



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEOGA HELD IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 533 CHESTNUT
OCTOBER 1, 2007, AT 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 Lindley, Varner, Modglin, Mayor Russell and City Clerk Evans. Commissioner Kepp was absent. Others present were Superintendent Stan Hagerstrom, and City Treasurer Diana Foor, Building Inspector Gary Kastl, Foth representative Larry Johnson, Connie and Phil Anderson, and Marie and Jim Burton.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from September 17, 2007, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Modglin, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WATERLINE EXTENSION ON NORTH WALNUT

City Clerk Evans explained to the Council that Bob Starwalt recently purchased the property located North on Walnut Avenue just outside the city limits, and is requesting that the City of Neoga extend the water main to service their property. A brief discussion was held regarding the benefits of having a waterline extended along Walnut Avenue. The consensus of the council was to get estimates and review the idea at a later date.

673 MAPLE AVENUE

Jim & Marie Burton asked the Council if the city could assist them in getting the property cleaned up at 673 Maple Avenue where a house fire occurred approximately 4 months ago. According to the Burtons, the insurance has settled with the owner a few weeks ago and nothing has been done to clean the property up. The council told the Burtons that they have discussed the issue with this property along with others in town and are working to resolve the problems. The Council instructed the City Clerk to send a letter to the homeowner demanding that the owner clean the property.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
PAGE -2-
OCTOBER 1, 2007

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to set trick or treat night on October 31, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Lindley, Modglin, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ANIMATED SIGNS

Chuck Faw, owner of Paradise Homes, told the Council that he would like to place an animated computerized sign along north RT #45 next to his business. The sign will have capabilities to have community announcements running across it. Faw explained that the sign will be placed past the 60' right a way and go approximately 10' onto his property. Mayor Russell asked Building Inspector Gary Kastl what his opinion was, and Kastl felt that it would be a better sign than some others in town. After discussion, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to grant a variance to Chuck Faw to allow an animated scrolling, not flashing, sign that is permanent. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes, Commissioner Modglin, Varner, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

LIQUOR LICENSE

Phil and Connie Anderson asked the Council to create a Class D liquor license. City Clerk Evans explained that their application has been received; however, according to the liquor ordinance, the license holder is required to live inside the city limits. Evans also told the Council that Attorney Braden has asked if the Council would be interested in creating a restaurant license where it would be required that food sales would be at a determined percentage rate over alcohol sales. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Council was to change the ordinance to read that the license holder must live within 5 miles from the city limits and to not create a restaurant license.

CLEANING RATE INCREASE

City Clerk Evans explained to the Council that Anne Ballinger, who cleans the two city buildings, has requested an increase of \$25 per week due to the fact that with the new remodeling additional cleaning has to be done. Commissioner Varner said that since Ballinger has not had an increase for the past two years he made the motion to increase the weekly pay for Ballinger to clean the buildings from \$50 to \$75 per week. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Lindley, Modglin, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. 4-0.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
PAGE -3-
OCTOBER 1, 2007

FINANCE

RIF DONATION

City Clerk Evans explained to the Council that Carol Walk has requested a donation to the RIF program at the Neoga Elementary School. Commissioner Modglin said that he was concerned about using taxpayer's dollars to donate to another taxing body. It was the consensus of the council to place a donation container at the city building window for customers to donate. The Council will table this subject until a later date.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

SUPERINTENDENT HAGERSTROM REPORT

Superintendent Hagerstrom went through the written report that was given to the Council in their packet. Commissioner Modglin inquired about the sidewalk replacement program, and Hagerstrom said that no one has submitted any bids as of yet.

CLEARWELL BAFFLING

Larry Johnson handed out a letter from IEPA regarding the permit that was recently granted to the City for the Clear well baffling system. According to Johnson, everything is intended to be complete by the end of the year.

Johnson also discussed the Phase II Sewer grant. Johnson told the Council that they will need to go out for bids soon so that the contractors can start on the project in the spring and be finished by fall 2008. After the brief conversation, Commissioner Modglin made a motion to hold the bid opening for Phase II sewer grant with a construction budget of \$600,000 on November 1, at 2:00 p.m. at the Neoga Municipal Building. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varner. Ayes, Commissioners Lindley, Modglin, Varner, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ORDINACNE # 7774-10-07 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract to Excavate a Hole and Pour a Concrete Slab for Installation of the Precast Baffled Chlorine Tank to be Installed by Crest Precast, Inc. and Waving the Formal Bidding Process.

After reviewing the proposed Ordinance, Commissioner Varner made a motion to accept it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Modglin. Ayes, Commissioner, Modglin, Varner, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. 4-0.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
PAGE -4-
OCTOBER 1, 2007

STREETS AND ALLEYS

No report

HEALTH AND SAFETY

BUILDING INSPECTOR GARY KASTL

Building Inspector Gary Kastl handed out a report for the 2007 building permits that have been issued. Kastl also recommended to the Council that they should add to the demolition ordinance that once the insurance company has settled the claim on a structure fire, the property must be cleaned up within 60 days. The Council agreed to that recommendation and instructed City Clerk Evans to notify the City Attorney.

TIRE COLLECTION

Commissioner Lindley said that he is still working on the project.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Varner to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley. Ayes, Commissioner Varner, Modglin, Lindley, and Mayor Russell. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Jay Russell, Mayor

Brenda Evans, City Clerk

Date