



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT
MARCH 17, 2003, 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve the regular and executive meeting minutes of March 3, 2003. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Commissioner Warner abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

REPORT FROM CCDC, JONATHAN MCKENZIE DIRECTOR

The new Director of Cumberland County Development Corporation, Jonathan McKenzie, gave a report on the progress of the Development Corporation. McKenzie told the Council that several committees are up and running now, such as, Business Retention and Expansion, Quality of Life, Tourism, etc. He said a county wide web site is being developed. A tourism brochure is also in the development process. The annual dinner will be held on March 29th at the Neoga Middle School. He reported that all the communities in the county have paid their funding pledge and he is working with the County Board to get that funding back. Council thanked Jonathan for his report and said it is great to see this organization back on track because there is such a need for this organization in the county.

PROPERTIES IN NEED OF BEING BROUGHT UP TO CODE OR DEMOLISHED

Council discussed a problem with the property at 634 Elm owned by Teri & Steve Morgan, and the properties at 708 Grove and 510 Walnut owned by Greg White. The City has received several complaints from neighbors that the property 634 Elm has rats coming from it. Council noted that all the properties are falling in and are in dangerous condition. Motion: Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to have City Attorney Glenn Braden begin the legal process to have the properties brought up to code or demolished. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Warner, Modglin, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

Additional properties discussed were those located at 710 Maple owned by Barbara Branum and 667 Locust Managed by Professional Advantage Inc. Realtors. It was noted that those properties

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

are in poor condition, with porches falling in etc. Council asked Building Inspector Gary Kastl to make a friendly contact to ask them to bring their properties into code compliance before any stronger action would be taken. Kastl will contact the property owners.

ORDINANCE NO. 728-03-03 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE
CLERK AND TREASURER OF THE CITY OF NEOGA.

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to approve Ordinance No. 728-03-03. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

FINANCE

AUDITOR CONTRACT

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, that the firm of Gilbert, Metzger & Madigan be retained to conduct the fiscal year end audit for the City of Neoga. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Warner, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

BILLS

Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$87,420.08. Yeas, Commissioners Modglin, Warner, Varner, 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 statement, Mayor Mercer ordered that the statement of fund balances be placed in the files of the City Clerk.

DONATION TO POST PROM POST GRADUATION

Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to approve a donation to Post Prom Post Graduation in the amount of \$200. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Modglin, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

DUES - ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

After brief discussion, Commissioner Modglin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve payment of the dues to the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$385. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Modglin, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

PUBLIC PROPERTY

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2003

MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR THE WATER TOWER

After review Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to approve the contract with Corpro Waterworks for maintenance of the water tower in the amount of \$1110.00. Yeas, Commissioners, Modglin, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM REPORT

Superintendent Hagerstrom reported on the following:

1. Drained and cleaned the re-carbonation tank. He noted that there was not a lot of sludge in the bottom of the tank and a drain was put in the bottom of the tank.
2. Pulled an elbow off of the inlet pipe and inspected two sections of pipe.
3. Engineers from Daily staked the lift station on Rt. 45 for possible fencing. Coles County Fencing will give a quote in early summer. It was noted that Engineer David Happ felt that since it is a busy thoroughfare fencing might not be necessary. Council felt that due to the high voltage and possibility of someone getting hurt if they mess with the lift station that the City should fence the station.
4. The permit process has been started for installation of a culvert for lift station access.

STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

MFT PROGRAM FOR 2003

Commissioner Warner discussed with the Council the proposed MFT program for 2003. Warner reported that Daily & Associates have moved forward with the surveying of 6th street and they will put together some preliminary cost estimates. Additionally, Commissioner Warner instructed Daily's to take topographic readings all the way over to the Christian Church. Warner said it is the plan right now, to put in a hard surface on 6th street such as concrete, or asphalt. Warner noted that the City is still following the program that was set up several years ago.

Stan Hagerstrom told the Council that he met with the County and State in regard to a sink hole on 7th street and Rt. 45. It was noted that this will probably be a state responsibility because of state owned storm sewers.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

COMPUTERS FOR AMBULANCE DEPT.

Commissioner Modglin said he had received a call from Ambulance Coordinator Alan Baker asking when he would be getting his computer installed. It was explained that Team Technology was in town last week beginning the process, however, since Baker is receiving a computer from the Clerk's office the information on that computer could not be removed from that computer

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

PAGE -4-

MARCH 17, 2003

until the new computers were running properly. It was noted that until this week Team Technology was still having to trouble shoot the new system, partly because of the change to Windows XP. It was explained that Baker should have a computer running in his office this week.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Warner 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 Modglin, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Modglin, to adjourn the regular meeting of March 17, 2003, at 9:25 P.M.

Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

Patricia D. Ehrhart, MMC, City Clerk