



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT  
JULY 1, 2002, 8:15 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mercer called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. Those present were: Commissioners Altman, Modglin, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 17, 2002. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Commissioners Warner and Varner abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve the executive meeting minutes of June 17, 2002. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Commissioners Warner and Varner abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**IML CONFERENCE**

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve attendance of Council members and spouses at the IML Educational Conference in Chicago, and to approve expenditure of funds to pay conference expenses of same. Council members who wish to attend are to notify the City Clerk so arrangements can be made. Yeas, Commissioners Warner, Varner, Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

**LETTER FROM ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

Council reviewed a letter received from the Illinois Commerce Commission in response to an e-mail sent by the City Clerk regarding safety concerns at the Cemetery railroad crossing. The Commerce Commission restated their position that they want to close the crossing. The Commission said they have included safety improvements for 850N, 900N, and 950N crossings in the FY 2004-2007 element of Commission's FY 2003-2007 Crossing Safety Improvement Program, and the proposed project scope remains the same. Council discussed this issue at length. No action was taken at this time, however, it was the consensus of the Council that it is important that the Township, County, and City remain united in their efforts to bring this safety issue to a positive closure for the citizens involved.

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DISCUSSION ON CCDC

Council briefly reviewed the joint governing board meeting held in Toledo to consider the future of Cumberland County Development Corporation. It was the consensus of the Council that it remains very important for Neoga to stay involved and continue to pool resources with the other governing boards and Cumberland County Development Corporation in their efforts for growth development.

FINANCE

A tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance was given each council member for review. Any recommended changes to the proposed ordinance are to be given to the City Clerk and the ordinance will be on the agenda for approval at the next council meeting.

Commissioner Modglin stated he would like to see the Levy Ordinance for the coming fiscal year remain at the same level as the previous two years. Modglin also issued a challenge to other taxing bodies to keep their levy at the same level as last year. Council discussed that the 12% increase in assessed evaluation of Neoga has created a large hardship on residents. The City Attorney is to be contacted about getting a petition drawn up for residents to sign in protest of this increase in assessment.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY**

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS

Douglas reported on the following: 1. Industrial Park ditching completed and ready for IDOT inspection. 2. Completed ½ of piping in ditch behind Professional Building. Need to get with Commissioner Warner about drainage flow down to Maple. 3. Need to discuss with Commissioner Warner about going another route for water/sewer to service the Hartke lot south of the Stewart property. Cost of boring that property was estimated around \$4000.

Commissioner Varner said he is still working on the language for the cemetery sign.

**STREET'S AND ALLEY'S**

PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

The Clerk reported that the pre-construction meeting for the Industrial Park project has been set for July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

Norm Penseneau told the Council that there is still an issue with the road contractor. Daily still has Walker Construction on the contract with G.R.R. Construction. Penseneau said that Fuller Wentz has not done this particular type of construction so he is not completely confident, however, they are bonded and if they do not do the job correctly they will be tearing it out and redoing it. It was discussed that Engineer Tom Overmyer with Daily & Associates was taking

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this position to protect the City. However, council wanted to get clarification on why he has a problem with Fuller Wentz. Commissioner Warner will call Overmyer to get clarification to see if this problem can be worked out.

REPLACEMENT OF CURB & GUTTER ON WILLOW AVE.

After discussion, Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to hire Fuller & Wentz to replace 180 ft. of curb & gutter on Willow Ave. for a cost of \$2556. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Altman, Warner, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

METHODIST CHURCH REQUEST FOR GUEST PARKING

Commissioner Warner reported that a representative of the Grace United Methodist Church had approached him about them being able to put up guest parking only signs on Walnut for the Sunday Morning church hours. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council for them to come back with a proposal for the wording of the signs.

REQUEST FROM TRAILER PARK REPRESENTATIVE

Greg White manager of Neoga Estates Mobile Home Park requested permission to put all camper sites at the trailer park on one meter instead of paying a minimum on each site. After discussion Council told White that each site must be metered and if water is on at the site minimums ( or actual cost of water used) must be paid.

DISCUSSION ON GREG WHITE'S PROPERTY NOT UP TO CODE

Council told White they were not happy with the condition of his property located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Grove or the property at 5<sup>th</sup> and Walnut. White stated that he is getting ready to tear the house down at the corner of Walnut & 5<sup>th</sup> street. Then, he intends to tear the porch down at 7<sup>th</sup> and Grove. Commissioner Warner told White that the house at 7<sup>th</sup> & Grove had a lot more issues than just a bad porch. Windows are broken out, there is a hole in the roof, and several other code violations. White stated that it is his intent to eventually tear down both residences and build new. Also discussed at this time was the problem of White storing wrecked vehicles on the property on Chestnut. It is the contention of the Council that this is a direct violation of the Zoning Ordinance in regard to junk yards. The City will seek an opinion from City Attorney Glenn Braden about this issue. White stated he is in the process of moving vehicles from this property. Also, White said he will have the house on Walnut torn down within 60 days.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to move into executive session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss Section 2 (c)(1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Yeas, Commissioners Warner, Varner, Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

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RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to adjourn the regular meeting of July 1, 2002, at 10:30 p.m. Motion carried, via voice vote.

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Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

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Patricia D. Ehrhart, MMC, City Clerk