



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT
OCTOBER 6, 2003, 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Gary A. Mercer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Varner, Russell, Warner, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Others present were City Clerk Patricia Ehrhart, City Treasurer Cheryl Eastin, Deputy Clerk Brenda Evans, Deputy Treasurer Diana Foor, Alan Baker, Stan Hagerstrom, Ronda Russell, Justin Russell, Nancy Lawson, Dustin White, and John Broux.

MINUTES

Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the regular and executive minutes with the change to add the motion for hiring a new employee. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LIQUOR ORDINANCE

Mayor Mercer said that he had spoke with the City Attorney regarding the liquor ordinance and he needed to get a clarification from the council on the word "barrier". The consensus of the council is to have an establishment to have a structure that would define a different section of the building. Mayor Mercer said he will speak with the attorney and than bring the ordinance back to the council for approval.

EXPLORER CLUB

EMT Ronda Russell informed the council that she is trying to start an explorer group for kids between the ages of 14 - 21. The students would be trained in different areas of the emergency departments like the ambulance, police and fire department. Although the participates are not able to ride on the equipment, they would be trained to do everything that the current volunteers are trained to do. There is a charter fee of \$20 that the city would have to pay and also rider insurance if the City chooses to allow the students to ride on the equipment. However, before anyone can ride they will need approximately 1 year of training. The rider insurance is available through the boy scouts at a fee. At this time Russell has approximately 3 people interested in this program. Russell is asking the council to charter the organization and to appoint someone from the city to be a representative. If the City does charter, the name of the organization will be City of Neoga Emergency Services Explorer Club.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Varner to charter the City of Neoga Emergency Services Explorer Club. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Warner, Stewart, Russell, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

BURNING ORDINANCE

The City of Neoga has received numerous complaints regarding burning after hours and most of the complaints have been in the downtown area. It was the consensus of the council to issue a letter to the residents who have been burning along with a copy of the ordinance. Also place an ad in the Neoga News stating the ordinance and the fines. The council would also like to have the ordinance read that these fines do not include attorney fees and court costs.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Stan Hagerstrom reported on the following:

1. The computer at the pump house and water plant broke and is now repaired. However, it was a great training tool for the new employees to learn how to operate the equipment manually.
2. The employees replaced the seat at the fire hydrant located on the corner of 5th and Chestnut Avenue.
3. Fixed a leak on our side of the meter at a residence at 667 Locust Avenue.
4. Met with Mr. Williamson regarding the sewer plant and will continue to meet with him on a weekly bases.
5. Completed the repairs on the lift station at BP Truckstop.

STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

DRAINAGE ON DOGWOOD

Commissioner Russell met with Gary Freeland, owner at 1290 Dogwood, due to the field north of his property draining under his house. The storm drain has had a hole knocked into it so that water would drain into the storm sewer. Commissioner Warner explained that when the subdivision was originally laid out, the contractor was to place a ditch in the back to each lot for the water to drain down to the ditch on 12th street. However, this was not done due to utilities lying in this area. Commissioner Warner told Superintendent Hagerstrom to call in a J.U.L.I.E. dig to see where the utilities are located and then we can discuss creating ditches in that area. We also need to check with the court house to see if the City of Neoga has an easement in this subdivision.

6th STREET PROJECT

Daily & Associates called to schedule a meeting with Commissioner Warner, Commissioner Russell, and Cumberland County Engineer Ben Bland. The meeting was scheduled for October 21st at 6p.m. at Neoga Municipal Building.

The owner at 512 Maple Avenue called regarding a ditch that city employees dug on the south side of his house and now he is unable to mow that area. Superintendent Hagerstrom said that he has spoke with the home owner and the City employees will go back and slope the sides of the ditch however, it will be close to the road. The homeowner than ask Hagerstrom if there was anything they could do regarding the ditch next to the rail road tracks, he is having the same problem with not being able to mow there either and it is a very deep ditch. It was the consensus of the council that if the homeowner wanted to buy the supplies the city would install the culvert.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

NUISANCE / WEED ORDINANCE

The amended weed ordinance was handed out and due to the fact that the council has not had time to review it, this was tabled until next meeting.

TRICK OR TREAT

It was the consensus of the council that sense there was no school on Friday October 31st, Trick or Treat should be held on October 30th so that the smaller kids where not out on a weekend night. Hours will be from 6p.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone wishing to have trick or treater at their home should have a porch light on.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion from Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to go into executive session for Section 2 (c) (3) Appointment or Removal Public Officers. Yeas, Commissioner Warner, Russell, Varner, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

COUNTY BOARD MEETING

Mayor Mercer informed the Council that he attended a County Board meeting and was very pleased to see that the County Broad included the CCDC stipend in the budget.

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ADJOURN

Commissioner Warner made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. Yeas, Commissioner Warner, Varner, Russell, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

Patricia D. Ehrhart, MMC, City Clerk