

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
MARCH 27, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Tony Kepp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Hartke, Lindley, Stokes, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Others present were City Treasurer Diana Foor, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Billie Chambers, Alec Morgan, Jared Elder, Kelly Owens, Lee Beckman, Bob Short, Naren Patel, and Donald Polk.

MINUTES

Commissioner Hartke made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from February 13th as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the regular session minutes from March 13th as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR KEPP

SQUAD CAR

Chief Schabbing told the Council that the oldest squad car is ten (10) years old with over 70,000 miles and is starting to have small repairs needed. Schabbing stated that Goechner Brothers has given him a quote for a Dodge Durango at \$22,197, and Mitchell quoted a Dodge Charger RWD at \$19,105. Schabbing stated that this does not include equipment and lights for either one. After a brief discussion, the Council asked for exact figures including equipment and lights for the vehicles.

BOB SHORT, NEOGA HISTORY ADDITION

Bob Short, a Neoga area resident, told the Council that a group of local residents have created a committee to preserve the local history of Neoga, included family, business, church and school history. Short said that there is a lot of history that might be lost if something isn't done soon. The committee has raised over \$100,000 to date for the new location. The room/addition was being discussed with the Neoga Library; however, they have declined the invitation to hold this type of history in the library. Short said the committee thought about the room being located at the municipal building. Short is requesting permission to research the possibility of adding onto the municipal building and reporting back to the council. The council stated that they liked the idea of preserving local history, and they had no problems with more research on the subject.

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FINANCE, COMMISSIONER HARTKE
MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$79,790.22. Hartke told the Council the reason it is higher than normal is due to the loan payment of \$50,007.12. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Stokes, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER STOKES

SEWER LINE REPAIRS AT 255 W. 11TH STREET

Commissioner Hartke said that he was asked by the property owner to discuss the problems with the sewer line at 255 W. 11th Street. Hartke said that the owner told him that they were having problems with their sewer line, and the roto roter company told him that it was somewhere around the main. After a few weeks, they began to have problems again, and a plumbing company came to replace their line from the house to the main. Once the company got to the main they noticed that the homeowner's private line had broken away from the main and taken a portion of the main with it. Hartke said that the city had to go down and repair the main. The homeowner was asking that the city pay for the repairs to his sewer line as well. After a lengthy discussion and due to the property owner not being present, the council decided to postpone the discussion until the next meeting.

6TH STREET WATER GRANT

City Clerk Evans told the Council that she received an email regarding the grant today. According to the email, the City of Neoga did receive a grant, but it didn't state how much. The grant application submitted was for \$450,000 to replace the water lines down East 6th street. Evans explained that definite word on the agreement should be coming soon.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

No report was given.

EJ WATER CORPERATIVE

City Clerk Evans said that she contacted EJ Water like the council requested and explained to them the need for an emergency connect. Evans explained that they came back with a proposal for the council to review. Engineer Beckman explained to the Council that EJ Water would be interested in working with the City; however, they currently only have a 4" water line south of Neoga. They have spoken with the power plant and would be willing to replace the 4" line with a 10" line and purchase a pump

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station that would be located at the Centerline road intersection. This would allow the city's current water line to be extended down to the pump station. EJ estimated the cost to be \$350,000, but they would be willing to pay \$250,000 and the city would be responsible for \$100,000. Beckman explained that this would be available only if the power plant participated in the project as well. EJ Water would then supply Neoga with water at a cost of \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons. Beckman told the Council that EJ is already working on expanding to the other side of I57, and would need to know within 90 days if the city is interested so that the changes could be made to the plans. Evans explained that the first thing that the city needed to find out is the cost to produce water at this time, which she is working on with the auditor now. Beckman also reminded the Council that before they make a decision, they need to consider the future and what IEPA is going to require of the water treatment plant within ten (10) years. According to IEPA at the meeting in March, there is a large possibility that a one (1) to three (3) million dollar update would need to be done at the plant. Evans said that this kind of update will be very difficult to pass on to our residents. There will also need to be updates to the wastewater treatment plant, and there is a need to replace the distribution lines. It was the consensus of the Council to review the information and discuss it at the next meeting again.

CMOM UPDATE

Engineer Naren Patel told the Council that he has now received all the information needed to complete the CMOM, and he will have an update for the next meeting.

IEPA / SRL LOAN PROGRAM

Engineer Patel briefed the council on the IEPA/SRL low-interest revolving loan program for water and wastewater related projects. Patel said that these loans are a perfect fit for upcoming projects with a need for funding. Engineer Patel also stated the EPA does not guarantee the forgiveness program; however, at the end of the loan they have been giving them.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

REPLACEMENT OF GRAVELY MOWER

Commissioner Edwards said that he would like to table this until the next meeting.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER LINDLEY

No report was given

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donald Polk, a reporter for the Effingham Daily News, introduced himself and asked the Council about the new truck stop that was coming into Neoga. City Clerk Evans

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explained that currently the only information the city has is that someone purchased the property and removed the old building but left the pumps for future development.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Lindley, Stokes, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried 5-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date