



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008, AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Modglin and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Lindley, Kepp, Varner, Mayor Pro-tem Modglin, and City Clerk Evans. Absent was Mayor Jay Russell. Others present were Superintendent Hagerstrom, Building Inspector Gary Kastl, Ken Walk, Jim Whitaker, Ed Zimmer, Ron Russell, Dave Sudkamp, Jim and Julie Phillips, and Rex Lindley.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from August 18th and August 25th, Commissioner Varner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioners Kepp, Varner, Lindley, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEOGA PROFESSIONAL BUILDING SIGN VARIANCE

Mayor Pro-tem Modglin explained to the general public that the Council would listen to any comments regarding a variance allowing the Neoga Professional Building to place an animated sign on their property located at 237 E. 6th Street. No one from those in attendance made any comments. Mayor Pro-tem Modglin asked Building Inspector Gary Kastl if he had any suggestions regarding the variance. Kastl said that he didn't have any problems with an animated sign, but some guidelines should be established. Ken Walk asked the Council to amend the ordinance to allow animated signs. He stated that he would be happy to follow any requirements regarding the sign. Mayor Pro-tem Modglin explained the Council has agreed to purchase the parking lot by using RLF dollars. Modglin explained that using these dollars will not affect property taxes. Walk explained that St. Anthony Hospital required the City of Neoga's involvement in the lot. Jim Phillips explained that his old employer used an animated sign and never had a problem. Jim Whitaker said that he understands people are attracted to technology, so they will patronize the business more often. Whitaker said that Neoga needs to be aggressive in attracting businesses, and he would look favorably on changing the ordinance. Mayor Pro-tem Modglin said that the City is not against animated signs;

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however, he has heard a lot of negative comments regarding the safety of the signs. Ed Zimmer said that he feels that we need to promote any business whether it's a business or church. Lindley said that he serves on the zoning board and if a variance is given, everyone should be required to follow all rules. Commissioner Varner made a motion to give a variance to Ken Walk allowing him to place an animated sign on his property as long as all regulations are met. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Varner, Lindley, Kepp, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SIGN VARIANCE

Ed Zimmer explained to the Council that he has contacted all the property owners within the 300 ft requirement and informed them that the church is requesting a variance at this meeting. According to Zimmer, everyone was in favor of the sign. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Varner made a motion to issue a variance to the church with the understanding that all regulations must be followed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

GOLF CARTS

Jim Phillips presented to the Council a petition signed by area residents requesting the use of golf carts on city streets. Mayor Pro-tem Modglin explained that the First Christian Church asked about this a couple years ago; however, state statutes didn't allow the use of golf carts on public streets. According to the IMLRM insurance, state statutes has changed, and it is now legal for golf carts to be on the streets as long as they are licensed and inspected by the city. City Clerk Evans said that she has checked with the insurance company, and they will provide coverage for the city. The city would still have to get permission from the Rail Road company, Illinois Department of Transportation, and the Cumberland County highway department for golf carts to be on those streets.

FINANCE

No report

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Superintendent Hagerstrom informed the Council that the sewer construction project is almost complete, and the sewer plant is back online. Hagerstrom also told the Council that there was a main break in front of the elementary school due to water hammer which was caused by filling a tank at the sewer plant. Hagerstrom said that the water main was rusted out on the bottom of the line. After a major discussion about rusty water at the elementary school, the Council told Hagerstrom to get an estimate on replacing the water main from Franklin Avenue to the school. Until then, he was instructed to continue to flush the water line.

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DOGWOOD DRAINAGE

The Council reviewed change orders 2 & 3 along with a pay request. After the review, Commissioner Varner made a motion to approve change orders #2 and #3 and to pay the pay request #3 in the amount of \$29,666.65. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Lindley, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

STREETS AND ALLEYS

WEST 6TH STREET RECONSTRUCTION

City Clerk Evans updated the Council on the East 6th Street reconstruction project. Evans spoke with Ben Bland about replacing all of the sidewalks on the construction area along 6th street. Bland informed Evans that the sidewalks would cost little to nothing. Bland also said that the sidewalks would not delay the project. He has given the okay to the contractor to replace the sidewalks when they do the curb and gutters.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report was given

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Varner to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Kepp, Varner, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Jay Russell, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date