



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

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, Hakman, Edwards, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Engineer Lee Beckman, Wes Chambers, and Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular and executive session minutes from September 14, 2020, Commissioner Helm made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Commissioners Edwards and Groves abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

After reviewing the public hearing minutes from September 14, 2020, Commissioner Helm made a motion to accept the public hearing minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Commissioner Edwards and Groves abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE INCREASE

Mayor Hartke told the Council that they needed to review the water and wastewater rate increase again. Hartke explained that in April, the Council decided to hold off increasing the rates during the pandemic, but would review the subject every month. Treasurer Foor told the Council that the next increase would normally be in January 2021 for the wastewater and May 2021 for water. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to hold off any water or wastewater rate increases until January of 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Groves, Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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ORDINANCE #984-09-20 An Ordinance Pertaining to the Local Cure Program

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Groves made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Hakman, Helm, Edwards, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

City Clerk Evans informed the Council that the annual renewal for the employee health insurance has increased by \$500 per month. Ms. Evans gave the council a spreadsheet to show other insurance carriers cost as well. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to renew with the same carrier, Blue Cross Blue Shield. The motion as seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Groves, Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

TIF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A brief discussion was held reviewing TIF Policies and Procedures. The Council wanted to table the discussion until the new policies were reviewed at the next meeting.

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 \$59,774.75. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Hakman, Helm, Edwards, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER HAKMAN

LEE BECKMAN, UPDATE ON PROJECTS

SEWER PLANT – The preliminary Engineering Report was sent to the IEPA on May 11, 2017. The IEPA has approved the concept. The schedule is being modified with the NPDES Permit update. The sewer application was funded at \$500,000. They will plan to bid the project in the next 30 days. The IEPA plans and permits have been sent to the IEPA, and the permit has been received. Rural Development has approved the plans and specifications. Bids letting should be in approximately 30 days. After all paperwork is completed, construction should begin in February or March of 2021.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – IDOT recommended an application extending the previous ITEP Grant. The new SRTS application was submitted on November 19, 2018 and was not funded. A public hearing will be scheduled for October.

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BRIGHTON CABINETS – The bid letting was held on March 18, 2020 with the low bidder being DARAD, Inc. The Pre-Construction Conference was held on May 18, 2020, and the contractor has started. The Contractor has completed the highway bore and dirt work. Weather has been an issue, and there was a conflict with a phone line. Pay estimate #1 for \$18,787.88 has been approved. Change order #1 for an increase of \$2,865.54 has been approved and Change Order #2 for \$7,310.00. Seeding was completed prior to approval by anyone. We are working through this issue.

CDAP WATER GRANT – DCEO had a grant writing workshop in February with grants due on September 30th. Beckman handed out a map showing the proposed grant application area. This grant will be applied for this year. The new DCEO guidelines do not require income surveys. The application is complete and will be submitted to DCEO on September 30th.

STATE GRANT (\$100,000) – The state has “reactivated” the grant again. Quarterly Reports are now being completed. This money will be used with the RLF project. The map where the state grant will be expended was handed out. The project bid opening was on August 10, 2020 with the low bidder being Followell Construction. The Notice of Awards was signed, and a pre-construction conference will be scheduled in early October.

ITEP – The City applied for a \$1,014,960 grant with \$253,740 in leverage. The project map and estimate were handed out. Grant applications were submitted on December 1, 2017, and the project received partial (small) funding in the amount of \$26,400 (PE 1). With additional funds coming from gas taxes, gaming, marijuana, etc., IDOT has stated the applications will be due in November 2020. The joint agreement has been approved and executed by the City and approved by IDOT.

RLF PROJECT – Beckman shared a map and estimate for the Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) project. The City has secured administration and engineering services. The grant agreement has been executed and is back from DCEO. The railroad permits have been requested. The project bid opening was on August 10, 2020 with the low bidder being Followell Construction. The Notice of Award was signed, and a pre-construction conference will be scheduled in early October. Beckman also said that he has met with Ameren to relocate the gas line at no cost to the city.

PANTHER TRAVELING LEAGUE

The Council discussed allowing the Panther Traveling League to use the gym as their home base location and decided to wait until after the Neoga Community Center (NCC) meeting with the local organizations before deciding.

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STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

Engineer Beckman gave the Council a Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Streetscape plan for approval by the Council. Beckman explained that the plan was just a desired plan and nothing concrete. After a detailed review of the plan, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept the plan as Beckman presented it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Groves, Hakman, Helm, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

No report was given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No report was given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m. for Purchase or Lease of Real Estate – Section 2 (c)(5) – Includes general discussion of whether land should be purchased or leased by the public body. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 8:42 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Edwards. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Edwards, Groves, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Groves made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Groves, Edwards, Helm, Hakman, and Mayor Hartke. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date