



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
NEOGA HELD IN  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT  
DECEMBER 21, 2009, AT 7:00 P.M.**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Modglin, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Lindley, Kepp, Varner, Groves, Mayor Modglin, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were Superintendent Hagerstrom, City Treasurer Foor, and Matt Johnson from Foth.

## **MINUTES**

After reviewing the regular session minutes from December 7, 2009, and the executive session minutes from December 7, 2009, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes, Commissioners Kepp, Varner, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIR**

### CEMETERY ENTRANCE

Mayor Modglin explained that a cemetery committee meeting was held on December 10<sup>th</sup>, and the committee discussed how they felt the Jack Ewing Estate money should be used. Modglin said that people on the committee were not happy that the money has been used to maintain the cemetery. Mayor Modglin explained to the committee why the City used some of the money. He is hopeful that they will not need to use anymore. Mayor Modglin said that the committee has agreed to have Dave Cameron would install the partial wall and pillars. Mayor Modglin said that due to the item not being on the agenda the Council would approve it at the next meeting.

### CHRISTMAS BONUS

City Clerk Evans told the Council that some employees were asking about a Christmas bonus this year. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Varner made a motion to give all salary and hourly personnel \$50 in community cash certificates and pay for a catered lunch. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Groves, Lindley, Kepp, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried 5-0.

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## **FINANCE**

### TAX LEVY FOR 2010

City Clerk Evans gave the Council the tax levy ordinance. Evans explained that she increased the levy by 5% to be sure the City gets every dollar they can. After the discussion, Commissioner Groves made a motion to accept the tax levy as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### BILLS

After reviewing the bills, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to pay the bills totaling \$39,738.38. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried 5-0.

### TREASURER REPORT

After reviewing the treasurer report, Mayor Modglin ordered the financial report to be placed into the files of the City Clerk. Commissioner Kepp said that he is very concerned about the financial situation that the city is in, but he suggested that the Council wait until the next meeting to make some cuts. Commissioner Varner said that each Commissioner should come to the next meeting with 5 suggestions on where to cut costs.

## **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

### SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM REPORT

Superintendent Hagerstrom handed out a report to the Council on what the public works department has been doing. The report included the following:

#### Streets:

- Service heaters, heat lamps in elevated tower base, coin sales, various buildings.
- Cathodic protection serviced & tower inspected. Broken weld was found on ladder on side of bowl.
- Discarded Scott Air-packs at WTP & WWTP, per IDOL regulations.
- City-Wide flushing carried out on December 17-18
- Check valve at pump house leaked back, chemical feed system ran 8 ¾ hours. Need to install disconnect switch in panel, flow switch should be 1 way only.

#### Sewer:

- Pulled pump 2 in S-Well, unclogged & replaced
- Emptied trash basket

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Streets

- Replaced traffic sign post at 7<sup>th</sup> & Burrows
- Spread sand during snow & ice conditions
- Picked up branches from NES & WWTP
- Replaced work lights on backhoe
- Replaced hydraulic hoses on Massey snowplow & mounted additional lights
- Replaced rope lights on ground displays & reset power supply
- Piled up sand & gravel piles

Misc.

- Winterized equipment & checked heat supply, checked batteries, anti-freeze, oil in all vehicles & motors, checked heaters in tower base, coin sales, booster buildings, HS pumps, worked on coin sales building, wiring.
- Operators attended operator meeting with EPA update & WTP tour
- Responded to IDOL inspection letter.

TRUE LIFT STATION

Superintendent Hagerstrom said that there was nothing new to report

WATER RATE SUMMARY

Matt Johnson from Foth Infrastructure explained to the Council what the water rate study should be used for. Johnson said that due to the fact that the City is receiving lower sales tax checks from the State and the increased cost to produce water, the City is operating the water department at the bare minimum. Johnson recommended that the City identify the facts before they start cutting everything or raising taxes or water rates because everyone is having problems making ends meet. Johnson said that the water report had a very focused goal of finding out what it costs produce water and how much will it cost us to purchase water from EJ. Johnson also recommended looking at alternative revenue sources like a telecommunication tax as well as increased water rates.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Matt Johnson explained to the Council that he has brought a MOA if the City decided to ask for additional information about the water rate study. Johnson said that his office can do additional research to give the council a recommended water rate. Commissioner Groves asked Johnson what the study would give us. Johnson said that they would recommend a rate to the city; however, they would not compare Neoga rates to EJ. Commissioner Kepp made a motion to approve the proposed MOA at \$4000 to give the City of Neoga a recommended water rate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, commissioner Kepp, Varner, Groves, Lindley and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

No report was given

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

No report was given.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Kepp to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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Howard W. Modglin, Mayor

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk

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Date