



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT
NOVEMBER 18, 2002**

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 Warner, Varner, Modglin, Altman, and Mayor Mercer.

MINUTES

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CHRISTMAS TREE IN SITTING PARK

After discussion Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to allow the Girl Scouts to put up a Christmas Tree in the downtown sitting park. The City will supply the electricity. City employees to assist in the process. Yeas, Commissioners Altman, Modglin, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

FINANCE

BILLS

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$109,489.75. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Varner, Warner, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC PROPERTY

DAILY & ASSOCIATES ENGINEERS, INC.

David Happ gave a progress report on the water/sewer main construction and street construction

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for the industrial park. Happ said the wet well has been set and the gravity flow sewer main is now being installed. He noted that the water main has passed the EPA testing and is ready to go on line. Additionally, G.R.R. Construction will begin seeding this week. Council reviewed Change Order No. 4, which results in an increase of \$3,387.03. Motion: Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Altman, to approve Change Order No. 4. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Varner, Warner, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Council reviewed pay request No. 4. Commissioner Warner asked Happ if all ditches were cut to Daily & Associates satisfaction. Happ said he has some concerns but will review again. Motion: Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve pay request No. 4 in the amount of \$65,691.25. Yeas, Commissioners Warner, Varner, Modglin, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

Happ explained that G.R.R. Construction has asked for substantial completion status on the roadway and water systems. This will enable the City to reduce retainage. Time schedule for completion of project is now the first part of February.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

Rodney Williamson and Randy Mendenhall representing the Fire Department discussed with the Council the possibility of the Fire Department taking over the Ambulance and creating a taxing district. This would help the City by taxing the whole district instead of being limited to city residents bearing the whole burden of the department. It was noted that the geographic district of the Ambulance Department is the Cumberland County line to 3 miles east of 121 and Coles County to Sigel, as well as, three townships in Shelby County. The Fire District goes to the centerline road. Some Ambulance area exceeds the Fire District and you would not be able to tax outside of the district. After discussion it was the consensus to form a committee of City and Fire District representatives to review the issue. It was noted that the committee will need to begin working immediately because of the need to bring to referendum on the spring election ballot. The Committee will look at an inter-governmental agreement. Information on revenues and expenses of the Ambulance Department will be gathered for the committee's review. Commissioner Altman and Varner will serve on the committee along with the Fire District Representatives.

Justin Russell questioned about the quality of the service if the Fire District takes over the Ambulance Department. Council stated they will do nothing that would undermine the quality of the service. Alan Baker asked to sit in on meeting's. It was explained that this committee is just looking at the logistics right now and if it goes further than that then he might be included.

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Council discussed proposed changes to ambulance run charges. Alan Baker told the Council that he had talked with some of the surrounding services to compare their ambulance charges with the Neoga department. After discussion it was the consensus of the Council to have City Attorney Glenn Braden amend the ambulance ordinance to reflect the new rates.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Altman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to move into executive session 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, Modglin, Altman, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to adjourn the regular meeting of November 18, 2002, at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried via voice vote.

Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

Patricia D. Ehrhart, MMC, City Clerk