

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT  
NOVEMBER 3, 2003, 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jay Russell, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Varner, Warner, Stewart and Mayor Russell. Others present were City Clerk Evans, City Treasurer Cheryl Eastin, Deputy Treasurer Diana Foor, Alan Baker, Stan Hagerstrom, Justin Russell, Nancy Lawson, Dustin White, Tom Overmyer, Heather Easton, Marilyn Smyser, Andy Handfland, Sue Livingston, Gerry Mattern, and James Fuller.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the regular and executive minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Ayes, Commissioner Stewart, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**SITE LOCATION**

Mayor Russell informed the council that the City of Neoga has received notification from Department of Community and Economic Opportunity that they will be doing a site location in Neoga on November 19, 2003, at 10 a.m. Mayor Russell explained that this does not mean that we will receive the grant however, the application has not been denied.

**FARMSWORTH GROUP**

Andy Handfland, a representative from the engineering firm Farmsworth Group, stopped by to introduce himself. He informed the Council that they had recently opened an office in Effingham, and if the City of Neoga was in need of engineer work to contact him.

**FINANCE**

ORDINANCE #736-11-03

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND  
ASSESSING THE TAXES FOR THE CITY  
OF NEOGA FOR 2003

After a brief discussion regarding the levy, Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve Ordinance #736-11-03, seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes, Commissioner Warner, Varner, Stewart, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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### RISK MANAGEMENT INSURANCE

Commissioner Warner made a motion to pay the annual Risk Management Insurance invoice in the amount of \$24,017 in two payments. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Ayes, Commissioner Stewart, Varner, Warner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Stan Hagerstrom reported that the dry hydrant at the industrial park has been completed and a local farmer removed the weeds around the pond so that it can be seeded for grass. He also reported that a starter in a blower at the sewer plant had to be replaced at a cost of \$1,000.

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

#### SUE LIVINGSTON - 214 E. 8<sup>TH</sup>

Ms. Livingston expressed to the council that she was pleased with the removal of the old tree and sidewalk by her house, however, she feels the project is not complete. According to Livingston, the dirt that was brought in had bricks, concrete, and tile in it and she was unable to till the dirt to plant grass seed. Superintendent Hagerstrom explained, due to the cold weather, he felt the City should plant the grass seed in the spring. Commissioner Warner asked Superintendent Hagerstrom to use the City's tiller and till the dirt and in the spring plant grass seed.

#### DAILY & ASSOCIATES

Tom Overmyer with Daily & Associates invited the Council to Daily's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday, November 14, from 5 – 7 p.m. in Champaign. Mr. Overmyer also explained to the council that during a committee meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> Street project, it was discussed reconstructing curb to curb from Chestnut to Walnut, at an estimated cost of \$284,600. Walnut Avenue to Trowbridge Road, which is owned by the County, will be funded by Cumberland County if they choose to participate in the project. Within the next few weeks preliminary engineer work will be done, and Overmyer informed the council that a Resolution for improvements by the City of Neoga requesting \$50,000 from the City's allotment of Motor Fuel Tax funds will need to be passed at the next meeting.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Stewart expressed her desire to present a proclamation to the Neoga Volunteer Fire Department for all their hard work. It was the consensus of the council to invite them to our next meeting to present it to them.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion from Commissioner Stewart was made, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to go into executive session for Section 2 (c) (3) Appointment or Removal of a Public Officers, and Section 2 (c) (1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance. Yeas, Commissioner Warner, Varner, Stewart, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

HIRING POLICE OFFICER

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to hire James Fuller as a full time police officer at a salary of \$30,000. Seconded by Commissioner Varner. Yeas, Commissioner Varner, Warner, Stewart, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Stewart made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Varner, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:43 p.m. Yeas, Commissioner Warner, Varner, Russell, Stewart, and Mayor Mercer. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Jay Russell, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk