



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEOGA HELD IN  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT  
JULY 7, 2008, AT 7:00 P.M.**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Russell and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Lindley, Kepp, Varner, Modglin, Mayor Russell, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Stan Hagerstrom, Greg Cook and Matt Johnson with Foth Infrastructure, Jo Ellen Davis with Walk Insurance, Bitsy Trimmer, Building Inspector Gary Castle, John Letizia, Reeni Letizia, Ron Rentfrow, Greg Maroon, Doug McDermant, Sara Layton, Kellee Beccue, Tom Strohl, Doug McClure, Ann McClure, Pam Baker, and Richard Russell.

## **MINUTES**

After reviewing the regular session minutes from June 16, 2008, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioners Lindley, Kepp, Varner, Modglin and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### 577 CEDAR AVENUE

Bitsy Trummer, who lives north of 577 Cedar, informed the Council that the house has been a mess for a number of years and Trummer would like to know if the City would assist in having the property cleaned up. Trummer said the property is currently owned by Sue Hopper and the tenants there now leave for a few days at a time and leave their dogs without food or water and leave diapers, food, and other trash laying in the yard where animals as well as mice and rats can get to it.

### GREG MAROON- 807 WALNUT

Greg Maroon who lives at 807 Walnut, asked the council for a fence variance. Maroon explained that he would like to install a pool and fence in his back yard, however, a power line inhibits him to place the pool in his yard where the fence could be place in the location where the fence would comply with the ordinance. Maroon asked that his fence come out past the side of his garage and back to the alley. After a brief discussion, the Council asked Building Inspector Gary Kastl his opinion and Kastl told the Council that he did not see a problem with the proposed variance. The Council told Maroon that he

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needed to notify the neighbors within 300 feet of his property that the City of Neoga would be holding a meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 to make this decision.

DOUG MCCLURE – SIDEWALK ALONG RT. #45

Doug McClure updated the Council on the proposed sidewalk along RT. #45 from Neoga Estates to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. McClure said that he spoke with IDOT regarding the sidewalk and he asked the Council for approval to continue with the fund raising. The Council told McClure that they are pleased to hear that the project is continuing.

KELLE BECCUE- SIGN ALONG EAST 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET

Kellee Beccue approached the Council regarding problems that the residents in her neighborhood are having with people driving too fast. Beccue would like to see a sign placed in the area that says “Children at Play”. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to make the speed limit from Burrows Avenue to Wilson Avenue a 20 MPH speed zone at all times. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Modglin, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

COLES COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING.

Doug McDermid from Coles County Regional Planning discussed with the Council the proposed contract for services regarding the RLF. McDermid said the contract would run from their fiscal year which is from December 1 – November 30. With no questions asked, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to accept the contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes Commissioner Varner, Modglin, Lindley, Kepp, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

McDermid also discussed the necessary steps for an Environmental Review and the requirements are very tough. Before you can start any project the environmental review has to be completed before any project can be started.

RESOLUTION #06-06-08

**CEMETERY MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

After reviewing the resolution, Commissioner Varner made a motion to accept the cemetery management services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes Commissioner Modglin, Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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ORDINANCE #779-06-08    **FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE CLERK AND  
TREASURER OF THE CITY OF NEOGA**

Commissioner Modglin made a motion to accept the Ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioners Lindley, Kepp, Varner, Modglin, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RESOLUTION #06-06-2008                    **AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN  
AGREEMENT FOR CEMETERY  
MAINTENANCE SERVICES WITH LUKE AND  
CARRIE VERDEYEN.**

Commissioner Varner made a motion to accept the Resolution authorizing an agreement for cemetery maintenance services with Luke and Carrie Verdeyen. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Modglin, Lindley and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

IML CONFERENCE

Discussion was held regarding the IML Conference in September. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to send the City Clerk, City Treasurer, Mayor, any Commissioner and their guest to IML in Chicago, with expenses paid for as in the past. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Modglin, Lindley, Kepp and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**FINANCE**

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Jo Ellen Davis explained the renewal rates for the dental, vision, and life insurance. Davis explained that she is still waiting on some quotes for the life insurance but she is trying to find rates that are comparable to what the City currently has. Davis recommended that this be tabled until additional information is received. Davis said the renewal date is August 1<sup>st</sup>, but it can be pushed back until September 1<sup>st</sup> if need be.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY**

SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM

Superintendent Hagerstrom has been on vacation but reported that the employees have been treating for mosquitoes.

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DOGWOOD DRAINAGE

Hagerstrom reported that there is a large pile of dirt out there and wanted to know what the Council wanted done with it. After recommendations from Cook, the Council agreed to leave the dirt there until everyone is in agreeance with the project.

PHASE II SEWER PROJECT

Matt Johnson explained to the Council that the sewer construction project was going well but there will need to be repairs done to the tanks. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Varner made a motion to order the repairs to the tanks done but not to exceed \$7,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Modglin. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner, Modglin, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PAY REQUEST FOR FOTH

After reviewing the pay request from Foth Commissioner Varner made a motion to pay it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Modglin, Lindley and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**

WEST 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET PROJECT

Greg updated the Council on the last meeting for the audience. Cook explained that great detail was discussed regarding the information about detour route. Cook said it will still be a couple of weeks before contract is signed and as of right now the street will be completely closed.

SLURRY SEAL

Cook explained that the City received a letter from Micro Surfacing about the surfacing project. Owner Tom Ritschel sent a letter explaining that they will honor the one year warranty for the micro surfacing and he agreed to come back next week to place another layer over Chestnut Avenue. Both Cook and Hagerstrom were satisfied with the solution.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

No report was given.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Kepp to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Lindley, Modglin, Kepp, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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Jay Russell, Mayor

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk

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Date