



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT
MARCH 16, 2009, 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, Modglin, Mayor Russell, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were Public Works Superintendent Stan Hagerstrom, City Treasurer Diana Floor, Coles County Regional Development Coordinator Doug McDermand, and Cumberland County Development Coordinator Sara Layton.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from March 2, 2009, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioners Modglin, Lindley, Kepp and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIR

DONATION FOR POST PROM

Commissioner Modglin reminded the Council that at a past meeting the Council decided they would donate if the organization approached the Neoga Township first, and if so, the Council would match their donation. City Clerk Evans said that she would check with the committee to see if they received a donation from the Neoga Township.

RLF RESOLUTION

Commissioner Modglin explained to the Council that the RLF Committee met prior to the meeting and discussed the RLF application that was received from Nature Friendly Products, LLC. Modglin told the council that the company is asking for a loan in the amount of \$480,000. They will be retaining their current employees and hiring at least three more. With little discussion, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to sign the Resolution authorizing the loan to Nature Friendly Products, LLC. in the amount of \$480,000 for three years at the interest rate of 1.625%. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Modglin, Lindley, Kepp and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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MOWING OF CEMETERY

City Clerk Evans asked the Council if they wanted to go out for bids again on the mowing of the Neoga Cemetery. Evans said that she had not received any complaints about the company last year. City Treasurer Foor said that they did charge us for mowing blades that they damaged when they ran over some pins that had come up during the winter. The consensus of the Council was that the City should not be responsible for paying for their equipment; however, they have done a good job. A motion was made to retain Ver-Dane Gardens & Landscaping at a rate of \$400 per mowing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Modglin, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

FINANCE

BILLS

The Council reviewed the warrant bill list. Commissioner Modglin explained that the annual payment of \$50,007.12 was made towards our bond debt. This made our bills higher than normal this month. After little discussion, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$79,052.17. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Modglin, Lindley, Kepp and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

TREASURER REPORT

Commissioner Modglin asked City Treasurer Foor if the report showed where the salaries of the clerk and treasurer have been moved to the general fund. City Treasurer Foor said that one payroll was done on this report. However, the downfall for moving these salaries is that the appropriation ordinance did not have these figures in the line items. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to not change the ordinance because by the time everything was publicized it would be time to pass a new appropriation. After no objections were heard, Mayor Russell ordered the financial report to be placed into the files of the City Clerk.

Commissioner Modglin asked if the City Clerk has heard anything on the Cemetery committee, and Evans explained that Charlie McKinney is talking with an iron worker to replace the iron arch and will get back to us soon.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM REPORT

Superintendent Hagerstrom updated the Council on what the department has been working on. Hagerstrom said that Glenn Braden asked him to attend a school board meeting to listen to the report from the school's engineers regarding the parking lot drainage at the high school. Braden told him the wrong time, so he did not make the meeting. According to Hagerstrom, the engineers believe that if they drop the grade, enlarge the ditch to the manhole, and open the ditch along the west side of the property, the parking lot should drain fine.

Hagerstrom said that the public works employees have completed the cleaning of the ditch along 8th Street.

Superintendent Hagerstrom said that he spoke with Joe Williamson about a buy out of his contract, and he agreed to the plan. At the end of March he will have six months left, and the City could buy him out at ½ his normal rate of \$300 per month. The Council instructed City Clerk Evans to draw up a letter/contract stating the terms and have everyone sign it.

Larry Johnson called Superintendent Hagerstrom regarding the stimulus package. Hagerstrom said that Johnson told him the package earmarks \$180 million for sewer and \$80 million for water systems. The money will be given on a first come first receive basis. According to Johnson the web site was up last week, and it did have a few projects listed. A requirement would be that the utility rates would have to be adjusted to show that it could be paid back. Hagerstrom asked Johnson if painting the water tower would qualify, and Johnson thought it would. Water rates would have to be increased to pay it back. Painting the water tower would consist of writing specs and putting it out for bids. Hagerstrom felt the bids may come in high due to the height of the tower, power lines, and fence. After a discussion, the council directed the City Clerk to contact the engineers to proceed with pre-application for the water tower painting.

STREETS AND ALLEYS

MFT FUND

City Clerk Evans said that there is a discrepancy in the MFT account according to Greg Cook. Evans has sent all the paperwork to Cook, and he is talking with IDOT about some credits that he feels we should have. Evans said that we should have some answers at the next meeting.

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Commissioner Kepp said that he was told by Tom Strohl that there may be grant funds available for drainage work. He will check into it further and report back at the next meeting.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

City Treasurer Foor explained to the Council that Fred Honaker sold his company to Tom Winings, owner of WTW Salvage. Foor said that Honaker called back with concerns about Winings doing a good job, but Davis Recycling would be willing to do the clean up for the City. Foor phoned Davis, and they didn't know anything about the cleanup. City Clerk Evans said that Honaker contacted her and expressed a desire to get his company back. Honaker told Evans that if Winings left a mess Honaker would be available to come in and finish the job and that would void his contract with Winings. Evans expressed concern that if the City used any of these companies, the City might be in the middle of litigation. After a lengthy discussion, the Council decided to ask if Davis Recycling was able to do the appliance pickup. If not, the pickup will be cancelled all together.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kepp to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Modglin. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Modglin, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Jay Russell, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date