



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MUNICIPAL BUILDING 533 CHESTNUT
December 1, 2003, 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Russell and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Warner, Stewart, Varner, Modglin, and Mayor Russell. Others present were City Clerk Evans, Treasurer Eastin, Deputy Treasurer Foor, Alan Baker, Justin Russell, Stan Hagerstrom, , Ronda Russell, Physical Assistant Lee Walker, and Dustin White.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Varner to approve the regular and executive meeting minutes of November 17, and November 21, 2003. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Modglin, Stewart, Varner and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UPTOWN FOOD AND SPIRITS HOURS

The Council reviewed a request from the owners of Uptown Food and Spirits asking to remain open one hour later than ordinance allows on New Years Eve. Normal hours are midnight during the week, however, the consensus of the council was to allow them to remain open until 1:00a.m.

NEOGA COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

Lee Walker, the new physician assistant at the Neoga Community Medical Center, introduced himself to the Council and informed them that his hours has been expanded to Monday thru Friday. Mayor Russell thanked him and on behalf of the Council welcomed him to the community.

CHIEF MATTERN REPORT

Chief Mattern gave a report to the council members regarding the activities the police department has done in the last 6 months. Mattern also informed the council that Officer Fuller has completed the first of four tests and scored very well. The second course is over ten hours long and Fuller should complete it by the end of the week. Chief Mattern is reviewing the applicants for another full time officer and has hired a part time office, which gives the department a total of four. Commissioner Warner thanked Chief Mattern for going over and beyond what we could ask for.

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FINANCE

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

Commissioner Modglin informed the council that as of December 1, 2003, the employee health insurance renewed at a rate that is 27.2% higher than the previous year. After a brief discussion, the council would like to get quotes from other company's.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

HAGERSTROM REPORT

Superintendent Hagerstrom told the council that they have put the Christmas lights up. All the employees in his department have attended two different seminars in the last two weeks and Tom Helm is taking his C & D license test. Hagerstrom also explained to the Council that the site visit from DCEO went well, and the visit gave Daily & Associates Engineer, Larry Johnson, an opportunity to explain that the City of Neoga is ready for phase 2 of the project.

IEPA LETTERS

Superintendent Hagerstrom explained to the council that he had sent two letters to IEPA regarding the overflow of sewage during the recent heavy rains.

CLEAR WELL TELEMETRY UPGRADE

A clear well telemetry upgrade estimate was give to the council from Superintendent Hagerstrom. Hagerstrom explained that, at this time, everything is run by manually going to the plant and checking to see if the tower is full. This upgrade would have five different alarms. One for power outages, and another for low or high water levels. This system would automatically call the Duty man or the Duty man could call the system to find out if the plant was ready to be shut down. This will help stop pulling employees off one job to check on the plant. It was the consensus of the council to wait until we have matching funds for this project.

STREET'S AND ALLEY'S

6TH STREET MFT PROJECT

Commissioner Warner explained to the council that he has spoke with Cumberland County Engineer Ben Bland regarding the 6th street project. Bland informed Warner that, at this time, Cumberland County does not have the funds to commit to the project however, the county may be willing to make payments to the City of Neoga for the County's portion if the City of Neoga wanted to fund the entire project.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

DUSTIN SMITH

Commissioner Stewart informed the council that the City took Dustin Smith to court for the three animal fines and the judge ruled Smith must pay \$350 in fines in addition to paying the city's attorney fees of \$375. Smith is to pay \$25 per week starting December 1, 2003 until the total of \$750 is paid off.

490 WALNUT AND 510 WALNUT PROPERTY

Commissioner Stewart told the council that City Attorney Braden has instructed the title search to be done on these properties and they will be posted as soon as the search is completed.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Modglin made the motion to go into executive session for Section 2(c)(1)-Employee, hiring, firing, compensation, discipline & performance at 8:07 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Ayes, Commissioners Warner, Stewart, Varner, Modglin and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Stewart made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Modglin. Ayes, Commissioners Modglin, Warner, Varner, Stewart and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Jay D. Russell, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk