



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
FEBRUARY 22, 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, Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Mayor Kepp, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Tom Helm, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, Engineer Narendra Patel, and Effingham Reporter Stan Polanski.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Hartke made a motion to approve the regular session minutes from February 8, 2016, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioners Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Commissioner Edwards abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR KEPP**

Building Inspector Morrison informed the Council that the Zoning Board met recently for a public hearing on the following:

1. Fence variance for Bill and Jennifer Mattern at 291 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The zoning board agreed with the variance as long as the fence did not extend out to the west past the garage on the lot south of the alley.
2. Portable building variance for David & Allison Alumbaugh at 210 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. After a lengthy discussion, the zoning board recommended the variance only after the owners complied with the notification of neighbors within 300 ft. of the property.
3. Portable building variance for Gene & Debbie Creek at 1012 Locust Avenue. After a long discussion about the size of the portable building, the zoning board recommended to not grant the variance due to the size of the building.

Commissioner Hartke made a motion to grant the variance for Matterns. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Commissioner Hartke made a motion to grant the variance for Alumbaugh's. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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After a very lengthy discussion, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to deny the variance request for Creeks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

It was the consensus of the Council to ask the Zoning Board to review the zoning regulations, and possibly increase the size of portable buildings and offer suggestions for anything else that might need to be added or deleted.

CCDC DUES

City Clerk Evans explained what CCDC currently is working on, and after no discussion Commissioner Hartke made a motion to pay the \$1,000 dues for 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

SOOEYFEST 2016

City Clerk Evans told the Council that Soeeyfest 2016 is scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> in the downtown area. Evans asked the Council if it would be possible to close off Chestnut Avenue from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> street and 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Street again like last year. Commissioner Edwards said that he thought it was a great activity in Neoga and made the motion to close Chestnut Avenue on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**FINANCE, COMMISSIONER HARTKE**

BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$17,542.57. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioners Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER STOKES**

WWTP UPGRADE

Superintendent Helm told the Council that he had John Bell from Rural Water tour the wastewater treatment plant. Helm asked him what his recommendation was on the upgrade. According to Helm, Bell said that a new lagoon would work IF there was room to build one outside of the flood plan. Going back to a lagoon treatment plant would not address any new requirements from the IEPA in the future, but it would allow the city to comply with the current requirement.

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Engineer Narendra wanted to remind the Council that there are two reports that are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. One is the CMOM report, which was currently being reviewed by Farnsworth engineers, and the other is a plan on how the City is going to comply with the ammonia removal requirement.

**STREETS & ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS**

No report was given.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER LINDLEY**

No report was given; however, Lindley asked if the City could contact the railroad about fixing the tracks at 7<sup>th</sup> street.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Superintendent Helm told the Council that the NAPA / Cumberland Auto Parts store manager contacted him and informed him that their store would be closing in the near future. If the public works department wanted any items he would sell them at cost. Helm said that he purchased items that they always use such as oil filters, windshield fluid, oil, etc. Helm said it will be very sad to see them close because they use them numerous times throughout the month. The Council agreed that the store will be missed but are hopeful that someone will take it over.

City Treasurer Foor reminded the Council that the Veterans' Memorial Committee will be holding a fish fry on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Grace United Methodist Church. Foor said that this is going to be an important fundraiser because Modern Woodman will match up to \$2,500.

Police Chief Schabbing told the Council that he is currently looking for a grant to replace one of the Dodge Charger squad cars. Schabbing said that the car is 10 years old and is starting to need repairs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioners Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk

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Date