



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
JUNE 13, 2022**

## **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 Helm, Hakman, Edwards, and Mayor Hartke. Others present were City Administrator / Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Shawn Durbin, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, outgoing School Superintendent Bill Fritcher, incoming School Superintendent Kevin Haarman, Steve Green and Vickie Green.

## **MINUTES**

After reviewing the regular and executive session minutes from May 23, 2022, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Commissioner Helm abstained. Motion carried. 3-0.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE**

### NEOGA SCHOOL UPDATE

Outgoing Neoga School Superintendent Bill Fritcher addressed the Council thanked them for the great working relationship with him since he became the Superintendent of the school. He also thanked City Administrator Evans for always working with him and keeping him updated on different projects. Fritcher said that one of the first requests he made to the Council was to create new housing areas in the community, and because of an aggressive council the new Walk Subdivision, First Addition has been started. Fritcher also introduced the incoming Superintendent Kevin Haarman. Haarman has worked in the school system as a teacher, and then a principal, and will now be the new superintendent. Mr. Fritcher said that he has worked very closely with Mr. Haarman the past year, so the transition should be very smooth. In addition, Mr. Haarman and Mr. Fritcher have been meeting with key people regarding school safety. Mr. Fritcher said that they are installing new panic buttons in key locations, along with addressing door security, new safety film on the windows, and locking mechanisms for interior doors. Mr. Fritcher also informed the Council that they have met with local organizations regarding resource officers. Last, Mr. Fritcher gave the council a pamphlet that will be mailed out to area residents regarding the \$3,500,000 bond referendum question that will be on the June 28<sup>th</sup> ballot. Fritcher explained that some of the funds the school will be using to repay the bonds will be the \$300,000 TIF funds and the American Rescue Plan money in the amount of \$867,227. Mr. Fritcher thanked the Council again for working with the school district in so many ways, as well as their dedication to the Neoga community.

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### REIMBURSEMENT FOR DAMAGED PROPERTY AT 424 LOCUST

Mayor Hartke presented the cost estimates for personal property that the contractor damaged at 424 Locust Avenue in the amount of \$3,119.54. Mayor Hartke explained the city could pay for the damages and recoup the fees from liquid damages. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve paying the damages to the homeowner in the amount of \$3,119.54. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### IMAGINE THIS MARKETING GROUP

City Administrator / Clerk Evans gave the council an estimate from Imagine This Marketing Group regarding marketing options for the city properties. Commissioner Hakman wanted to look at additional options before voting on this. It was the consensus of the Council to table.

### VARIANCE FOR LOT 12 WALK SUBDIVISION

Steve & Vickie Green addressed the Council. They recently moved back to Neoga after retiring and being gone for almost 50 years. Mr. Green said that they purchased a lot that had a 2-car garage and portable building located on it. They would like to replace the current portable building with a 12 X 20 portable building. Building Inspector Morrison told the Council that the Zoning Board held a public hearing earlier in the evening regarding the variance. Morrison said that the variance would improve the property, so the Zoning Board would recommend granting the variance. After little discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the variance as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### PURCHASE OF BODY CAMS

Police Chief Schabbing gave the council an estimate on two (2) body cams. According to Schabbing, the City purchased two (2) cameras last year and received a grant reimbursing the City for the cameras. Chief Schabbing said the older body camera requires additional steps to download and has not worked on a couple of occasions. Schabbing is hopeful that he can apply for a grant to reimburse the city for the cameras, but he will not be able to apply until after they are purchased. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Helm made a motion to purchase two (2) body cameras for the police department in the amount of \$1,798. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, Edwards, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### NEIGHBORHOOD VEHICLES

City Administrator/Clerk Evans informed the Council that they have received a few requests to license 4 wheelers as neighborhood vehicles. Chief Schabbing said that state statutes is unclear if they qualify as neighborhood vehicles, but the current ordinance states that the neighborhood vehicle must have rollbars and bench seats among other items. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to not license 3 or 4-wheelers for neighborhood vehicles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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### **FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES**

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

After reviewing the treasurer's report, Mayor Hartke ordered that the treasurer's report be filed in the City Clerk's records.

### **PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN**

#### **PURCHASE OF DUTY TRUCK**

Superintendent of Public Works Shawn Durbin gave the council two (2) estimates for a new duty truck. According to Durbin, Ford Square of Mt. Vernon has a 2022 Dodge Ram 3500 Crew Cab 4 X4 , 6.4 hemi, for \$73,491 plus a new snow plow for \$8,335. The other option was a 2022 Dodge Ram 2500 in the amount of \$68,507. Commissioner Edward said that he wasn't sure a crew cab truck was needed when plowing snow because of the longer truck. Commissioner Helm agreed. Durbin said that they would be able to utilize the extra cab room for items that needed to be out of the weather. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to purchase the 2022 Dodge Ram 3500 and snowplow in the amount of \$81,826. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, Commissioner Edwards. Motion carried. 3-1.

### **STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS**

Commissioner Edwards ask Superintendent Durbin if he has worked on the 2022 MFT and the street sweeping task. Durbin explained Fuller and Wente's street sweeper needs repaired, but he will reach out to Mr. Fuller about it. Also, they are still discussing the asphalt options with local companies.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM**

Commissioner Helm informed Mr. Durbin about a manhole on Locust Avenue that needs to have a barricade around it until it is fixed. Durbin said that there was one there at one time, but he will put another one back.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT**

Police Chief Schabbing told the Council that the police department responded to 171 calls last month. Also, K9 Obi assisted the Greenup Police Department and found over \$4,000 in cash which Neoga should be able to receive a percentage of. Chief Schabbing has also met with the school officials regarding a resource officer, and possible safety measures. Schabbing is reviewing Advanced Bleed Bags for \$375 per bag, and he would like to purchase one for each squad car. Schabbing also notified the Council that his taser instructor certification will be expiring and would like to take the recertification class on September 7<sup>th</sup> in Belleville, for \$375.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk