

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
OCTOBER 15, 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. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Chief of Police Andy Schabbing, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, and Bill O'Dell.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from September 23, 2019, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

SALE OF WALKWAYS AT NEOGA MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Bill O'Dell requested to purchase two walkways for \$350 each at the size of 8' wide by 15' long to place a columbarium and 2 benches on the walkways close to the flagpole. The columbarium will have concrete under it wide enough that people can walk on it instead of grass. O'Dell explained that there will not be plants around it for ease of mowing. This columbarium will allow up to 48 cremated remains to be in the locked vault. The front of each door will have their names engraved on it all in the same font so that it looks uniform. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to sell the walkways to Mr. O'Dell at \$350 each. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

APPOINTMENT OF JARED COMPTON TO ZONING BOARD

Building Inspector Jeff Morrison explained that Jared Compton, who lives on Pine Avenue, has expressed interest in serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Morrison explained that he would be serving the remain term for Commissioner Hakman. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Helm made a motion to appoint Jared Compton to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, Edwards, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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Ordinance 946-09-19

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Neoga, Illinois (Alcoholic Beverages)

Mayor Hartke explained that the ordinance is being presented to the Council because Neoga American Legion Commander Randy Mendenhall requested that people under the age of 21 be allowed into the Legion. Mendenhall explained that they have been approached by local people to play music on the banquet side, but as the current ordinance states they can not be in the building after 10:30 p.m. without a parent or guardian. Chief of Police Schabbing said that he did not like the idea of changing the ordinance because you will have other underage people in the establishments, and it will be very difficult to control the underage drinking. After a brief discussion, the council decided to not pass the ordinance.

NEW OR AMENDED TIF DISTRICT

Mayor Hartke told the Council that he, City Clerk Evans, and Commissioner Hakman recently met with the Neoga School Superintendent and a couple of their board members to discuss options regarding TIF. Mayor Hartke explained that should the city start a new TIF or amend the current TIF, the school district should agree. After discussing the options of amending the current TIF or creating a new residential TIF, the school representatives felt a new TIF would be best for city growth and amending the current TIF would allow them to access TIF funds. Commissioner Hakman explained that a new residential TIF would give the city 23 years to develop a subdivision and sell some of the lots; and amending the current TIF would allow the school to access those funds. Commissioner Hakman made a motion to create a new TIF and amend the current TIF. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Edwards, Helm and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE WITH TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

Mayor Hartke told the Council that now that they have decided to move forward with a new TIF and amending the current TIF, they must decide which company to have work on the TIF. Commissioner Hakman said that he felt both Moran Economic Development and Economic Development Resources would be an excellent choice; however, Economic Development Resources may have more experience. Mayor Hartke agreed. Commissioner Edwards then made a motion to have Mayor Hartke sign an agreement with Economic Development Resources. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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REVIEW OF PERSONNEL POLICY

Commissioner Edwards told the Council that he has read the proposed changes and did a little research on his own. Edwards said that his concerns are that the city would be taking away 3 holidays from the employees, and this could hurt employee morale. Edwards proceeded to read what area communities give their employees, and we are currently in line with them. Commissioner Helm agreed with Edwards, and Commissioner Hakman said that we should remain competitive with other communities. Chief of Police Schabbing said that he would like to address the problem with his department working during holidays because they treat them as floating holidays. Schabbing would like to see the police department get time and half for working on the holidays. Mayor Hartke said that they should review the policy when the entire Council was present.

Ordinance 947-09-19 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution of a Contract for Private Development Pursuant to the City of Neoga, Illinois, Redevelopment Plan for Tax Increment Area (Varner & Rawlings, Inc.)

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

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES

TREASURER'S REPORT

City Treasurer Foor told the Council that the city has received their second disbursement from the property taxes which is shown on the report. After a brief discussion, Mayor Hartke ordered the financial report to be placed into the files of the City Clerk.

IML RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

City Clerk Evans told the Council that the general insurance is expiring at the end of the year, and Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association has submitted their renewal premium. Evans explained that the total due would be \$40,094, but if the total premium is paid by November 22, 2019, the City would save 1% or \$398.44. Commissioner Helm made a motion to pay the invoice before November 22nd in the amount of \$39,695.56. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, Edwards, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN

RENEWAL OF MODERN FAMILY DINNERS LLC

City Clerk Evans reminded the Council that the lease agreement with Modern Family Dinners expires on November 30, 2019. Evans wanted to know if the Council wanted to renew or cancel the agreement. Hakman felt the council should renew the contract for another 6 months since we are not aggressively using the gym. City Treasurer Foor expressed her concerns about renting out the building since there isn't a good location to get water or a kitchen to use for private parties. After a brief conversation, it was decided to review the next electric bill and see what the gas costs have been with the company using the building.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

City Clerk Evans told the Council that there has been discussion on placing a pedestrian bridge at Jennings Park next to Park Avenue and along 6th Street. Evans said that she spoke with Lee Beckman, and he gave her some cost estimates from similar projects that he has done. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to have Beckman proceed with quotes on a new pedestrian bridge on Park Avenue, as well as 6th Street and Jennings Avenue.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

Commissioner Helm told the Council that he has been in contact with Superintendent Durbin about getting the sludge hauled out of the wastewater treatment plant. Helm said that they are working on it, and if weather holds out, they should be done next week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Building Inspector Jeff Morrison reminded the Council that the Zoning Board will meet in two weeks to hold a public hearing for a variance and miscellaneous zoning ordinances.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helm. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date