



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT  
AUGUST 4, 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, Russell, Warner, and Mayor Mercer. Others present were Alan Baker, Justin Russell, Nancy Lawson, Jesse Adams, Jeremy Sharp, Bonnie James, Marian Lindley, Bob McMullen, Phillis Krueger, Tom Helm, Gary Kastl, Cheryl Eastin, Stan Hagerstrom, Marilyn Smyser, Jim Smyser, and Brenda Evans

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to approve the regular and executive meeting minutes of July 21, 2003. Yeas, Commissioners Russell, Warner, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Marian Lindley, spokesperson for the Neoga Area Community Association, addressed the council concerning the one room school house located on the Neoga Middle School property. The Neoga Board of Education has informed the committee that the building needs to be moved prior to August 20, 2003. She said that the building was built around 1875 and has had new windows and insulation installed along with a new cut to order red tin roof. All materials for the building has been bought but it is now looking for a new resting place. They have been contact by someone in Greenup and Toledo area who would like to move it over to their community, but the committee would like to keep it here. Commissioner Warner and Mayor Mercer both stated they felt the council should do whatever is necessary to save the building and not look back in ten years with regret over the loss to the community of another important asset, such as the loss of the old depot building. In the future, the committee would like to add a culture center that would be large enough to benefit the fine arts department at the school, as well as, citizens from the area.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion from Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Varner to make the 800 block of Chestnut available to the committee by either donation or lease. Yeas, Commissioners, Warner, Varner, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**LIQUOR ORDINANCE**

After reading the proposed amended liquor ordinance, the council members decided to table this issue until next meeting.

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**APPOINTMENT TO ZONING BOARD**

A motion from Commissioner Varner to appoint Dean Shaw to the Neoga Zoning Board of Appeals to replace John Letizia. Seconded by Jay Russell. Yeas, Commission Russell, Warner, Varner and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**FALL FESTIVAL**

Marilyn Smyser approached the Council regarding a fall festival that the Neoga Days Committee would like to hold this October. The proceeds will go to the fireworks fund for 2004. Right now they are looking at closing either 6<sup>th</sup> street from Oak to Locust or Chestnut from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Street. They are planning on having two bands and a beer tent. She will give the council an update closer to the fall, however, before they proceed with planning the invent they needed to get approval from the City Council.

The City Council said that they would rather see this festival located on Chestnut Avenue due to it being easier to close off traffic and less disruption to businesses. Mayor Mercer also ask that they contact the businesses on Chestnut and inform them of their intentions. Smyser was told by the Council that the beer tent area must be controlled and it will be incumbent upon the committee to ensure this.

**FIRE CALL**

City Clerk Patricia Ehrhart relayed to the council Tom Helm's appreciation to the Council for allowing city employees the opportunity to leave work to help on major fires. This happened on July 27, 2003 when the house located on 7<sup>th</sup> and Burrows caught fire.

**STORAGE UNITS**

For the Councils information, Brighton Cabinetry is in the process of constructing storage units for the City of Neoga, at no cost. They should be completed by the middle to end of September. Mayor Mercer expressed the City Councils gratitude to Brighton Cabinetry and would like to get a plaque ordered for the end of the cabinets and a press release.

**FINANCE**

Commissioner Warner informed the council that the City has received the semiannual franchise fee from Mediacom in the amount of \$3,733.78.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Superintendent of Public Works Stan Hagerstrom reported on the following:

1. De-stratifier at the lake has not been installed yet but he anticipates it will be this week.

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2. The lift station at the old truckstop has gone down and he has had Sudkamp Plumbing, Heating and Electric out to look at it along with Commercial Electric. It was the consensus of both, that the pump and electrical panel are beyond repair and needs to be replaced. Sudkamp will have an estimate for cost of repair by Wednesday.

The Council informed Superintendent Hagerstrom to obtain Commissioner Varner's approval for any replacement and then they would have to pass a resolution for emergency replacement if the cost was over \$10,000.

#### DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

The City Council asked the City Clerk to contact City Attorney Glenn Braden about the Demolition Ordinance so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

#### STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

Commissioner Russell told the Council that he had put a call in to Daily & Assoc. but has not had a chance to discuss the street program with them yet.

#### VISIBILITY PROBLEMS AT 6<sup>TH</sup> & LOCUST

City Clerk, Patricia Ehrhart, explained that it has come to her attention that there is a problem with visibility on the corner of Locust and 6<sup>th</sup> Street by Walk's Professional Building. Apparently, when vehicles are parked in front of the building, motorists are not able to see vehicles coming from the East or West. It was then decided to paint a wide white stripe of paint on the road with the words STOP just below it so motorists can tell that the stopping lane is extended further up enabling them to see around vehicles.

#### RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion from Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to go into executive session for Personnel - Section 2 (c) (1) - Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance. Along with Sale or Lease of Real Estate - Section 2 (c) (6) - limited to actual setting of price for sale or lease of public property. Yeas, Commissioner Warner, Russell, Varner, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0

#### RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

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PERSONNEL HIRING

Commissioner Warner made a motion to employ Jim Smyser, at \$11.00 per hour, for the position in the Public Works Department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Russell. Yeas, Commissioner Varner, Warner, Russell and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

REPRESENTATIVE FITZGERALD

Mayor Mercer informed the council that on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, Representative Fitzgerald's aid will be in town, so if they have any issues that they would like to be discussed they can let him know, or stop by and speak with the representative.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Varner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:05 p.m. Yeas, Commissioner, Warner, Varner, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

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Patricia D. Ehrhart, MMC, City Clerk