



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT
JULY 11, 2011, 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 Hartke, Groves, Lindley, Kepp, Mayor Wayne Modglin, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Tom Helm, Steve Massengill, Gloria Massengill, Juanita Simon, Mary Orsborn, Corinthia Croy, Julie Phillips, Linda Gentry, Steve Gentry, Rachael Poland, and Mark Behrns.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from June 27, 2011, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioners Kepp, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANIMAL CONTROL REQUEST

Linda Gentry, spokesperson for a group of individuals, asked the Council to tighten the animal control ordinance in regards to dogs like Pit Bulls, Dobermans, and other aggressive dogs. Mrs. Gentry read a letter that explained what had happened to Ms. Mary Orsborn's dog when it was attacked by two pit bulls. The dogs are owned by a neighbor, and they were not on a leash at the time of the attack. Gentry explained that many states have placed very strict demands on owners of these types of dogs. Mayor Modglin explained that the State of Illinois does not allow any community to place restrictions or demands on a specific breed of dog. Mayor Modglin explained that the current city ordinance states that any dog caught without a leash will be issued a warning ticket for the first offense, and each occurrence thereafter will result in a fine of at least \$100 and up to \$250. Modglin explained that a warning ticket was issued to the owners of the pit bulls, and reassured those in attendance that IF the dogs were out again, they would receive a monetary fine. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Modglin recommended that a committee be formed to review the ordinances of area communities regarding dogs.

734 LOCUST AVENUE

No report was given.

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CORINTHIA CROY- LIFE CENTER

Corinthia Croy from the Life Center in Toledo asked the Council for a monetary donation to the Toledo Life Center. Ms. Croy explained that she did receive a \$750 donation from Neoga Township. After little discussion, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to match the \$750 donation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

IML ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tabled until addition information is received.

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES

HEALTH INSURANCE, MARK BEHRNS

Walks Insurance representative Mark Behrns presented to the Council the new rates for health insurance premiums. Behrns explained that the new rates increased by 9.9%; however, that is the lowest rate increase for the city in a number of years. Mr. Behrns said that the insurance was quoted by other companies as well. Only Blue Cross / Blue Shield came in at a lower rate, but it was only a preliminary rate. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Groves made a motion to get a firm quote from BC/BS, and if the quote comes back higher, to allow City Clerk Evans to sign the renewal. If the quote comes back lower, Behrns is to bring the quotes back to the Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Lindley, Kepp, Hartke, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER KEPP

DISINFECTION EXPEMPTION

No report was given.

WATER TOWER PAY REQUEST

The Council reviewed a pay request from Phoenix Consulting for services rendered during the elevated water tower evaluation. After little discussion, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to pay the request in the amount of \$4,875. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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ORDINANCE #818-07-11 An Ordinance to Amend Section 82-59 and 82-78 of the Code of Ordinances to Increase Water and Sewer Rates

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

NEOGA MEMORIAL CEMETERY

City Clerk Evans told the Council that M & E owner Debbie Embry informed her that there is a tree at the cemetery that is dead and needs to be taken down because limbs continue to fall. Evans explained that she is still waiting on a cost to take the tree down.

CITY WIDE SANITATION

Commissioner Groves explained that he has been doing some research regarding the city wide sanitation. According to Groves, the people that he has spoke to would be very interested in having one sanitation company if it saved individuals money. It was recommended to look at options from other trash services and get quotes.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER HARTKE

2011 MFT

Superintendent Helm explained that he received a quote from Walkers Asphalt Inc. Helm explained that he had Walkers look at a number of roads in Neoga. Helm said that the initial quote from Walkers for road work was \$73,882.87. However, that did not include oil and chipping the alley behind the Neoga Elementary School. Superintendent Helm estimated that it would cost approximately \$4500. Helm also recommended that the sidewalk along 6th Street from Franklin to Cedar be replaced. After a lengthy discussion regarding the 2011 MFT, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to spend approximately \$80,000 for road work. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Groves, Lindley, Kepp, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

CLOSING OF LOCUST AVENUE

Commissioner Groves asked the Council to grant permission to the First Christian Church to close Locust Avenue from 5-8 p.m. during their vacation bible school. After explaining the safety issues, Commissioner Groves made a motion to allow the closing from 5- 8 p.m. from July 25-29th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Lindley, Kepp, Hartke, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER LINDLEY

No report was given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kepp made a motion to move into executive session at 9:00 p.m. for Personnel – section 2 (c) (1) - Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline, and performance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 9:46 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Kepp, and seconded by Commissioner Groves. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Kepp, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin.

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION

After a lengthy discussion, the Council expressed their gratitude to Police Chief Gerald Mattern for all the years that he dedicated to the City of Neoga. Commissioner Kepp said that it will be very difficult to find a replacement for Chief Mattern, and with regret made a motion to accept his resignation effective October 28, 2011. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kepp to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Hartke, Lindley, Groves, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Howard W. Modglin, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date