



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT
MARCH 3, 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, Mayor Russell, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were Superintendent Stan Hagerstrom, Building Inspector Gary Kastl, and Kathy Nichols.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from February 4, 2008, Commissioner Varner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HOUSES LOCATED AT 691 LOCUST AND 734 LOCUST

Kathy Nichols, who lives at 717 Locust Avenue, told the Council that she is very concerned about the two houses on Locust Avenue. According to Nichols, the structures are deteriorating very quickly and have animals living in them. Nichols presented pictures of the houses to the Council to document the exterior of the properties. The Council told Ms. Nichols that they were aware of the properties and have been doing the initial footwork on those homes; however, the research and legal process is very lengthy and expensive. The Council assured Nichols that they will do what they can legally with the property.

FINANCE

BILLS

Mayor Russell asked the Commissioners to review the presented bills for approval. After reviewing the bills, Commissioner Varner made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Lindley and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was presented. With no objections heard, Mayor Russell ordered the financial report to be placed into the files of the City Clerk.

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EASY PAY PROGRAM

City Clerk Evans explained that the office has received numerous requests to offer another payment option. After reviewing different programs, Evans recommended using the program from First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust called Easy Pay. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Lindley made a motion to approve the payment option. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Lindley, Kepp and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

BUILDING PERMITS

Gary Kastl updated the Council on the building permits for 2007. Kastl explained that there were approximately the same number of permits as in previous years; however, the dollar value has decreased. Kastl recommended to the Council that the fee for decks be increased from \$0 to \$20 and fence permits from \$7.50 to \$25. After a brief discussion, the Council said they would review the ordinance and take it into consideration.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM REPORT

Superintendent Hagerstrom told the Council that the public works department has been working on keeping roads open due to the recent inclement weather. Hagerstrom also told the Council that the Dogwood project is on hold until additional paperwork is completed by the City Attorney.

PHASE II SEWER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Hagerstrom said that he spoke with Matt Johnson, and the shop plans are being reviewed along with the time tables for the project. Hagerstrom said that Johnson is planning to attend the next meeting.

PAY REQUEST FOR FOTH

A pay request from Foth Infrastructure was received, and after reviewing it, Commissioner Varner made a motion to pay the request in the amount of \$552.08. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PAY REQUEST FROM HDC

After reviewing a pay request from HDC for services rendered on the Dogwood Drainage project, Commissioner Varner made a motion to pay the request in the amount of \$2,379.67. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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STREETS AND ALLEYS

2008 MFT

Superintendent Hagerstrom told the Council that he has been in touch with Greg Cook, and the paperwork has been given to IDOT for review. Bids will be held as soon as possible.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

673 MAPLE AVENUE

City Clerk Evans gave the Council a copy of the bid sheet showing all the bidders for the demolition of 673 Maple Avenue. After reviewing the bid sheet, Commissioner Varner made a motion to award the demolition to the lowest bidder which was Chris Overton Excavating at \$2525.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Lindley, Kepp, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

RESOLUTION 01-03-08 Action on a Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Contract for Abatement of a Nuisance at 673 Maple Avenue.

After reviewing the presented Resolution #01-03-08, Commissioner Varner made a motion to pass the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

451 WALNUT AVENUE

City Clerk Evans gave the Council a copy of the bid sheet showing all the bidders for the demolition of 451 Walnut Avenue. After reviewing the bid sheet, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to award the demolition to the lowest bidder which was M.A.S. Services at \$4900. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

RESOLUTION #02-03-08 Action on a Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Contract for Demolition at 451 Walnut Avenue.

After reviewing the presented Resolution #02-03-08, Commissioner Varner made a motion to pass the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Varner to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Jay Russell, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date