



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT
FEBRUARY 1, 2010, AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Modglin, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were: Commissioners Lindley, Kepp, Varner, Groves, Mayor Modglin, and City Clerk Evans. Others present were City Treasurer Diana Foor, Police Chief Gerald Mattern, Matt Johnson with Foth Infrastructure, Building Inspector Gary Kastl, and Linc Andrews.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from January 18, 2010, Commissioner Kepp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioners Kepp, Varner, Groves, and Mayor Modglin. Commissioner Lindley abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIR

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mayor Modglin told the Council that he would like to see a cemetery committee formed and financially support them until they receive financial support from the Neoga Township. Modglin said that City Clerk Evans would look for information on how other cemetery boards operate. It was the consensus of the council to proceed with finding more information.

NEOGA DAYS

Linc Andrews informed the Council that his wife Kathy is the new chairman for Neoga Days. Andrews said that the committee is discussing the possibility of having a beer tent and band. It would be located on the tennis courts because it is fenced off. Neoga Days is still researching the idea, and they will have to get permission from the park board and the state. Andrews said that the committee feels they can conduct the beer tent without any major problems and still keep the family atmosphere. Andrews said this would bring additional money into the Committee. That money could then be donated to other organizations in Neoga.

NEOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Neoga Police Chief Mattern informed the Council that Officer Coker and he will be attending a two day training seminar in Mattoon and that City Treasurer Foor and himself will be attending a FOIA meeting as well.

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FINANCE

Due to the economical times, Commissioner Kepp encouraged everyone to please do businesses locally when possible.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM REPORT

Superintendent Hagerstrom was on vacation; however, acting Superintendent Smyser discussed the report that the Council had from Hagerstrom. The report included the following:

Water:

- Finished reading meters and exceptions report
- Ran emergency service calls, leak checks & disconnects
- Julie locates
- Attended Floodplain Public Hearing

Sewer:

- Pulled pump 2 in S-Well and unclogged
- Pulled pump 1 in C-Well, temp alarm, needs trouble-shooting
- Sewer jetted lines on Wilson & NHS
- Attended annual CIPWO training
- Ordered steel for lift-station structures
- Picked up steel for roofs

Streets:

- Cleaned & Patched potholes during warm spell
- Hauled 3 loads of cold-mix
- Cored out E. 5th St. sewer repair & patched w/cold-mix
- Spread sand & plowed snow as needed
- Stored Christmas displays

Misc:

- Checked heat supply in buildings, tower
- Jim & Joe attended Pesticide training & testing
- Worked on welding table for shop

PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

Superintendent Hagerstrom recommended that the following items be addressed as soon as possible;

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Priority Improvements:

- Upgrade filters
- Replace lime feed system
- Replace SCADA controls to Lake Pump house
- Drain, clean & paint elevated tower (inside & out)

Eliminate Bottlenecks

- Replace 6" line between claricone & recarb tank w/ 8"
- Lower inlet troughs in east filter (12" too high)

Other Improvements Needed

- Replace CO2 Injection system
- Switch from aqueous ammonia to ammonium sulfate (IEPA Permit)
- Install clearwell sampling line back to lab
- Install circulation system in elevated tower (Solar Bee)
- Upgrade Rate-of-Flow (head-loss) controls on filters

Existing Improvements

- Meters were switched to touch-read in last 8 years
- Began computerized billing in last 8 years
- Total existing hydrants = 77
- SCADA system was replaced 4 years ago
- Installed Automated Chemical Control System (installed by staff)

Matt Johnson said that in water quality the City of Neoga water system is adequate at this time.

TRUE LIFT STATION

Superintendent Hagerstrom said that there was nothing new to report.

WATER RATE SUMMARY

Matt Johnson said that he believes the City of Neoga's biggest problem is the distribution system. Johnson said the Council could increase the current water rates or cut costs. According to Johnson, the city could look at outsourcing the billing or automate the production and distribution system which could save over \$100,000 once the upgrades are paid for (which could take around 10 years). Johnson strongly recommended that the Council review all options again before increasing the water rates.

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Mayor Modglin updated the Council on the latest proposal from E.J. Water. Modglin said that E.J. has contacted the City, and they are now willing to place a 10" water line if the City gives them a letter of intent which City Attorney Braden and E.J. Water's attorney has agreed on.

Matt Johnson said that he has prepared a three part MOA which consisted of 1) cost estimate for the meter and billing upgrade project (\$2500), 2) review of EJ recent offer (\$1,500), and 3) cost estimate for the automation of water production and storage projects (\$3,000). Commissioner Groves asked how much the City has already paid to Foth in the past few months, and it was estimated to be between \$8,000- \$9,000. Commissioner Groves feels that we cannot spend additional money until we review what we have already. Commissioner Varner agreed. Mayor Modglin said that he feels that data is needed to show the public why the City does the things that they do. Johnson said that compared to other communities, Neoga does spend more than other communities to produce water. Commissioner Groves said that he would rather give the first opportunity to the Superintendent and the employees to cut costs in the public works department instead of giving the money to Foth. It was the consensus of the Council to table the MOA at this time.

STREETS AND ALLEYS

No report was given

HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report was given; however, Commissioner Lindley would still like to have a tire drive and to proceed with cleaning up houses in town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kepp made a motion to move into executive session for Personnel – Section 2 (c) (1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance at 8:12. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioners Grove, Kepp, Varner, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 9:34 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Varner, and seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Kepp, Varner, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin.

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Commissioner Kepp made a motion to:

- Eliminate all overtime in the public works department as well as the police departments
- Discontinue the use of part-time employees in the public works as well as the police department.
- Pay only 40 hours per week for any employee. For example, if an employ works on a Saturday or Sunday, those hours along with any hours worked before or after their normal work hours, will be calculated towards their 40 hours of work that week. Once the employee accumulates the 40 work hours, he or she will not work the remainder of the week unless there is prior authorization from the City Administrator, Mayor, or Commissioner.
- Give the employees the same holidays as the County receives which will be: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, General Election Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, the Day after Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- The Mayor and Commissioners will take a 50% pay cut until further notice or the end of their term, whichever is sooner.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Commissioner Groves also mentioned to the Council that he would like to have the upcoming projects listed on the website so that area residents would know what the city employees were working on and if those projects would affect them.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Varner to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kepp. Ayes, Commissioner Kepp, Varner, Groves, Lindley, and Mayor Modglin. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Howard W. Modglin, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date