



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
JANUARY 25, 2021**

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 Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, Treasurer Diana Foor, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Superintendent Durbin, Engineer Lee Beckman, and Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers. Others in attendance were Wes Chambers, Bill Fritcher, and Shawn Finney.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from January 11, 2021, 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. Nays, none. Commissioner Groves abstained. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

NEOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Bill Fritcher spoke on behalf of the Neoga School Board about upcoming repairs at the school district. Fritcher explained that the school district has been assessing their needs at each building. The high school building is over 40 years old and is in need of having tuck pointing done on most of the building. The estimated cost for tuck pointing is \$810,000; however, a more urgent problem is the roof at the elementary building. They have been band-aiding the roof for a few years, and it needs to be replaced. According to Fritcher, the cost will be over \$1,400,000. Fritcher said that the school currently has bonds that will be paid for in the next few years. The county wide 1% sales tax has helped with a few projects, but these are exceptionally large ticket items that would take a few years to pay for using just those funds. The only other ways to generate dollars for the school is:

1. Property taxes: these funds run the day-to-day operations.
2. 1% Sales Tax – currently the district is receiving \$170,000 or so per year. Since those dollars have been available, they have been used for exterior repairs to the board office, HVAC at grade school, etc.
3. Bonds – which would be difficult to get passed with COVID-19 problems.

Mr. Fritcher explained the only way the school can get additional dollars in the system is to have more enrollments, which could be done if additional housing was built. Fritcher said that if the City is not planning on using TIF dollars to construct new housing locations, the school would like to apply for them.

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PERSONNEL POLICY

City Clerk Evans asked if the Council would wait until after executive session to discuss.

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 \$112,937.15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ORDINANCE #999-01-21 An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$1,500,000 Waterworks and Sewerage System Revenue Bonds of the City of Neoga, Cumberland County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Defraying the Cost of Acquiring, Constructing, Improving, and Extending Waterworks and Sewerage Facilities, and Related Matters.

City Clerk Evans explained this ordinance was for the money borrowed to complete the wastewater treatment project in the amount of \$1,500,000. Commissioner Groves made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. 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: The project has been advertised with a bid opening on February 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Safe Routes to School: IDOT recommended an application extending the previous ITEP Grant. The new SRTS application was submitted on November 19, 2019 and was not funded.

Brighton Cabinets: We are still waiting to hear something back from IDOT regarding the additional \$33,000 to the City.

CDAP Water Grant: The application was submitted to DCEO on September 30, 2020 and should be announced the first of 2021. No changes since last month.

State Grant: the grant was "reactivated", and quarterly reports are being completed. The grant funds will be used with the RLF project. No changes since last month.

ITEP: the joint agreement has been approved and executed by the City and approved by IDOT for Preliminary Engineering 1.

RLF & State Grant: Change order #1C to delete the sewer from 4th to 5th Street on the East side of Rt. #45, changing the point of connection and changing the railroad crossing from 12' deep to 6' deep for a deduction of \$76,800. This will be presented at the next council meeting.

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Commissioner Hakman asked about the railroad lease on the west side of Route #45 and South of 4 way stop. Hakman said that the parking area has huge potholes. Mayor Hartke explained that the lease is between CN Railroad and Swengel- O'Dell Funeral Home.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

No report was given.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

No report was given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Superintendent Durbin informed the Council the turbidity in the finished water level is too high and EPA has approved the City to use the emergency interconnect with EJ Water until the turbidity has been corrected. Durbin said that the employees are backwashing the filter, and he is hopeful to have the levels back down to normal within a few days.

Chief Schabbing updated the Council on the K9. Officer Moore is in week 3 of training, and both Moore and Obi are doing well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Groves made a motion to go into executive session at 7:31 p.m. for Purchase or Lease of Real Estate – Section 22 (c)(5) – Includes general discussion of whether land should be purchased or leased by the public body. Personnel – Section 2 (c)(1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 9:39 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Groves. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke

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ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Groves made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 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