

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
DECEMBER 23, 2019**

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. Commissioner Groves was absent. Others present were City Clerk Evans, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Public Works Superintendent Shawn Durbin, Engineer Lee Beckman, EJ Water Corporation Representative Eric Emmerich, Wes Chambers, and Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular and executive session minutes from December 9, 2019, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

EJ WATER UPDATE

Eric Emmerich from EJ Water gave an update to the Council regarding the progress of the EJ – Neoga water line. Emmerich said that the contractor has been installing almost a mile of pipe per day, and the water tower is approximately 50% complete. Emmerich explained that IEPA requires them to complete a corrosion test to verify that their water is compatible with the city's so that there isn't a corrosion problem down the road. Mr. Emmerich said that the preliminary test showed that there shouldn't be a problem, but IEPA could require additional testing. Once IEPA approves the testing, water can be sold to the City of Neoga.

RESOLUTION #05-11-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a First Amendment to Water Supply Agreement

After reviewing the resolution, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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SALE OF RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

Mayor Hartke told the Council that he would like for them to start thinking about the sale of recreational cannabis. Mayor Hartke gave the council reading material from IML and asked that each council member to review the material so that they can make an informed decision to whether the city should allow the sale of cannabis within the corporate limits.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CCDC) DUES

City Clerk Evans said that she received an invoice for the CCDC 2020 dues. Evans explained that the countywide organization changed their focus last year from recruiting new businesses into Cumberland County to include assisting existing businesses. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Helm made a motion to pay the dues of \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, Edwards, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$82,993.63. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN

MILANO & GRUNLOH ENGINEERS UPDATES

Engineer Lee Beckman was present to update the Council on the current projects with the City of Neoga. Beckman explained that everything is the same as last month with the exception of the ITEP. Beckman said that before future ITEP applications are submitted all engineering must be completed. Based upon current ITEP information, only preliminary engineering (PE1) will be required.

CEDAR STREET LIFT STATION

Commissioner Hakman told the council that he was informed that the lift station located at 10th Street and Cedar Avenue did not work properly, and a local resident has a sewer backup issue. Superintendent Durbin said that all the lift stations are checked on a monthly basis. Between the monthly inspections, the contacts on the switches and alarm system were burnt out. Durbin said that the switches were repaired by Mattoon Commercial Electric, and everything is was working properly again.

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PURCHASE OF NEW TRACTOR

Commissioner Hakman said that he was not able to see the proposed tractor but asked the other council members what their thoughts were. Commissioner Helm said that the tractor was nice, but it may need to have a lower profile. Both Commissioner Helm and Commissioner Edwards said that the tractor would not have a very tight turning radius with the bush hog on the back, and the city should look at a finishing mower instead. Commissioner Edwards stated that the city may not need that big of a tractor. After a lengthy discussion, the council decided to put the old tractor back together so that Buening's could get it out of their shop.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

Commissioner Edwards reported that the public works employees did a great job on the snow removal during the last snowfall.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

No Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Police Chief Schabbing told the Council that Officer Moore will be leaving on January 7, 2020 to attend PTI (Police Training Institute).

Superintendent Durbin informed the Council that the public works employees did the best they could on the snow removal, and he was proud of his employees.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date