

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
APRIL 23, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Tony Kepp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Lindley, Edwards, Hartke, Groves, and Mayor Kepp. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, Engineer Lee Beckman, Tom Strohl, Chris White, Nathan Ward, Jessica Aslakson, and Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers.

**MINUTES**

After reviewing the minutes, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to approve the regular session minutes from April 9, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Commissioner Edwards abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR KEPP**

AWARDING OF MOWING BIDS

City Clerk Evans told the Council that bids for mowing were opened at 6:45 and the following bids were received:

M & E Lawn Care	Section 1 \$725
	Section 2 \$575
Go Mow	Section 1 \$565
	Section 2 \$520

Commissioner Hartke said that Section 2, which is the Neoga Memorial Cemetery, has been mowed by M & E for a number of years and the City has only received a couple complaints. Hartke said that he feels that the public works employees should be able to do Section 1 mowing with the help of 2 part time employees. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to award M & E Lawn Care Section 2 mowing at \$575 per mowing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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### **AWARDING OF CLEANING BIDS**

City Clerk Evans told the Council that the bids were open for the cleaning bids at 6:45 p.m., and the only bid received was from Shari Morrison in the amount of \$375 per month. After a very brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept the bid from Shari Morrison to clean the municipal and annex building in the amount of \$375 per month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## **FINANCE, COMMISSIONER HARTKE**

### **MONTHLY BILLS**

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Hartke made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$67,423.27. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Groves, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## **PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER GROVES**

### **WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATOR IN CHARGE**

City Clerk Evans informed the Council that she has received contracts from both Illinois Rural Water and EJ Water for water and waste water operators in charge. Evans explained that the Illinois Rural Water contract states that they will be at the water plant twice a week and the waste water treatment plant once per week at a cost of \$1750 per month, but they really didn't want to do this long term. Evans said that Frank Dunmire said they are happy to assist the city until we can find someone to do it for us or obtain a Class A license. EJ Water's proposal stated they will be at each plant once a week for a total cost of \$1500. Evans told the Council that the IEPA has said that either EJ and / or Illinois Rural Water will have to be at the plant at least twice (2) a week for water and once a week for waste water. When she explained that to EJ they said that the rate would have to increase if that is the case; however, she has not received the new quote. City Clerk Evans said that she is still working on negotiating with EJ and a couple of other individuals to do the work, but a decision has to be made immediately to satisfy IEPA. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Groves made a motion to accept Illinois Rural Water's proposal at this time until after employment applications are reviewed and the City receives more information from EJ Water. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Lindley, Edwards, Hartke, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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### RLF PROJECTS FOR WATERMAIN AND SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Engineer Lee Beckman updated the Council on the RLF projects for the watermains and sanitary sewer improvements. Beckman explained that the State of Illinois is requiring the city to return the RLF dollars back to the state, and the City will have an opportunity to do two (2) qualifying projects to use the balance of the money. Beckman proposed the city install a new 10" force sewer main at E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, go west under route #45 and CN Railroad and upgrade the existing line from 9<sup>th</sup> Street south to 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Engineer Beckman also suggested upgrading waterlines between west 9<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street, from 6<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut to the alley between Oak and Locust Avenue, and in the alley from 4<sup>th</sup> Street north to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. City Clerk Evans said that she would like to talk to the auditor about returning the check to the state before the city does that. Commissioner Hartke made a motion to proceed with both the RLF projects as recommended by Engineer Beckman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hartke, Groves, Lindley, Edwards, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Engineer Beckman updated the council on the other projects as follows:

Sewer plant: Beckman said that the preliminary engineering report was sent to the IEPA in May 2017, but they have not approved the concept as of yet. The last correspondence was on August 22, 2017. Once the project is approved, the plan will be bid out and construction will begin.

Safe Routes to School: they are still waiting on Springfield to modify the route.

Brighton Cabinets: environmentals have been completed and we are waiting on the state for the grant money to fix the drainage problems

CDAP Water Grant: waterline replacement is complete; however, the new meters have check valves on them, and if the resident doesn't have a bladder on their water heater there could be a problem with water leaks. The contractor is currently working on modifying the meters to remove the check valves before installation. Beckman also said that the contractor will be installing the new meters next week.

State Grant (\$100,000): this grant was extended one year to June of 2018 but is currently suspended. If the bonds are not sold this could be cancelled which would mean the city won't get the remaining \$70,000 (the city purchased \$30,000 worth of material last year as required by the grant). Beckman stated that until a definite answer is done, the quarterly reports will be completed on time.

ITEP: the grant was submitted for the Shared Path program in the amount of \$1,014,960 with \$253,740 in city funds. The award date is May 7<sup>th</sup>.

6<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Sewer: Beckman asked if the city wanted to proceed with the storm sewer project along 6<sup>th</sup> Street, but since the public works employees found the problem with the drainage, the council told him no at this time.

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### **CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET WATERMAIN**

City Clerk Evans explained the change order increase of \$10,359 was to move the water meter from inside the Neoga post office to outside, and the funds would come from the unused grant dollars. Commissioner Groves made a motion to accept the change order as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Lindley, Edwards, Hartke, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### **PAY REQUEST #1 FROM B & T DRAINAGE**

The Council reviewed the pay request from B & T Drainage for the 6<sup>th</sup> Street water main distribution system improvements. With no discussion, Commissioner Groves made a motion to pay the request in the amount of \$154,844.91. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Lindley, Edwards, Hartke, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### **6<sup>TH</sup> STREET STORM SEWER**

The Council briefly discussed the drainage along E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Locust Avenue west to the railroad tracks. City Clerk Evans reminded the Council that the public works employees discovered that the problem with the drainage was due to a guidewire blocking the drain. Once it was fixed it has drained correctly. It was the consensus of the Council to continue to watch the drainage.

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

### **2018 MFT PROJECT**

Commissioner Edwards told the Council that he has reviewed all three options that the previous Superintendent of Public Works proposed for the 2018 MFT project. Edwards told the Council that Option 3 is an all oil and chip program but he would like to add the alley beside the post office from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, the 500 block of Maple Avenue and the 900 block of Elm Avenue. With little discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to get bids on option #3 for the 2018 MFT project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartke. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER LINDLEY**

Commissioner Lindley said that he would still like to see sidewalks replaced across town and the bridge replaced on Park Avenue, but he knows that takes time.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tom Strohl told the Council that he would like the Council to revisit the new public participation policy requiring a comment form to be turned in 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Strohl also told the Council that the contractor on the 6<sup>th</sup> Street watermain project parked some equipment on a sidewalk along 7<sup>th</sup> Street which needs to be addressed along with an area on the north side of his house on the right of way that needs to be fixed. Mr. Strohl said that a number of residents on 6<sup>th</sup> street are not happy about the ditch work that the public works employees did in front of their property. Strohl said the ditches were dug out and now are impossible to mow. Also, the sidewalk on 7<sup>th</sup> street between Burrows and Shaffer holds about 3” of water now due to the construction.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion at 8:08 pm to move into executive session for Personnel - Section 2 (c) (1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance and Litigation Section 2 (c) (11) – pending, probable, or imminent litigation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was reconvened at 9:10 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Edwards. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Edwards, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hartke, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Kepp. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk

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Date