

City of Neoga

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT SEPTEMBER 17, 2001, 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-tem Modglin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were Commissioners Warner, Varner, Altman, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin.

MINUTES

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 4, 2001. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin.

FINANCE

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the monthly bills Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to pay the bills in the amount of \$122,600.97. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC PROPERTY

CEMETERY MAP

Council reviewed a proposal from Alan Clodfelter CAD Services to create a computer aided CAD drawing of the Neoga Memorial Cemetery. The initial cost would be \$475.00 for creating the drawing. Each laminated copy would cost \$40.00, each non-laminated copy would cost \$30.00. Additionally, a drawing file of the cemetery layout will be saved to a disk and provided to the city. Also, Clodfelter would bring the cemetery plan up to date periodically at an approximate cost of \$100.00 to \$150.00, depending on the number of changes and future expenses. Motion: Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to accept the proposal

from Clodfelter CAD Services. Ayes, Commissioners Altman, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

SUPERINTENDENT' S REPORT

Superintendent Douglas reported on the following: 1. The coin sales will be up and running within the next couple of days. 2. The operating permit came in today for the South Rt. 45 water main. Douglas is waiting for the Plumber to check the back flow preventer at Walk's before turning on the water.

STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

PAY REQUEST FROM MILANO AND GRUNLOH

Council reviewed a request from Milano and Grunloh to amend the engineering agreement for Locust & 6th Street Sidewalks & Parking to allow payment for additional services in the amount of \$1761.91. Commissioner Warner will contact Milano and Grunloh about this request.

DISCUSSION: FLOW PROBLEMS IN DITCH BEHIND PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

Joyce Baker and Jeff and Sarah Stepp were present to discuss with the Council their concerns over standing water in the ditch on the North side of their properties. They said they were concerned that the ditch was a breeding ground for mosquitos. Stepp said that the Council told him that when construction of the Professional Building was completed the drainage problem would be taken care of. However, he said this has not been the case and they felt they had been patient about getting this problem taken care of but they do not get any feed back from the Council. Commissioner Warner said the Council will find answers for them and asked them to continue to be patient. Stepp said they will attend meetings until the problem was taken care of and he would just go out and put dirt in the ditch to stop the flow. Warner told him to do what he had to do, but to make sure that whatever he did it was legal and complied with City Ordinances.

VARIANCE REQUEST FROM ALIA SAMARA

Alia Samara was present to request the Council grant her a variance from the fence ordinance. She said that both she and her contractor felt that the letter she received from the Building Inspector was confusing and they thought they were complying with the ordinance when they constructed the fence with the support posts on the outside and placed the fence panels with the bracing side out. Building Inspector Gary Kastl told the Council that he originally made a mistake because he did not consider that this was a corner residence and a privacy fence cannot extend out beyond the front or side of the house because of visual issues for vehicles. He noted that Samara had constructed a privacy fence extending beyond the house line on the North side of her property and he had her take down the privacy fence and replace it with a picket fence in that area. However, Kastl noted that before construction began Samara was given a

copy of the ordinance and section that governs the construction of privacy fencing and had she reviewed that she would have been aware of proper construction. Additionally, Samara was served with a notice from the City Attorney that she had to come into compliance with the fence ordinance by October 1, 2001. Mayor Pro-tem Modglin told Samara that ordinances are put into place to protect all property owners. After discussion Commissioner Warner said he felt Mayor Mercer should be present to discuss this issue before a decision was made. Motion: Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to wave the October 1, 2001 compliance date until a decision is made by the full Council about the requested fence variance. Yeas, Commissioners Warner; Varner, Altman, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

Superintendent Douglas reported that Jeff Currey had requested permission to lay tin horn in the ditch on the North side of his property and allow him to cover it over with dirt. Commissioner Warner said he was not really in favor of covering the entire length of the property because this could cause drainage problems for neighboring residences. Warner noted that the City of Mattoon requires that an inlet be constructed in the middle of the alley. Commissioner Warner will review the situation and instruct Superintendent Douglas on how to proceed.

Building Inspector Gary Kastl asked if the City had heard from the owners of the downtown building located on the corner of 6th and Chestnut about renters remaining in the building while portions of the building are being torn down. City Clerk Ehrhart told the Council that she had contacted the City Attorney Glenn Braden about the City being able to require the renters to vacate the building until it can be made safe for them. Braden said that liability for the renters safety lay totally in the property owners hands. Additionally, he said that the City could not force this issue unless they took the steps required to condemn the building.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner; to adjourn the regular meeting of September 17, 2001, at 8:00 p.m. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Warner, Altman, and Mayor Pro-tem Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

** 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.