



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Shawn Durbin, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Kevin McReynolds from Coles County Regional Planning, Steve Woelber and Chuck Campbell from Panther Traveling Basketball, and Neoga School Superintendent Bill Fritcher.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular and executive session minutes from August 24, 2020, Commissioner Helm made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioners Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

PANTHER TRAVELING BASKETBALL

Chuck Campbell, Coach, and Steve Woelber, Coach and Board Member of the Panther Traveling Basketball, explained their program to the Council. Campbell explained that the current Jr. High and High School teams have over 25% Neoga girls and other members from Mattoon, Charleston, Westville, Effingham, and other communities. Campbell explained that the program not only gives girls an activity to do during this time, but also brings several parents to Neoga, who spend money at the local merchants. Mr. Woelber told the council that currently their teams use the Neoga Community Center (NCC) three days a week to practice and would like to make Neoga its consistent practice facility. Woelber explained that the girls pay \$500 per year to play which includes their uniforms, tournament fees, insurance, and a small amount for gas. In the past, they have hosted training camps for younger children and will work with any conflicts that might come up while using the gym. Woelber said that they would be willing to purchase new backboards (\$3,000) for use of the gym and asked if the city could have the floor waxed. Commissioner Hakman told Campbell and Woelber that they are trying to put a comprehensive plan together for the building and this is in the right direction. Mayor Hartke appreciated that they are using the gym, and that they will let them know the plans for the building.

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TRICK OR TREAT

City Clerk Evans asked the Council to set a date for trick or treat or cancel the door to door event. Commissioner Hakman said that with the current situation, we should hold off before deciding. Mayor Hartke said that if the Council set the date to hold trick or treat, they can always cancel closer to the date. Commissioner Helm agreed, and made a motion to hold trick or treat on October 31, 2020 from 6-8 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

ORDINANCE #982-09-20 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution of Lease Agreement (Eastern Illinois Area Special Education)

After explaining the lease was changed from a 5-year lease to a yearly lease, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

ORDINANCE #983-09-20 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Real estate (498 Walnut Avenue)

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

RESOLUTION #11-09-20 A Resolution of Support to Apply for Community Development Block Grant (Housing Grant)

After reviewing the resolution regarding the housing grant, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

K9 FUNDRAISING

Police Chief Andy Schabbing gave the Council a breakdown of cost for a K9 unit for the police department. Schabbing said that he has discussed it a couple of times with some council members and Officer Moore had someone offer to donate to purchase a K9. Schabbing explained there are two different kinds of K9; one is a single purpose (\$14,720) or a dual purpose (\$18,572). The initial cost would be approximately \$20,692 which would include the dog, training, equipment, vehicle insert, hot-n-pop with fan, K9 first aid bag, kennel, console, and electric collar. Currently there is a discount for the summer which would save approximately \$5,000 for the dog and training. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to set up a fund for the fundraising. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

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FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES

TREASURER'S REPORT

After no discussion, Mayor Hartke ordered that the treasurer's report be filed in the City Clerk records.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN

RESOLUTION #10-09-20 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement to Water Supply Agreement

Mayor Hartke told the Council that this resolution was to extend the EJ Water agreement until October 31, 2020. Hartke said the water line should be completed by the end of the week however, IEPA has not given their blessing. Hartke explained that the last correspondence with EJ, they said that IEPA had required the testing of lead, however IEPA is now requiring that copper testing be completed. According to EJ, they were already testing for lead and copper, so they are ahead of the game by a few weeks. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

FARM LEASE

City Clerk Evans told the council that the farm lease on the city's property is up for renewal in early next year. Evans said that if the council wanted to renew the current lease we could, or we could go out for bids. Commissioner Hakman said that he would like to discuss the possibility of keeping the 9+ acres by the wastewater treatment plant out of the lease agreement this time. After a brief discussion, the council decided to table the lease at this time.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

Mayor Hartke told the council that the change request is for the drain lines from Brighton Cabinetry building into the drain ditch. The total cost was \$7,310 for the storm sewer installation for the drains. Commissioner Helm made a motion to accept the change request in the amount of \$7,310. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

Commissioner Helm told the Council that he met with Superintendent Durbin regarding the bridge located on Jennings Avenue. Helm said that they agree the curve needs to be widened by about 5 feet as well the bridge. Superintendent Durbin said the culver and flairs have been ordered and as soon as they come in, they will be installed.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Hakman made a motion to go into executive session at 8:14 p.m. for Personnel – Section 2 (C)(1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance; Sale or Lease of Real Estate – Section 2 (c)(11) – pending, probable or imminent litigation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 9:06 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Helm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Helm made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date