



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT  
JUNE 2, 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 Varner, Stewart, Russell, Warner, and Mayor Mercer.

**RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell. 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 Stewart, Varner, Warner, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

**RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL**

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

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the regular and executive meeting minutes of May 19, 2003. Yeas, Commissioners Russell, Warner, Varner, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**PUBLIC OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Russell made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to formally appoint Brenda Evans as City Clerk to replace retiring City Clerk Patricia Ehrhart with a salary of \$35,000 per year. Also, to appoint Diana Foor as City Treasurer to replace retiring City Treasurer Cheryl Eastin with a salary of \$32,000 per year. Brenda Evans to begin job duties on November 1, 2003. Diana Foor to begin job duties on January 1, 2004. Both appointees salaries will begin on November 1, 2003. Yeas, Commissioners Stewart, Varner, Warner, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

**FINANCE**

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EMPLOYEE EYE, DENTAL AND LIFE INSURANCE

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve renewal of employee eye, dental and life insurance with American Community Insurance. Yeas, Commissioners, Russell, Warner, Varner, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

The tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance was given to each council member for review. The Public Hearing will be held on June 16, 2003.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY**

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Stan Hagerstrom reported on the following:

1. Front wheel shift problems on the Massey Tractor; estimate for repairs around \$400.
2. De-stratifier at the lake is not running properly. E. C. Baker & Sons, Inc. will be checking it out later this week.
3. Cost to upgrade the fogging machine pump and atomizer is around \$3000.
4. Started cleaning ditches.
5. Will be putting the Consumer Confidence report in the paper right away.
6. The Modern Woodmen Club will be painting fire hydrants and possibly re-painting the pole people before Neoga Days.

After review of AmerenCIPS cost estimates for putting lights in the Industrial Park area it was the consensus of the Council to hold off on this item.

**STREET'S AND ALLEY'S**

Commissioner Russell told the Council that he had visited the water/sewer plants to meet with employees and tour the plants. Also, he rode the streets with Superintendent Hagerstrom to familiarize himself with potential maintenance needs.

MFT STREET WORK

It was reported that IDOT completed testing the pavement on 6<sup>th</sup> street for a base number. County Engineer Ben Bland requested that IDOT conduct this testing. It was noted that construction will probably be next year instead of this year.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

DISCUSSION ON ESDA COORDINATOR

Commissioner Stewart told the Council that she had spoken to Bob Thomas and he will stay on as ESDA Coordinator. Jim Lawson will be helping him in his duties. Thomas spoke with his employer and they have agreed to allow him to return to the City if an emergency requires his presence. The volunteer firemen will continue with weather watching.

DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY CODE VIOLATION AND ABANDONED VEHICLES

Commissioner Stewart said that she and Police Chief Mattern had crawled through weeds and tagged several vehicles. The difficulty in obtaining junk vehicle titles was reviewed. Also, it was noted that several property owners are presently in violation of the Junk Vehicle Ordinance, and Police Chief Mattern will continue working on this matter.

Several properties that need to be brought up to code or demolished were discussed. Council reviewed the possibility of having the Fire Department burn some of the identified buildings for firefighting practice. It was explained that there are IEPA permitting requirements and closeness to other properties that enters into the equation.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, 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, Stewart, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to adjourn the regular meeting of June 2, 2003, at 8:28 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