



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT  
OCTOBER 20, 2003, 7:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Mercer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Others present were City Clerk Patricia Ehrhart, Deputy Clerk Brenda Evans, Nancy Lawson, Dustin White, Alan Baker, Justin Russell, Gary Kastl, Doug Baker, Stan Hagerstrom, Paul Schabbing, Gary Freeland, Nancy Sowers, Rick Goeckner, Treasurer Cheryl Eastin, and Deputy Treasurer Diana Foor.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Russell made a motion to approve the regular and executive meeting minutes of October 6, 2003. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

PRESENTATION

Nancy Sowers, City Clerk of Greenup, presented City Clerk Ehrhart with a resolution for the work that Ehrhart has done in the past twenty years for Municipal Clerks across the entire state of Illinois. Sowers explained to the council that she is an asset that will be sadly missed.

IMRF AUTHORIZED AGENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to pass Resolution #06-10-03, appointing Deputy Clerk Brenda Evans as authorized agent for IMRF effective on November 1, 2003, the appointment date for her new position as City Clerk. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

LIQUOR ORDINANCE

The Council reviewed the liquor ordinance 733-09-03 language that was passed on September 2, 2003. Approved by consensus of the council.

LETTER FROM CITY ATTORNEY

The Council reviewed a letter from City Attorney Glenn Braden regarding the inability to collect any attorney fees or court cost for any violation of city ordinances.

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

PAGE -2-

OCTOBER 20, 2003

### **STREET'S AND ALLEY'S**

#### DRAINAGE ON DOGWOOD

Paul Schabbing, Doug Baker, and Gary Freeland, all homeowners on Dogwood Avenue, asked the Council for their assistance with the drainage problems in their neighborhood. Schabbing explained that to date, water run off from the field north of the subdivision, is pooling in the middle of the road and under their homes. He feels that the current storm sewer is not the appropriate size and with the corn stalks getting into the sewer drains it will decrease the size of the line. Schabbing asked if the City would do a hydro study on the field and possibly construct ditches behind the houses on Dogwood for drainage. Schabbing also thought that if a tin horn was removed from the North end of Dogwood, the water would flow to the East easier and might help the situation. Superintendent Hagerstom told the Council that he has met with CIPS and a ditch to the West would be out of the question due to all the trees that would be damaged. However, a ditch to the East could be a possibility if they can miss all the utilities. Commissioner Warner explained to the homeowners that when this subdivision was first brought to the Council by Leroy Borris he wanted to construct a road like the ones on Willow, Hickory, and Ash. However, the Council wanted a road made of concrete, not oil and chip. So when Russ Orsborn approached the Council and was willing to install a concrete road and place swells in between the houses, the Council accepted the plan. Council should have insisted on an extension of the letter of credit but they didn't, and they learned from those mistakes and didn't make them on the Hartke subdivision. However, Commissioner Warner feels that the City needs to find a cure for the drainage problem. Schabbing asked the City to remove the tin horn and replace with a larger one and re-route the drainage to behind the houses on the East. The consensus of the Council was to start by removing the tin horn and contacting Daily & Associates for their advice.

### **FINANCE**

#### BILLS

Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$46,482.04. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

The treasurer's report was given to the council and after review was okayed. Mayor Mercer ordered the financial report to be placed in the files of the City Clerk.

PAYMENT REQUEST

Commissioner Warner made a motion to request funds totaling \$40,550.19, from the Sewer Design Grant from the State of Illinois to pay Daily & Associates for work that they have done. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

A pay request for the MFT 6<sup>th</sup> Street Project from Daily & Associates in the amount of \$5,079.70 was approved for payment from a motion by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

AMENDING OF APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Due to extra training in a number of departments and two Revolving Loans being paid off early, Commissioner Warner made a motion to amend the Appropriation Ordinance. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

SIGNATURES FOR CHECKS

Commissioner Warner made a motion to remove Mayor Mercer, Treasurer Eastin and City Clerk Ehrhart from all checking accounts and replace them with the incoming Mayor, Deputy Treasurer Foor and incoming Clerk Evans, effective November 1, 2003. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY**

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM

Superintendent Hagerstrom informed the Council that the Grace United Methodist Men group painted all the curbs in town and wanted to thank them. Hagerstrom has been training new employee Wiltermood at the sewer plant and things are going well. The department will be installing a dry hydrant beside the pond at the industrial park for the fire department. This pond looks to be spring feed so there will not be any problems of the pond being drained down.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

AMENDING OF NUISANCE & WEED ORDINANCE

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the amended Nuisance Ordinance allowing the City to respond within 7 days to remove weed and place a lien on the property. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

UPDATE FROM ZONING BOARD

Building Inspector Kastl informed the council that the Zoning Board reviewed the demolition ordinance and approved it. However, they feel that additional verbaige needs to be included with less restrictions on homeowners demolishing their property.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Warner made the motion to go into executive session for Section 2 (c)(3) Appointment or Removal Public Officers at 7:57 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart 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 Stewart. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Russell, Warner, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

Commissioner Warner made a motion to appoint Commissioner Russell to replace resigning Mayor Mercer effective November 1, 2003. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Warner made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Russell. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Russell, Varnier, Stewart and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

---

Gary A. Mercer, Mayor

---

Patricia D. Ehrhart, City Clerk