



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
NOVEMBER 23, 2020**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Hartke. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Groves, Hakman, Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Milano & Grunloh Engineer Lee Beckman, and Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers. No one attended by Zoom.

## **MINUTES**

After reviewing the regular session minutes from November 9, 2020, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Groves, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Commissioner Hakman abstained. Motion carried. 4-0.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE**

### HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS DONATION

City Clerk Evans informed the Council that the Neoga Partnership for Progress will be holding Hometown Christmas again this year, and they have asked for a donation. Evans explained the Council gave a \$500 donation last year. Commissioner Groves made a motion to donate \$500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### 507 WALNUT AVENUE TREES

City Clerk Evans explained to the Council that the property owners at 507 Walnut Avenue have complained that the trees located on the boulevard have roots that have damaged their property. Evans said that Commissioner Helm and Superintendent Durbin have both looked at the trees, and they both feel that the roots are not the problem. Commissioner Helm said that the trees look healthy, and he would hate to see them removed. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have Building Inspector Morrison inspect the house and get pictures if the roots are causing the damage.

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**FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES**

**MONTHLY BILLS**

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Groves made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$60,682.59. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN**

**PROJECT UPDATES FROM LEE BECKMAN**

Engineer Beckman gave his monthly update on the City projects as follows:

Sewer Plant: Nothing has changed since last month but should be going to bids by the end of December.

Safe Routes to School: Nothing has changed

Brighton Cabinets: All issues except the excess dirt have been addressed.

CDAP Water Grant: The contractor plans to start construction the week after Thanksgiving.

State Grant (\$100,000): Nothing has changed.

ITEP: Nothing has changed.

RLF Project: Change order #1 to delete the sewer from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street will be presented to the Council. The sewer at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> Street is only 6' deep. If this section is deleted, the depth crossing the Railroad going South will be raised approximately 6'.

**ORDINANCE #992-11-20** An Ordinance Authorizing Purchase of Easement for Utility Purposes (Chancellor Easement)

Engineer Beckman told the Council that the RLF project will be replacing the watermain line north of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and currently the only easement the city has is for a sewer line. This easement would allow the city to move the water and sewer lines to the west of the property under the new utility easement. Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Groves, Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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ORDINANCE #993-11-20 An Ordinance Authorizing Purchase of Easement for Utility Purposes (Becker Easement)

Engineer Beckman told the Council this ordinance is like the last one, but it could not find were the easement was ever recorded when the lines were originally installed. Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Groves, Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**CHANGE ORDER #1A FOR RLF WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

Engineer Beckman explained to the Council that the change order #1 will be to move the utility easement to the west of the property located at the end of Locust Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. This change will decrease the project cost by \$8,173. Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept Change Order #1A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Groves, Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**CHANGE ORDER #1B FOR RLF SANITARY SEWER & FORCEMAIN REPLACEMENT**

Engineer Beckman also told the Council that Change Order #1B is to eliminate the new sewer line on Locust Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. According to Beckman, this change would save approximately \$10,000.00. Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept Change Order #1B as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Groves, Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Commissioner Hakman informed the Council that there has been a strong odor from the wastewater treatment plant for a few weeks. Hakman explained that since last year, there has been multiple contributors to the problem. Commissioner Hakman reminded the Council that the blower stopped working in late 2019 and it took over two (2) months to get a new one installed. After a few months of operation, a seal was blown, and the blower had to be shipped back to Canada taking over 6 weeks. During those times, there was not any air being added to the plant which kills off “good bugs”. Another contributor was a gear box that went out and had to be sent to Florida to be rebuilt which was another few weeks. Also, in June the smell was bad during the week of Neoga Days, so we asked Superintendent Durbin to cut the air off so that it was not as bad. We are now dealing with the recovery, and the Public Works Employees are working to correct the issues, and it is getting better.

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**STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS**

**PAY REQUEST #2 FOR RT. #45 DRAINAGE PROJECT**

Engineer Beckman told the Council that the Pay Request #2 for \$44,677.02 is the remaining balance for the Drainage Project for the original contract. According to Beckman, the project is complete, and everyone is satisfied except for the extra dirt that was left on the north side of Rt. #45, which IDOT is reviewing now. Commissioner Edwards stated that he is not confident that the water will drain like plan designs. Edwards said the water is still standing in several places. Engineer Beckman explained that there is not a lot of fall in this area, but the water should still flow. Beckman also stated that if the water did not flow, the contractor would be required to regrade at no cost. Commissioner Groves said that he was not willing to make the payment until clarification from IDOT was received. Commissioner Edwards agreed. The consensus of the Council was to table until the next meeting.

**CHANGE REQUEST #4 FOR RT#45 DRAINAGE PROJECT**

Engineer Beckman explained that the change request was to bury the downspouts off the Brighton building to the ditch on the west side. The Council asked if the pipes were already buried out to the ditch, and Engineer Beckman stated that the work has been completed. The Council asked City Clerk Evans to call Plant Manager Creek to verify, this before any action is taken.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM**

No report was given.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None were given.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, Groves, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk

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Date

