

## City of Neoga

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT APRIL 23, 2001, 7:00 P.M.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were:  
Commissioners Warner, Varner, Altman, and Modglin.

#### MINUTES

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 2, 2001. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Altman, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve the special meeting minutes of April 10, 2001. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Altman, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve the executive minutes of the April 2, 2001 meeting. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Modglin, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve the executive minutes of the special meeting of April 10, 2001. Yeas, Commissioners Warner, Varner, Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

#### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

#### CEMETERY

Jane Erwin, and Mildred Gentry addressed the council about their concern that flowers had been removed from the cemetery when it was recently mowed by the city employees and their families. Erwin stated that they should have had some sort of notice before flowers were removed. Additionally, she said that she felt flowers that were obviously new were removed. Superintendent Douglas addressed the audience and said that he would like to extend his apology if some flowers that were new were inadvertently removed. He said that it was very difficult to mow around the flowers

and that he himself had hit some of the artificial flowers and it spread them all over the place which looks very unsightly and they are not biodegradable. In addition he noted that it was the first time city employees mowed the cemetery and it was done under diverse conditions because of the need to get the cemetery mowed for the Easter Weekend. City Clerk Ehrhart stated that she had received several complaints from very distressed families about the condition of the cemetery. Therefore, city employees and their families volunteered their time and worked until dark getting the cemetery mowed for the Easter Weekend. She said that there was certainly no disrespect intended. In fact, it was because of the concern and caring that the city employees and city officials have for the Neoga community that employees, city officials and their spouses and children worked so hard getting the cemetery ready for the Easter Weekend when it was learned that the Contractor would be unable to get the mowing done for the weekend. Commissioner Warner and Commissioner Varner both spoke to this issue noting that the intent was to prepare the cemetery for the Easter Weekend for families to pay their respects for their loved ones and apologized if new flowers were inadvertently removed. Commissioner Warner noted that he and his family participated in the cleanup of the cemetery and felt the city employees and city officials has worked together in unity to show respect to the community. Mayor Mercer stated that he felt enough apologies had been extended. Also, he said he had been on this council for 30 years and this was the first time something like this has happened and felt one indiscretion should be allowed. Jane Erwin then stated that the city officials and employees should be commended for their efforts.

Betty Kenworthy asked about the possibility of being able to purchase walkways as burial sites. She said that some families would like to be able to purchase walkways to be near other family members. Mayor Mercer explained that it was the policy of the City to not sell walkways as burial sites because several lots are still available for purchase. However, Commissioner Varner is in charge of this department and if he wanted to review this policy it would be up to him to bring it to Council.

#### REQUEST TO GET PROPERTY AT 5th & WILSON MOWED & CLEANED UP

Tina Myers was present to request the Council's help in getting the property on the corner of 5th and Wilson cleaned up and mowed. She said she realized that the City Clerk had sent letters last year on more than one occasion requesting that this person clean up and mow this property and asked if we had to continue to do this each year. Mayor Mercer explained that unfortunately that is the case. The city has a Ordinance that requires all grass to be kept under 8 inches in length. However, sometimes residents had to be reminded to mow and clean up their property. The City Clerk explained that she had spoken to this property owner today and he had promised to have the property cleaned up and mowed by the next day.

#### REPORT FROM CCDC DIRECTOR KATHY PERKINS

Economic Development Coordinator for Cumberland County Development Corporation Kathy Perkins was present to give a progress report. Ms. Perkins

complimented the City Council on the activity and growth she has noticed in the Neoga community. Perkins gave a written report to the Council and made special note of the following: 1. She is chairing a committee for East Central Illinois Development Corporation that will be conducting a direct mail campaign targeting the automotive suppliers to highlight our nine county area. 2. Kathy Perkins, Pat Ehrhart, and Gary Kuhns are working on a committee which is putting together a Small Business Development Workshop to be held on May 17, 2001, at Lake Land College.

#### Rt. 45 SOUTH WATERMAIN EXTENSION

Betty Kenworthy told the Council that she and her husband had received a notice from the City Attorney telling them that time was running out on their ability to sign the easement for the City to construct a watermain on South Rt. 45 from Neoga to the Walk Farm and they were upset by the tone of the letter. Council explained to those in attendance, that because Reliant Energy had needed easements from the Walks to take water and gas mains to there power generating plant they asked the City to agree to construct a 4 inch watermain extension to the Walk farm and they would pay the estimated cost of \$105,000. It was Council decision that in order to plan for future development it would be advantageous to the City to upgrade the main to an 8 inch watermain which would provide a water source for families along the route in addition to allowing for future growth. Commissioner Warner said that the only thing the city could do is plan for the future, and it would be ludicrous to construct a 4 inch main when you could take an 8 inch main and have ½ of the cost of water main construction, improvement's for the future, paid for by someone else.

#### **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

##### MOWING CONTRACT

Commissioner Varner told the Council that he would have Cemetery mowing specs available to be picked up at the City Clerk's office on May 1st for a bid letting at the next council meeting of May 7, 2001.

##### ORDINANCE NO.705-04-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 82-57, TAP ON FEE AND 82-59 OF DIVISION 2 OF ARTICLE ii OF CHAPTER 82, UTILITIES, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCREASE WATER RATES.

Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin to approve Ordinance No.705-04-01 with correction of out of corporate limits rate. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Warner, Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

#### **FINANCE**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The previous month statement of fund balances was given each Commissioner. After review of the same, Mayor Mercer ordered that the statement of fund balances be placed in the files of the City Clerk.

## BILLS

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$54,012.36. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Altman, Modglin, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### RESOLUTION NO.04-04-01

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH GLENN A. BRADEN.

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to approve Resolution No.04-04-01. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Warner, Altman, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

### LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

After discussion it was the consensus of the Council to hold the Liquor License Application from JGS, Inc., until council members and the city attorney have completed their review. This will be brought back at next council meeting.

## **STREET'S AND ALLEY'S**

### SIDEWALK AND PARKING FOR PROFESSIONAL BUILDING AT 6th AND LOCUST

Motion: Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to authorize Milano and Grunloh Engineers to proceed with setting a bid date for construction of the sidewalks and parking area on 6th street and Locust street. Yeas, Commissioners Warner, Altman, Modglin, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### RESIGNATION OF ESDA COORDINATOR

Commissioner Altman reported that ESDA Coordinator Bob Thomas has resigned as Coordinator effective immediately due to health reasons.

## **PUBLIC PROPERTY CONTINUED**

### SIGNATURE OF EPA PERMITS FOR WATER MAIN AND GRAVITY FLOW

### SEWER

Motion: Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to authorize the Mayor to sign EPA permits for the water main loop and the gravity flow sewer main to be constructed to serve the Industrial Park and residences and business in that area. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Altman, Modglin, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

### LETTER FROM KENWORTHY'S

City Clerk Ehrhart read a letter from Betty and Harold Kenworthy canceling their contract with the City for use of their property to dispose of tree limbs effective as of May 1, 2001.

### RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to move into executive session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of Section 2 (c)(1) Personnel, and Section 2 (c)(1 1) Probable Litigation. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Warner, Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

### RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

This meeting reconvened on motion by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Modglin. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Varner, Altman, Warner, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer.

### ORDINANCE NO.706-04-01

#### AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE CLERK AND TREASURER OF THE CITY OF NEOGA.

Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve Ordinance No.706-04-01, and to appoint Patricia Ehrhart as City Clerk and Cheryl Eastin as City Treasurer with a 3% increase in salary. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Warner, Modglin, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

### ADJOURN

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to adjourn the regular City Council Meeting of April 23, 2001, at 9:10 p.m. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Warner, Altman, Varner, and Mayor Mercer.

\*\* The "Official Minutes" are on public record at the  
City of Neoga Municipal Building - 533 Chestnut - Neoga, IL.  
I, Bill Dugan, have scanned and formatted the minutes as presented to me  
and ask forgiveness for any honest errors or typos that I may have made in the preparation.