



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
APRIL 11, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were Commissioners Helm, Edwards, and Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. Others present were City Administrator / Clerk Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Shawn Durbin, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers, and Randy Mendenhall, Commander of Votaw-Swank American Legion.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from March 28, 2022, Commissioner Helm made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Edwards, and Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

REMOVAL OF FLOOR TILE AT NEOGA COMMUNITY CENTER

City Clerk Evans told the council that she has been working on estimates for remodeling the Community Center. Evans said she is working with Engineer Andrew Ewing to get estimates to remove the asbestos tile and remodel the restrooms. Evans said the contractor has looked at the building. He is unable to give us an estimate, because he isn't sure how many man hours it would take. Because he can't give an accurate estimate, Evans said the contractor would like to remove the tile in what was the principal office at no charge to see how long it will take per foot. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards said he would like to have the engineer at the meeting before the tile is removed.

PURCHASE OF IN-CAR COMPUTERS

Chief Schabbing informed the Council the Emergency Telephone Systems Board has granted \$7,000 to the police department for the purchase of two in-car computers. Schabbing explained the County received PPP money and allotted some funds to 911. In turn, the 911 Board has given the funds to communities within the county to purchase radios and equipment. Schabbing said the lead time after ordering the computers will be 4-5 months. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to purchase the computers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR MEL WORKMAN SUBDIVISION

After reviewing the certificate for Mel Workman Subdivision, Commissioner Helm made a motion to approve the replat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Edwards, and Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

ORDINANCE #1033-03-22 An Ordinance Amending Appendix B of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Neoga, Illinois

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT REMODEL

Police Chief Schabbing described his ideas for remodeling of the police department. Schabbing explained his concerns for safety in that building, as well as the municipal building. Schabbing said that he is not looking for action but wanted to introduce the project to the council.

NEOGA AMERICAN LEGION TIF APPLICATION

Neoga American Legion Commander Randy Mendenhall explained to the Council that he has submitted a TIF application to purchase a new range hood and to repair the brick in the front of the building. Mendenhall said that the Legion has denied six organizations who have requested donations; however, they are still going to give two (2) \$500 High School scholarships. Mayor Pro-tem Hakman stated that he had concerns that the legion would be closing in May due to loss of funds. Mr. Mendenhall explained that if the city would give them the TIF funds, the Legion would be able to make it work. Commissioner Edwards asked if the Legion has researched other options, and according to Mendenhall they could be to borrow the money, but if they did they wouldn't be able to pay the loan back. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Edwards said that he and the City of Neoga supports American Veterans and truly honors the service of these men and women. The Neoga City Council encourages the citizens of Neoga to support the fundraising efforts of the Neoga American Legion Post 458. We understand the American Legion values its independence and is proud to be a service organization funded by donations and hard work. Edwards stated that as a Council member, he cannot recommend that this application be submitted to the attorney for a contract at this time. One reason is the fact that this business is struggling already, and two because the range hood is not an eligible expenditure. Mayor Pro-tem Hakman said that he would have to agree with Commissioner Edwards. Hakman said that he didn't feel a new range hood would increase the EAV for the tax district. Hakman said it is the responsibility of the Council to oversee these funds and spend the dollars in ways that would increase the EAV by assisting other businesses, the school, or citizens. Commissioner Helm said he would truly hate to see the Legion close, but he agrees with Mayor Pro-tem Hakman about the range hood. Commander Mendenhall said that he heard their opinion, and it sounded like they want to see the legion close. Mendenhall thanked the Council for considering the TIF application and left the meeting. After no further discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to not send the TIF application for a contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

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FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES

TREASURER'S REPORT

After reviewing the treasurer's report, Mayor Pro-tem Hakman ordered that the treasurer's report be filed in the City Clerk's records.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN

Commissioner Hakman mentioned that the Walk Subdivision, First Addition still needs to be dressed up. Grass needs seeded, and drainage issues on Lot 4 needs addressed.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

STREET SWEEPER

Superintendent Durbin told the Council that Todd Fuller has given him a quote of \$3,000 to remove the remaining gravel on the oiled and chipped streets. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to have Fuller proceed with the removal of gravel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

No report at this time.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- City Administrator – No report at this time
- Superintendent Durbin – told the Council that he is getting rough quotes for asphalt systems as well as oil & chip. Durbin said that asphalt will last up to 15 years compared to the 2-3 years for oil & chip. Durbin also said that the street that were slurry sealed are getting older and starting to show cracks.
- Chief Schabbing – handed out a written report of the activities for the police department. Schabbing also said that the County is looking at purchasing an E-Citation system for tickets. Schabbing said that a current handwritten ticket cost the department 86 cents / ticket compared to 20 cents per E-Citation ticket. Schabbing said that Cumberland County is going to use their ARPA funds to pay for the system, but each police department would be required to purchase the equipment which would be around \$1900 for all three cars. Schabbing will get additional information for the Council when available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

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ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Pro-tem Hakman. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk