

City of Neoga

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT OCTOBER 1, 2001, 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2001. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Modglin, Warner, and Varner. Mayor Mercer abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the City Council to designate October 30, 2001 as Trick or Treat night between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 pm.

REPLACEMENT OF ZONING BOARD MEMBER

Council discussed the need to find a replacement for Larry Hymes to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Hymes has indicated to Mayor Mercer that he wishes to be relieved of that duty. Council will ask the Zoning & Planning Board members for input into possible candidates

REQUEST FOR FENCE VARIANCE FROM ALIA SAMARA

Council reviewed a letter received from City Attorney Glenn Braden in regard to correspondence between Alia Samara and Building Inspector Gary Kastl. Braden felt Ms. Samara's confusion when interpreting the Building Inspectors letter was understandable. However, he noted this probably did not cancel out her obligation to be aware of the content of the Ordinances. After discussion it was the consensus that the Council should stand behind their Building Inspectors decision. Additionally, of large concern was if this variance was allowed the city could be setting a precedent that would not be desirable. Therefore the Council felt the fence should be turned around with the bracing facing the property owner as is required by the city ordinance. Therefore, no variance will be granted. Building Inspector Gary Kastl is to contact Ms.

Samara's contractor to find a reasonable solution to the issue and bring back possible suggestions to the Council. One possibility discussed was using city employees to turn the fence around.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

PAY REQUEST FROM GRR CONSTRUCTION

After review of the Engineers recommendation for payment of a request from GRR Construction to reduce retainage from 6% to 1% for the US Route 45 Watermain.

Motion: Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve GRR Construction pay request in the amount of \$15,112.83 and to approve the retainage reduction from 6% to 1%. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Varner, Warner, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

PROPOSAL TO FENCE THE WATER PLANT PROPERTY

City Clerk Ehrhart reported that Superintendent Douglas had obtained an estimate from Coles County Fence for a little over 600 feet of fencing to fence in the water plant. Douglas said the Water Plant is the only remaining utility property that is not fenced. He stated that he was concerned about possible vandalism as well as in the light of the terrorism attacks on the United States some concerns about the vulnerability of the water system. Estimated cost was a little over \$6000.

Commissioner Varner will discuss this issue with Superintendent Douglas and bring recommendations back to the council.

CEDAR STREET PUMP STATION

Norm Penseneau with GRR Construction discussed with the Council that he would like to take the shoring item from the bid for replacing the Pump Station and use those dollars for other items in the wet well construction. He noted that the tree that is to be protected makes his job almost impossible. Council agreed to work with Penseneau on this matter.

STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

PAY REQUEST FROM DAILY & ASSOCIATES FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve payment of \$30,849.40 for preliminary design and construction engineering for the access road into the Industrial Park. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Warner, Varner, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

MFT RESOLUTION

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve Resolution No.18-10-01 authorizing expenditure of \$60,000 in MFT funds for possible use for the Industrial Park access road. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Varner, Warner, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

PAY REQUEST MILANO & GRUNLOH ENGINEERS

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman to approve payment of \$1761.94 for additional work performed by Milano & Grunloh Engineers for the sidewalks and on street parking located at 6th & Locust. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Warner, Varner, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

STANDING WATER IN DITCH

Sarah & Jeff Stepp and Joyce Baker were present to request that the Council take steps to rectify the problem of standing water in the ditch on the North side of their respective properties. Commissioner Warner told them that the City is continuing to work on negotiations to take care of this matter. The Stepp's and Baker said they would continue coming to Council Meetings until this matter is taken care of.

LIGHT POLE

Commissioner Warner asked what the procedure is for the City adding light poles. The City Clerk explained that the Council must request CIPS install another light pole and then the cost of the electricity is charged to the City's account. After discussion, the City Clerk was instructed to check on getting a light pole installed between Ron Edwards and the Legion property.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Commissioner Altman reported that Eastern Illinois Railroad has completed repairs to the railroad track on 6th street and they have fixed the sidewalk crossing in that location.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to adjourn the regular meeting of October 1, 2001, at 8:00 p.m. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Warner, Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

** 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.