



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
JANUARY 11, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kepp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Lindley, Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Mayor Kepp, and City Clerk Evans. Commissioner Hartke left the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Others present were City Treasurer Diana Foor, Chief of Police Andy Schabbing, Superintendent Tom Helm, Engineers Lee Beckman, Andy Hanfland, Narendra Patel, and Neoga School Board members Chris Strohl, Michelle Sheehan, and Shawn Finney.

MINUTES

Commissioner Hartke made a motion to approve the regular session minutes from December 28, 2015, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioners Hartke, Stokes, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Commissioner Lindley abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR KEPP

NEOGA SCHOOL BOARD

Members of the Neoga School Board invited the Council to an informational meeting on January 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Neoga High School to discuss the upcoming referendum. Board President Chris Strohl told the Council that the current board, with the help of Superintendent Pressler, has been able to achieve a balanced budget this year, but it has been at a cost to the students. Strohl explained the board now has balanced the budget by shortening the school day, closing the elementary building, reducing administration, and eliminating extracurricular programs. However, the students of the Neoga Schools are getting the bare essentials of an education. No longer are the elective courses being taught or the sports, plays, or musicals being funded unless it is done by an outside source. Board member Sheehan added that if the proposed referendum is passed the board can return some of these cuts to benefit the students. Shawn Finney explained that the proposed referendum dollar amount was decided upon by holding extra board meetings to decide what was REALLY needed in the district to bring it back to the high quality educational school Neoga is known for. If passed, the dollars generated from the referendum would go towards the full school day (\$305,000), extracurricular activities (\$85,000), and to start building back the reserve with \$25,000, which would account for the \$415,000. In closing, Chris Strohl again informed the Council that the Board hopes to see them at the meeting and, if they had questions or concerns to contact her or a board member.

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FARNSWORTH ENGINEERS

Andy Hanfland and Narendra Patel, Representatives from Farnsworth Engineering, introduced themselves and explained to the Council that they have had a working relationship with Neoga since the 1980's with the water and wastewater treatment plants. Hanfland said they were aware that the NPDES Permit requirement called CMOM is due in March and offered to assist the city with this project.

MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAX ORDINANCE

Mayor Kepp said that they were still waiting on the ordinance and should have it at the next meeting.

ORDINANCE #875-01-16 An Ordinance Amending Article VIII of Chapter 78 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Neoga, Illinois, and Authorizing the Operations of Non-Highway Vehicles on Streets Under the Jurisdiction of the City of Neoga, Cumberland County, Illinois.

After reviewing the proposed ordinance, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER HARTKE

TREASURER'S REPORT

After viewing the treasurer's report, Mayor Kepp ordered the financial reports to be placed into the files of the City Clerk.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER STOKES

NEOGA PARK DISTRICT DEED

City Clerk Evans explained to the Council that years ago the ground that Jennings Park is located on was donated to the City. Since then there has been a taxing district formed to govern the property. However, the property is still deeded to the City of Neoga. Evans said that the Neoga Veterans' Memorial will be located on the southwest corner of the property, and an agreement will need to be written up. Attorney Willenborg recommended the council discuss if they want to deed it over to the park district or just keep it the same. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Stokes made a motion to leave the deed in the City of Neoga's name. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Lee Beckman from Milano and Grunloh, updated the Council on the wastewater treatment plant. Beckman said that Superintendent Helm forwarded the ammonia results from ¼ mile downstream, and with those results IEPA most likely will not accept an effluent ditch to remove the ammonia. However, Beckman said that Helm recommended the second lagoon could be converted to a rock filter which could remove the necessary ammonia. The approximate cost for the effluent ditch was just under \$70,000, but the lagoon conversion could cost over \$350,000. Beckman said that he would discuss the options with Superintendent Helm again and work on a solution.

STREETS & ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

PAY ESTIMATE FOR KEPP AVENUE

The Council reviewed the final payment estimate for Kepp Avenue. After little discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to pay the estimate in the amount of \$11,476.48. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER LINDLEY

No report was given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were given.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioners Edwards, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date