

**CITY OF NIOTA  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners  
August 10, 2020**

**Date of Approval: September 14, 2020**

**Approved by Commissioners: Mayor Preece and Dilbeck**

**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 10, 2020. The meeting convened at 6:00 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:** Officer Bates

**Reading of the Regular Minutes:**

**Mayor Preece made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 13, 2020 as read. Commissioner Dilbeck seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion passed.**

**Reading of the Emergency Called Meeting Minutes:**

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

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

**Depot Committee:** Suffrage activity – On August 29, 2020 will be the Cancellation of the Postage Stamp held at the Depot.

**Finance report:** Jeannie Anderson reported that we are starting out well on new 20-21 budget. A budget amendment will need to be done for some unforeseen future expenditures for the finance office and for the water department.

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

**Police report:** Commissioner Watkins gave the Police report stats for June: 8 arrests, 2 calls for medical, 31 traffic citations, 111 dispatched calls, 25 traffic stops.

**Fire Department report:** Fire Chief Slack reported 9 calls, 1 for fire, 3 for EMS, 2 wrecks, 3 false alarms, 1 lightning.

**Sewer Department report:** Mayor gave the report that the sewer is going well. 309 vault not yet in.

**Street Department report:** Commissioner Wallace said that the Street Department is looking into a grapple bucket for the tractor in order to pick up debris along the roads. Commissioner Dilbeck is working with Dooley Tractor on a quote, should be around \$3,000. installed.

**Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the purchase of a grapple bucket for the Streets Department tractor in the amount of approximately \$3000 fully installed. Commissioner Watkins, seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Water Department report:** Commissioner Dilbeck reported that everything is going well. The Niota Waterworks Department has a new Emergency Operations Plan on file updated June 23, 2020.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Burning of City collected brush** – Commissioner Dilbeck reported that he met with Ralph Reed, the brother of Charlie Reed. Ralph was left in charge of the property when David Reed passed away and told Commissioner Dilbeck for the City to continue as usual and he would speak with Charlie about charging the City. He told David he would get back with him on what he felt was a fair amount to charge.

**Trash and Brush Ordinance** – Ordinance 7-15 to be updated under New Business.

**Police Department** – Further research concluded that the decision to charge a fee of \$25 for archived citations due to the length of time it takes to research and process old tickets is not permitted. However, we can charge interest on the past citations. A schedule was provided by MTAS and will be entered into the Courtware System.

**Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the new interest rate system through MTAS to be used for old citations and it would be entered into Courtware, Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Ordinance 7-15: Trash and Debris**

**Mayor Preece made a motion to accept the updated verbiage on the Trash and Debris pickup, Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

##### **Resolution 20-11: Budget Amendment**

**Mayor Preece made a motion to accept the Budget Amendment Resolution 20-11, Commissioner Dilbeck seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

##### **Resolution 20-12: TCRS**

**Commissioner Wallace made the motion to accept the TCRS retirement program for the City employees with the employee contribution being at 5% and the City's contribution will be 1.5%. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Resolution 20-13:** Codifying the Municipal Code Book

**Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proceed with having the Municipal Code Book updated and Codified as the latest version is from 1997. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Resolution 20-14:** Safety Grant \$1000 match

**Commissioner Dilbeck made a motion to proceed with the application for the PEP Safety Grant \$1000 match. Commissioner Watkins seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Police Department:** New Vehicle Financing form CT-0253

**Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund terms outlined in form CT-0253 for the purchase of the new police vehicles. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Police Department:** Officer Tabitha Bates submitted her resignation on August 3, 2020 to pursue a position with Etowah Police Department. Interviews will be held on Aug 12, 2020 to fill her position with the Niota Police Dept.

**Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept Ms. Bates resignation from the Niota Police Dept, Commissioner Dilbeck seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**Water Department:** Commissioner Dilbeck stated that the Marathon and Jiffy Mart on Hwy 11 has not yet installed backflow regulators as mandated by the State. The next steps to enforce this regulation will be to either cut their water services or begin fining the business \$50/per day of non-compliance.

**Commissioner Dilbeck made a motion to approve a Commercial Non-Compliance Policy for the Niota Water Department. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion approved.**

**Water Department:** Commissioner Dilbeck stated that a new motor and pump are needed for the pump station on County Road 316. Also, the water storage tanks have been repaired and maintained. These are regular maintenance and replacement on the equipment. The previous approved budget amendment allows to cover for the costs involved in both of these.

**Sanitation/Finance Department:**

**Commissioner Dilbeck made a motion to move Sanitation Commissioner Baker to Finance Commissioner. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, all voted aye, motion passed.**

**November/December Activities:** On November 21, 2020 the City will host a Car/Truck/Motorcycle show with proceeds (\$5 entry fee, plus \$1 per vote) going to the City Stage, A Book Sale (Library closeout) with proceeds going to the Museum, and a Holiday Boutique at the Depot. On December 5, 2020 the City will host a second Holiday Boutique at the Depot.

**Request to Speak:**

Mrs. Lynn May addressed the Commission on the issue of parking on Collins St. She stated the Commissioner Watkins is the one she feels is in violation of the parking laws. She said that other vehicles cannot pass safely due to the road being very narrow and his vehicles taking up too much space on the road and that he is parking too close to the STOP sign. Commissioner Watkins stated that he had nowhere else to park his vehicles than on the road and would be sure to park as far off the road as possible and to park the correct amount of space from the STOP sign.

**Announcements:**

- a. Roaring 20's Dance was cancelled due to COVID-19
- b. Next meeting will be held September 14, 2020

**Adjournment:**

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

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**CITY RECORDER**

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**MAYOR**