



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
AUGUST 8, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kepp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Lindley, Hartke, Stokes, Mayor Kepp, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Superintendent Tom Helm, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, Engineer Lee Beckman, Neoga News Reporter Billie Chambers, Gene Creek, Debbie Creek, Robert Stretch, Jim Driskell, Virginia Driskell, and Rickey Luckey.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Lindley made a motion to approve the regular session minutes from July 25, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioners Lindley, Hartke, and Stokes. Mayor Kepp abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR KEPP**  
**CODE VIOLATION AT 1012 LOCUST AVENUE**

Gene and Debbie Creek, owner at 1012 Locust Avenue, addressed the Council about their portable building. They received a letter from City Administrator Evans stating that the building had to be moved within 30 days. Mr. Creek recapped the events from October to present regarding his request for a variance. Creek reminded the Council that the request was denied due to the size of the building. Creek handed out brochures of the building that he purchased and had delivered on November 16, 2015, which was the day of the public hearing. Mr. Creek said that he has spent over \$8,000 on the building and has nowhere else to move the building. Neighbors of Mr. & Mrs. Creeks attended the meeting and stated that they have no problems with keeping the building where it is located. Mayor Kepp explained to the Creeks that the zoning ordinance was passed years ago and back then the portable buildings were smaller than they are now. Mayor Kepp said that he has reviewed Mattoon's zoning and their ordinance regarding portable buildings is based off of lot size instead of building size. Kepp said that he would like to have the city attorney review the ordinance and get her opinion on it. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to extend the timeframe to move the building until additional information is received. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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### PURCHASE OF PRISONER PARTITION FOR SQUAD CAR

Chief Schabbing asked the Council to purchase a prisoner partition for the squad car. Schabbing said there has been times when he has had to place a prisoner in the front of the car instead of the back which he does not feel comfortable with. With little discussion, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to purchase a prisoner partition in the amount of \$639.99 plus shipping and installation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### IML 2016 CONFERENCE

City Clerk Evans informed the Council that the IML conference is scheduled for September 21-24 in Chicago. Evans gave them a list of expenses, and after reviewing the costs Commissioner Hartke made a motion to authorize Evans and Foor to attend the conference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

## **FINANCE, COMMISSIONER HARTKE**

### TREASURER'S REPORT

After reviewing the treasurer's report, Mayor Kepp ordered the financial reports to be placed into the files of the City Clerk.

## **PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER STOKES**

### WATER METER PROBLEMS

City Clerk Evans told the council that recently a problem occurred while trying to turn water off at a resident's home. Evans said that the public works employees had to climb over a fence to shut someone's water off for non-pay because the homeowner placed items on both sides of the gate so that the gate would not open. Evans said that it was unsafe for the employee and could have caused damage to the fence. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to write a letter to the homeowner and inform them that the public works department has to have access to the meter, and if the gate is not kept clear on both sides the meter would have to be relocated or the fence relocated at the property owner's expense. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioners Hartke, Stokes, Lindley and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Lee Beckman updated the Council on the following projects. Beckman said that his firm is still waiting on EPA in regards to the waste water treatment plant and should hear something soon.

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On other projects, Beckman said that the Safe Route to School project is in the hands of IDOT regarding the two bridges that will need to be installed, so it is in a holding pattern as well. As for the water grant application, they are still putting things together and hopefully we will receive more points than in the past. Evans reminded everyone about writing letters or sending pictures regarding the quality of water on the east side of Rt. #45. Finally, Beckman told the Council that the Veterans' Memorial construction will begin on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**PAY REQUEST FROM FARNSWORTH**

After reviewing a pay request for services rendered, Commissioner Stokes made a motion to pay the final pay request from Farnsworth in the amount of \$19,339.75. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioners Stokes, Lindley, Hartke, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**STREETS & ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS**

**WELCOME SIGNS**

City Treasurer Diana Foor told the Council that recently she received a complaint about the welcome signs on the Trowbridge road, Walnut Avenue, and the four mile road. Foor said that the signs have been repaired a few times but are too far gone to repair again. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the council to get quotes to replace all three signs.

**TREE REMOVAL**

City Clerk Evans gave the council three quotes on taking down the dead trees as follows:

333 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Shade Shifters.....\$1825  
Thomas Lawn.....\$1600  
Strasburg Tree.... \$1150

615 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Shade Shifters.....\$700  
Thomas Lawn.....\$525  
Strasburg Tree.... \$500

166 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Thomas Lawn.....\$510  
Strasburg Tree.... \$650

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to have Strasburg Tree Service to take all three trees down, complete the cleanup, and remove the stump. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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**HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER LINDLEY**

No report was given.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Superintendent Helm said that the oiling of streets should start next week if the weather permits. Also, the air conditioner on the tractor is not working, and he will be checking on repairing it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Stokes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioners Stokes, Lindley, Hartke, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk

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Date