a concrete wall.

**Commissioner Wallace made a motion to repair the bridge on Burn Rd. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Water Department report:** Commissioner Dilbeck stated the ARM's began being installed today August 12<sup>th</sup> 2019. Only one small leak remains to be repaired, all main line leaks are completed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Fine Communications:** All quotes are in and only Fine Communications was below \$10K and \$2K below the other bids.

**Commissioner Watkins makes a motion to approve the go ahead with Fine Communications, Mayor Preece seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Truck Route:** Chief Davis requested that the Board approve a designated marked truck route through town, mainly through the back of the city due to the amount of semi trucks coming through small residential streets as a pass through to Hwy 11. The trucks are tearing up yards and many speed through causing safety issues for the residents on the streets. If the truck drivers do not adhere to the posted truck route they can be cited. The GPS routes can be changed on Google Maps for the truckers.

**Mayor Preece made a motion to move forward with establishing a truck route through the City, Commissioner Watkins seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Property Ordinance Violations – Mowing on property at corner of Green and Magnolia.** Property belongs to Michael Lee who has not responded to numerous attempts to contact him regarding his properties within the City. City can have the property mowed and if not paid by Mr. Lee the expense can be attached to the back

taxes already owed.

**Commissioner Wallace made a motion to hire Dean Campbell to clean up the property located at the corner of Green and Magnolia owned by Michael Lee, Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Plastic Industries:** It is believed that the City's man hole to the sewer has been blocked by the installation of a grinder pump for their septic tank. TDEC has been notified of this matter.

**Sewer Plant – Update – holes to be filled on 309:** The City will be filing a claim on the 1<sup>st</sup> Pilot incident with Athens Insurance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Art Grant for mural on Library:** City received ABC Grant of \$1760 that must be matched by City. Local artist are to submit their renderings by October 15<sup>th</sup> with the chosen rendering to be announced on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The window on the East side of the library will need to be blocked in to provide the full wall for the mural. Labor will be done by the McMinn County inmates. No City money will be used to match the grant only donations from citizens and businesses to be used. Mural will be completed by and commemorated on the first 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment event of 2020 to be held on January 31, 2020.

**City Stage – fundraiser tickets going on sale – Tammy Carver:** Mrs. Carver spoke on the benefits and uses of having a stage for the City. No City money will be used to build the stage as fundraisers and donated materials and labor will be utilized. Mel and Jen Cagle are donating a hog to raffle for this purpose and all proceeds will go to the stage.

**Commissioner Dilbeck made a motion to move forward with the fundraiser and the planning of the City stage, Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Part time position for the Water Dept (20 hrs weekly):** Heidi Wallace was hired on August 8, 2019 at \$9 an hour to help in the Water Dept.

**Commissioner Dilbeck made the motion to accept Heidi Wallace as a part time employee for the Water Dept, Commissioner Baker seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Officer Duke – One year anniversary:** Officer Travis Duke passed his one year employment anniversary on August 6, 2019 with the Niota Police Dept.

**Commissioner Watkins made a motion to give Officer Duke a \$1 per hour raise which is customary at the one year anniversary. Commissioner Dilbeck seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Planning Grant for Sewer Dept:** The City is applying for the TNECD Infrastructure Planning Grant in the amount of \$45,000 with the City paying a 5% match of \$2,368. The grant would possibly be used to camera the sewer

lines which has been ordered by the State.

**Mayor Preece makes the motion to move forward with applying for the TNECD Infrastructure Planning Grant to camera the sewer lines as ordered by the State. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Trash pickup around the City – Ordinance 7-15 Sect. 17-103 and 17-109:** Commissioner Wallace states that the demand on the City workers for trash pick-up exceeds what is allowed by the City's Ordinance. Commissioner Dilbeck stated that the Ordinance that is in place needs to be enforced and sent out to the public as a reminder.

**TAMCAR conference:** Ms. Anderson will be attending the upcoming TAMCAR Municipal Clerk Institute, September 17-20 in Murfreesboro, TN. A scholarship has been applied for that will cover the cost of the training. Only food and lodging would need to be paid by the City.

**Commissioner Dilbeck's resignation:** Commissioner David Dilbeck submitted his resignation from the Board of Commissioners stating personal obligations to be the reason for his decision to resign at this time.

**Mayor Preece regretfully made the motion to accept Commissioner Dilbeck's resignation. Commissioner Watkins reluctantly seconded. All voted aye, motion passed.**

**People requesting to speak:**

**Becky Dawson – Zoning:** Requested City zoning information.

**Judy Watts – Water bill:** Wanted questions answered regarding her water bill. Disputing charges.

**Announcements:**

Next Meeting – September 9, 2019

The Burn Vote

FGTF

**Adjournment:**

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

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CITY RECORDER

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MAYOR