



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
JANUARY 9, 2017, 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. Others present were, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Public Works Superintendent Tom Helm, Mildred Gentry, Brett Williamson, Julie Williamson, Ross Gentry, April Walk, Francine Gentry, Gerges Anwar, Grace Anwar, Nick Sibenaller, and Richard Russell.

MINUTES

Commissioner Hartke made a motion to approve the regular session minutes from December 12, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioners Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from December 12, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioners Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR KEPP

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kepp read a proclamation declaring January 9th as Mildred Gentry day in Neoga. Kepp wanted to congratulate Ms. Gentry on turning 100 years old and presented her with a proclamation and plaque. Mayor Kepp told Ms. Gentry that she was the fifth person to reach this milestone and noted the names on the plaque as those who have reached it as well. Ms. Gentry's family was at the meeting with roses and cake to celebrate her birthday.

GILBERT, METZGER, & MADIGAN

Auditor Nick Sibenaller from Gilbert, Metzger, & Madigan introduced himself, and explained that he has been doing the city's audit for the past few years and is mandated to explain the financial audit to the council. Mr. Sibenaller discussed each page of the audit in length. Sibenaller said that the audit looked very good, and there were no concerns.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
PAGE -2-
JANUARY 9, 2017

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER HARTKE
TREASURER'S REPORT

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

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$146,717.12. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RESOLUTION #01-01-17 A Resolution to Abate the 2017 Tax Levy Set Forth in Ordinance #751-03-05 Which Authorized the Issuance of General Obligation Waterworks and Sewerage Bonds

After reviewing the resolution, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

REPAYMENT OF STATE SALES TAX

City Treasurer Diana Foor said that she received a letter from the Department of Revenue requesting a repayment for the overpayment that the city received a few months back. Foor reminded the Council that when the city received these funds we knew they didn't belong to us, and now the state has researched it enough to find out where the money should have went. After little discussion, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to repay the State the \$658,582.85 as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER STOKES
WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

No report was given

STREETS & ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS
NEOGA MEMORIAL CEMETERY ROAD

City Clerk Evans said that she received a visit from a CN police officer regarding the crossings at the Neoga Memorial cemetery. Evans said the railroad has been receiving complaints regarding the crossing being closed for extended periods of time, and something needs to be done. The only solution that they have is to build a road on the west side of their tracks into town. Evans said that CN tried to do this in the past but didn't because they did not want to comply with our ordinances. Evans said that,

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
PAGE -3-
JANUARY 9, 2016

before the city contacts the railroad, she felt that the township should get involved as well. It would be their road until it came into the city limits. Commissioner Hartke agreed, and he said he would contact Township Supervisor Danny Ballinger.

W. 6TH STREET DITCH

City Clerk Evans said that she has spoken with County Engineer Ben Bland about the steep ditch on W. 6th Street between Elm and Cedar Avenue. Bland said that he would get a quote for the material, and if the city paid for materials his guys would install the culvert. Evans said she has not received that quote yet.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER LINDLEY

No report was given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Russell explained to the Council that other communities are implementing a program called CEO which helps high school students start their own business. Russell said that he didn't know everything about the program but thought it would be good for Neoga. The Council agreed that it would be something to look into.

Superintendent Helm said that the department has repaired four main breaks in the past few weeks, and the waste water treatment plant pumps are back and installed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Edwards made a motion at 8:31 pm to move into executive session for Personnel - Section 2 (c) (1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Lindley and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 9:38 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Stokes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, Hartke, and Mayor Kepp.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioners Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date