



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
MARCH 28, 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, Groves, and Mayor Hartke. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, Treasurer Diana Foor, Police Chief Schabbing, Superintendent of Public Works Durbin, Engineer Lee Beckman, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, and Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from March 14, 2022, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioners Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Commissioner Groves abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

After reviewing the executive session minutes from February 21, 2022, Commissioner Helm made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, Groves, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

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

Building Inspector Morrison explained to the Council the ordinance and how the public hearing went. According to Morrison, there was no one from the general public in attendance for the public hearing. It was the recommendation from the Zoning Board to pass the ordinance as presented. After little discussion, Commissioner Groves wanted to see the differences side by side before voting on the changes. It was the consensus of the Council to table this ordinance.

RESPONSIBLE OPERATOR IN CHARGE (ROINC) WITH EJ WATER

Mayor Hartke told the Council that he had a conference call with Eric Emmerson, Pat O'Dell, Lee Beckman, Dean Swingler, Superintendent Durbin, and Administrator Evans regarding the ROINC (Responsible Operator in Charge). Hartke explained that currently the city has Dean Swingler as ROINC which is costing the city \$450 per month for him to sign the paperwork and oversee the water plant. Now that the water plant is a class D (distribution only),

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Superintendent Durbin could sign the necessary paperwork. Superintendent Durbin told the Council that he has the class D license, and should be able to complete the reports, once he is trained on how to complete them. Commissioner Helm made a motion to proceed with making Superintendent Durbin the ROINC starting May 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, Groves, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

NEOGA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM DONATION

City Administrator Evans told the Council that the Neoga High School baseball team will be playing a baseball game at Busch Stadium on May 29th against the Highland Bulldogs and they are asking for a donation. There are two options: one is a silver package at \$250, and the gold package for \$500. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to donate \$500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Groves, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

CAMERA GRANT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Schabbing informed the Council that the older squad car camera is starting to have some issues, and he would like to replace it. Schabbing explained that the grant application would only be accepted until May. All equipment must be purchased before the end of June, and Schabbing would like to proceed with the purchase of one in-car camera. According to Schabbing, if he did not receive the grant, the city could use DUI funds to pay for it. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Groves made a motion to proceed with the purchase of one in-car camera in the amount of \$5,020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ORDINANCE #1034-03-22 An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Real Estate

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, Groves, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SECURITY SYSTEM

Chief Schabbing asked the Council to review the presented estimate for a new locking system at the police department. Schabbing said he is still waiting on the estimates for remodeling their building, but he would like to start the order from the company soon. Commissioner Groves asked why there was a difference in cost for the wiring. Chief Schabbing said that he would double check the differences and get back with the council.

CITY BUILDING SECURITY SYSTEM

The Council decided to table.

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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 \$85,154.87. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Engineer Beckman updated the Council on the following projects:

Sewer Plant: He handed out a list of items that need to be completed. Change Order #5 for a time extension until April 15, 2022, was tabled because the contractor has not responded.

Brighton Cabinets: No change since last month

CDAP Water Grant: No change since last month. Grant announcements should be soon. There is another grant opportunity for \$650,000 (which is \$100,000 more than last year). The application is due by October 3rd.

State Grant: No changes since last month.

ITEP: No change from last meeting.

RLF & State Grant: Change orders 6A and 5B for time extensions until April 15, 2022, have been tabled because the contractor has not responded. A list of items to be completed was given out.

PURCHASE OF NEW TRUCK

Superintendent Durbin told the Council that he is applying for a grant to purchase a new duty pickup truck. Durbin said the approximate cost would be around \$60,000. Durbin asked that the Council approve the purchase of a truck (which will need to be ordered). If the grant is not awarded, he would like to purchase the truck from the equipment reserve account.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to proceed with the grant and order the new truck. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Commissioner Helm left the meeting at this time to address the Council as a citizen.

CUSTOMER SEWER REFUND

Tom Helm, owner at 652 W. 6th Street, informed the Council that he purchased his home over 6 years ago, and he recently found out that he was not hooked up to the city sewer. He has since replaced his old sewer with a new line that runs to the city sewer. Helm is asking for a refund for the sewer that he has been charged for since he purchased the property. City Clerk Evans told the Council that she has contacted the city attorney regarding this, and there is a statute of limitation on it, so she will get back with us. It was decided to table until the attorney response.

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Tom Helm returned to the Council table as Commissioner Helm.

PAY ESTIMATE FOR DARAD

Engineer Beckman told the Council the Kepp Avenue project is now complete and there is a pay request for the remaining balance of \$32,303.15. Commissioner Hakman made a motion to pay the request in the amount of \$32,303.15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Groves, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Commissioner Hakman also reported that he has been getting complaints from residents regarding grain cars going back and forth over the crossings on 6th & 7th Streets. Chief Schabbing said that he has already spoke to the railroad company, and he will reach out to them again.

Commissioner Hakman also mentioned that the Walk Addition, First Addition lots are close to being ready to sell, and some basic signs should be ordered for marketing.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

MFT AUDIT

City Administrator Evans asked the Council to review the 2020-2021 MFT Audit that was presented to them. After no questions were asked, Mayor Hartke asked that the audit be filed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

Commissioner Helm told the Council that AmerenCIPS is scheduling the repairs on the sidewalk at 6th & Walnut, and we should hear back from them soon. Also, the police are working on contacting property owners regarding cleaning their property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Groves made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date