



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT
AUGUST 19, 2002, 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 5, 2002. Yeas, Commissioner Altman, Modglin, and Varner. Mayor Mercer abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve the special meeting minutes of August 14, 2002. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Commissioner Varner abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EASEMENT FOR SEWER & WATER LINES AT 1002 WALNUT

James and Cheryl Stewart were present to address the Council about the letter they received from the City Attorney in regard to an easement across the front of their property for water and sewer line construction. James Stewart told the Council that, as the Council already knew, they were concerned about losing the big Oak trees in their front yard if the city dug for sewer and water lines. He stated that he could not afford to take down those big trees if they died because of construction. Mr. Stewart said they were certainly willing to work with the City in this process and were not so concerned about the Maple trees towards the street because he felt he had the ability to remove them if they died because of construction. Stewart stated that they felt the letter they received was in the form of an ultimatum. Council explained that was not their intent. It was noted that initially it was felt there was not enough fall to run sewer/water lines back behind their property. However, Superintendent Douglas had shot some grade and discovered that there was enough fall in place to go behind the Stewart property. Therefore, the Council was in need of a commitment so this construction project could be undertaken. After discussion it was the consensus of all concerned that Superintendent Douglas would stake where the lines would actually be constructed on the Stewart property. Then, if Stewart's are in agreement with the positioning they are to contact City Clerk Ehrhart to let her know they are O.K. with it. It was decided that a 25 ft. construction easement would be needed with a 15 ft. permanent easement. Additionally, the City will hook Stewart's up to the new sewer lines.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REQUEST FOR BOCA CODE WAIVER

Council reviewed a request from Neoga Associates LLC (Brighton Cabinets) for a waiver from the BOCA Code requirement to install a sprinkler system in their new building at the Industrial park. City Attorney Braden told the Council that he has written to the Attorney for Mikk's telling him that their insurance letter is too sparse. Braden told their Attorney Bob Grierson that the Insurance Assurance letter must state that the Insurance Company understands that Brighton Cabinets is not installing a sprinkler system and the City is under the BOCA Code and it is their intent to insure Brighton Cabinets anyway. Lengthy discussion was held. It was the consensus of the Council that since the sprinkler system was a part of their planned construction, they should be encouraged to proceed with installation of the system because, down the road the pressure needed to run the system could possibly be supplied. Motion: Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve the waiver (Ordinance No. 723-08-02) on the basis that the Council did leave the impression with the owners (John & Elaine Mikk) of Brighton Cabinets that a waiver would be granted. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Modglin, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

SQUAD CAR PURCHASE AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF

A proposal for purchase of a 2003 squad car and a quote from Curry Construction for repair of the Municipal Building roof were briefly reviewed. These items will be on the agenda for next council meeting.

FINANCE

MONTHLY BILLS

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$59,157.62. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Altman, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

The previous months statement of fund balances was given to all council members. After review of the same, Mayor Mercer ordered that the statement of fund balances be placed in the files of the City Clerk.

PAYMENT OF DUES TO ECIDC

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to pay dues in the amount of \$250.00 to East Central Illinois Development Corporation, a nine county economic development association. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Varner, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 19, 2002

PUBLIC PROPERTY

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Douglas reported on the following:

1. The American Water Works Association will be telescoping the sewer lines in the area of the new lift station on Cedar Street late this week or early next week.

2. Due to vandalism at the coin metered water sales, Douglas has been closing the sales at 4:00 when employees go home. Someone crimped the coin, jammed the water sales and a considerable amount of water was lost. Concern over running the risk of draining the water tower was expressed.

3. He has been getting price quotes for possible construction of a 150,000 gallon water tower to be located in the Industrial Park area. Quote from Pittsburgh Tank & Tower was in the amount of \$375,000 for that size of tower. He noted there were leasing options.

4. A letter received from the EPA this week stated that an engineering evaluation of the Neoga Public Water Supply found no sanitary or operational deficiencies, and no water quality limits have been exceeded. They did suggest the City obtain a second backwash pump and a second high service pump that better matches the operating rate of the water plant.

STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

ADDITION OF STREET LIGHT

A request to consider placing a street light at the intersection of Rt. 45 onto Railroad street was reviewed by the Council. The City Clerk was instructed to contact CIPS in regard to getting this street light located.

Superintendent Douglas told the Council that the asphaltting of the street at the new school has been completed. Also, the Railroad crossing on 7th street will be closed on Tuesday for repair and maintenance by the Railroad.

Norm Penseneau told the Council that he has completed \$45,000 worth of work without receiving a field/change order from the engineers. He said the road stabilization is completed and box culverts installed. Penseneau said he should not have done this without field orders. He said he would like to see change orders done with more expediency. He noted that the pump station relocation is now going to be done and should save the City \$15,000 on GRR Constructions part. Urged the City to tell Engineers to get with the program. Mayor Mercer said a call will be made to Larry Johnson to discuss this matter.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

PAGE -4-

AUGUST 19, 2002

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

CONSIDERATION OF HIRING A FULL TIME EMT

Commissioner Altman said that Ambulance Coordinator Alan Baker had approached her about the Council considering hiring another full time EMTI. Baker said he would like the Council to consider this to help relieve him of the longer hours he must now work and also because Neoga is a EMTI service and the Ambulance service is experiencing difficulty in staffing enough EMTI's on a part time basis. It was the consensus of the Council to table this item because Baker was called from the meeting to respond to an Ambulance Call. This issue will be on the next agenda.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to adjourn the regular meeting of August 19, 2002, at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried via voice vote.

Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

Patricia D. Ehrhart, MMC, City Clerk