



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT
JULY 7, 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, and Mayor Mercer. Commissioner Warner was absent.

MINUTES

Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 16, 2003. Yeas, Commissioners Varner, Russell, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GRANT AGREEMENT

Commissioner Russell made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve Mayor Mercer signing of Grant Agreement No. 03-24251 between the City of Neoga and the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. This is for design engineering for sewer plant and infrastructure improvements. Yeas, Commissioners Russell, Stewart, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

LIQUOR ORDINANCE

Marilyn Smyser manager of the Uptown Food & Spirits was present to address the City Council. Ms. Smyser asked the Council to consider the following changes to the present Liquor Ordinance.

1. Amend the hours that children under the age of 21 can be allowed in the establishment when accompanied by a parent from 9:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. Ms. Smyser stated that the kitchen is open until 10:00 and very often during summer hours people from the lake area come in late and bring their children to eat.

2. Amend the Ordinance to allow adolescent's between the age of 16 to 20 years old to come in for lunch or dinner for dates. Smyser said 85 % of sales is food. No smoking in the front of the restaurant.

3. Allow children to remain in the building if they are in building No. 3 attending a wedding reception or class reunion as long as they are accompanied by their parents. Also, a member of management would stay in the room at all times to make sure liquor laws are obeyed.

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4. Consider amending the Ordinance to allow children to be accompanied by a Grandparent or other responsible adult. As the Ordinance now stands a Grandparent cannot take a grandchild into the restaurant to eat.

Mayor Mercer thanked Ms. Smyser for her input and stated that he would like for everyone on the Council to be comfortable with any changes to the Ordinance. Therefore, this item will be on the next Council agenda for consideration.

COPIER PURCHASE

City Clerk Ehrhart told the Council that the 10 year old cannon copier that the City now owns has probably seen the last of its useful life. She reported that it is almost a weekly occurrence that maintenance is needed on the copier. Additionally, it has begun jamming on a frequent basis and today ruined an important original document. After review of a proposal for purchasing of a new Cannon IR 2200 Copier the following motion was made. Motion: Commissioner Russell made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to authorize the City Clerk to proceed with signing a contract for purchase of the copier for \$4434.01 and maintenance contract for \$1116.00 per year to include all parts, labor, toner, drum and service for 5000 images per month. Yeas, Commissioners Stewart, Varner, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

FINANCE

IML CONFERENCE

After discussion, Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to authorize Council Members, City Clerk, Treasurer, and Deputy Clerk and Treasurer and their spouses to attend the training conference hosted by Illinois Municipal League on September 18-21 in Chicago. Yeas, Commissioner Russell, Varner, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

ORDINANCE NO. 730-07-03

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH A BUDGET OF ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CITY PURPOSES OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2004 COMMENCING ON MAY 1, 2003 AND ENDING ON APRIL 30, 2004.

Commissioner Russell made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to approve Ordinance No. 730-07-03. Yeas, Commissioners Stewart, Varner, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

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PERMIT FEES

City Clerk Ehrhart told the Council that the State of Illinois has now placed a mandated NPDES Permit fee on municipalities. Neoga has been assessed a fee of \$8000. This is a new fee that has never been in place before. Discussion was held on the possible need to pass the fees through to the sewer rate structure. No action taken at this time.

DISCUSSION ON WATER MAIN LEAK AND POT HOLE PROBLEM

Commissioner Russell told the Council that he had been at the residence located at 438 Locust Ave., and noted that there was standing water although it had been very dry weather. He said he was concerned that there was a water main leak at that location and further said that the neighbor explained that this problem has been there for awhile. Additionally, Commissioner Russell said there is a very big pot hole when turning west into the alley next to the Post Office. City Clerk Ehrhart was instructed to notify the Public Works Department to check out and repair these two items.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Commissioner Stewart reported that the house located at 634 Elm is now down and pretty well cleaned up. Additionally, the paper work for the bid process for tearing down the house at 7th and Grove was delivered today. Bid opening will be at the next Council meeting on July 21st.

DONATION FOR FIREWORKS

Commissioner Stewart made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to donate \$2000 to the Fireworks Committee. Yeas, Commissioners Stewart, Varner, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

ADJOURN

Commissioner Russell made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to adjourn the regular meeting of July 7, 2003, at 8:04 p.m.. Yeas, Commissioners Russell, Varner, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

Patricia D. Ehrhart, City Clerk