



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT
APRIL 1, 2002, 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 18, 2002. Yeas, Commissioners Warner, Altman, Varner, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

VIEWING OF VIDEO

Council viewed a video about the negative affect of large scale hog operations on communities, neighbors to such facilities, and small family farms. Mayor Mercer thanked John Letizia for providing the film for viewing. Brief discussion was held about possible strategies the City Council can follow to continue their efforts to stop a large scale hog facility from locating just west of the city limits.

REVIEW OF LETTERS

Council complimented Superintendent Douglas and his employees for receipt of a "Certificate of Commendation," from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the highest standard of compliance for at least Five consecutive years in accordance with the Illinois Fluoridation Act. Council received letters from the US Attorney General's office announcing a series of initiatives to improve coordination and communication among all levels of government in the fight against terrorism. Ashcroft asked Council members for comments on their views for the plan to develop and implement the Homeland Security Advisory System. Council members are to submit their input via internet or fax by April 26th.

FINANCE

AUDITOR CONTRACT

Commissioner Modglin recommended and made the motion, that the firm of Gilbert, Metzger, and Madigan, be retained to conduct the City's annual audit. Commissioner Altman seconded by motion. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Warner, Modglin, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

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FEDERAL RESERVE PLEDGEE AGREEMENT

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve signing of the Pledgee Agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, for consolidation of the administration and processing of joint custody collateral services for state and local government pledgees. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Modglin, Altman, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

PUBLIC PROPERTY

BID RESULTS

City Clerk Ehrhart reported that bids were opened for construction of a water main, sewer main, and road for the Industrial Park. The only bid received was from GRR Construction in the amount of \$671,081.40 for alternate A, and \$680,195.00 for Alternate B. Alternate A was for asphalt street construction and Alternate B was for concrete. Engineer estimate was for \$668,366.50. It was noted that Daily & Associates are proceeding with the intent to accept Alternate B, and are checking with EDA for clarification that no re-bid is needed since only one bid was received.

SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS REPORT

Superintendent Douglas explained that the annual service contract for cathodic protection for the water tower was now due at a cost of \$1080. Also, he would like to add an annual 14 point tank review and replacement of all aviation light bulbs for an additional cost \$495. Total for the contract with Corrpro Waterworks would be \$1575. Motion: Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve payment of the annual service contract for cathodic protection, 14 point review, and replacement of aviation light bulbs, to Corrpro Waterworks. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Modglin, Altman, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Douglas told the Council that Larry Johnson with Daily & Associates had given him an estimate for cost of installation and replacement of the pump at the sewer plant with a variable frequency motor starter of between \$7500 and \$10,000. Additionally, he explained that there had been several problems with the electrical panel at the sewer plant. Ron Hick with Commercial Electric gave him a rough estimate of \$1500 to convert to pressure switches for the pumps. Motion: Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to authorize Superintendent Douglas to proceed with purchase of a new pump with variable speed control and convert the electrical panel. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Modglin, Altman, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Superintendent Douglas announced to the Council that it is his intent to take advantage of the early retirement program being offered by the City in 2003. Therefore, he will be retiring at the end of January 2003. Mayor Mercer and the Commissioners expressed their regret on the loss of

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Douglas in his capacity as Superintendent. They commended him for the much improved morale of the employees, and his overall management of the department.

STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

REQUEST TO LAY TELEPHONE CABLE

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve a request from Verizon North to place telephone cable along 12th Street. Yeas, Commissioner Warner, Altman, Modglin, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Superintendent Douglas reported he is waiting for the end pieces for the culvert on 10th street to come in before installing it. He told the Council that he has an estimate from Fuller & Wente for \$800 for a track hoe and setting the culvert. Motion: Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to authorize Douglas to proceed with hiring Fuller & Wente to set the culvert for an approximate cost of \$800. Yeas, Commissioners Warner, Altman, Varner, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Douglas told the Council that he is waiting for good weather to get out and connect the ditch in the Industrial Park to the state ditch, and remove some of the trees.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

ESDA

John Clinton Neoga ESDA Coordinator reported that the County is giving the Neoga Fire Department \$4996 for purchase of Hazmat gear. Clinton is in the process of updating the Neoga ESDA Plan.

City wide clean up will be held in June. The City Clerk was instructed to begin soliciting bids.

Clean up dates for the Neoga Memorial Cemetery were set for April 21st through 30th. After May 1, people can begin decorating again.

Zoning Board meeting is set for Monday April 8, 2002. Building Inspector Gary Kastl is putting together some proposed changes, Commissioner Warner will attend the meeting.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to move into executive session at 8:20 p.m., for the purpose of Section 2 (c)(1) Personnel - hiring. Yeas, Commissioner Altman, Modglin, Warner, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

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RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to adjourn the regular meeting of April 1, 2002, at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried, via voice vote.

Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

Patricia D. Ehrhart, MMC, City Clerk

04/15/02
Approved by City Council