



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
MARCH 13, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-tem Helm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were Commissioners Hakman, Edwards, Schabbing, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Shawn Durbin, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, News Reporter Billie Chambers, Wes Chambers, Scott Shumard, Scott Sokolinski, Carrie Verdeyen, Jennifer Hampton, and Mikela Martin.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from February 13, 2023, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hakman, and Mayor Pro-Tem Helm. Commissioner Schabbing abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from December 27, 2022, January 9th, and January 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Hakman, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Commissioner Schabbing abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HARTKE

911 ADDRESSES & NEXT-GENERATION 911 (NG911)

Jennifer Hampton and Mikela Martin informed the Council of the new technology with 911 addressing and explained that they will need to update addresses in Cumberland County. Hampton explained that some addresses, especially by the lake, does not work with 911 addressing, and when emergency departments are looking for a location, they cannot find it. After a brief discussion, the Council asked that they review the addressing in Neoga to see how many households will be affected and report back to them.

RATIFY PAY INCREASE FOR TREASURER FOOR

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve and ratify a pay increase for Treasurer Foor to \$71,274.23. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Schabbing, Hakman, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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EMPLOYEE RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

Mayor Pro-tem Helm told the Council that an employee has asked if the council would review the 5 miles radius requirement. Helm said currently the personnel policy requires that the employees live within 5 miles and after checking with other communities, it should be reviewed. Helm said that bigger communities require that the employee be able to respond within minutes while others state they must be in the county. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to remove the residency requirement, but it failed due to lack of a second. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to change the residence requirement from a 5 mile to 20-mile radius. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Schabbing, Hakman, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DONATION

Carrie Verdeyen, spokesperson for Cumberland County Veteran's Memorial, informed the Council about the fundraising for the monument which will be located on the Cumberland County Courthouse Square. Verdeyen said that the committee has raised enough funds to pay for the flag poles, and tablets. Now the committee is working to collect funds for the electricity and remaining items. It was the consensus of the Council to place this on the next agenda for further discussion.

HENS IN CORPORATE LIMITS

Commissioner Hakman explained that he was approached by local residents who would like to have a few chickens/hens in the corporate limits. Hakman said that he handed out the guidelines from Champaign and asked if anyone had any questions about it. Kati Frankie, a resident of Neoga, said that she attended the meeting because of this topic. Frankie said that she would like to see this be approved in Neoga because it is a good source of protein year around and would allow her to teach her children about hens and nutrition. Jeff Morrison said that he contacted Champaign as well and stated that they have not had any issues with the chickens but he has some concerns. One concern Morrison had was who would be monitoring the chickens. Morrison recommended that if the hens are allowed that it fall under a condition use permit so that neighbors are informed and can voice their concerns. Commissioner Schabbing said that she spoke to a handful of residents, and they have concerns about the messy area and attracting other animals to the area. City Clerk Evans said that she has placed an email to other clerks and will put together a spreadsheet on who allows hens and if there are regulations. The consensus of the Council was to revisit this at the next meeting.

FINANCE

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$139,940.39. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Hakman, Edwards, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

After reviewing the treasurer’s report, Mayor Hartke ordered that the treasurer’s report be filed in the City Clerk’s records.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

LEE BECKMAN, UPDATES

The Council reviewed Beckman’s updates on the project and didn’t have any questions.

CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

After reviewing the change order, Commissioner Hakman made motion to approve the change order as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Edwards, Schabbing, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PAY REQUEST # 28407 FROM M&G FOR ITEP

After reviewing the pay request, Commissioner Hakman made a motion to approve the pay request in the amount of \$5,241.47. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Edwards, Schabbing, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

SEWER PLANT RESTROOM ADDITION BIDS

The Council reviewed the bids to add the restroom at the wastewater treatment plant. Commissioner Hakman made a motion to approve the bid from Tebbe Plumbing in the amount of \$13,236. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Edwards, Schabbing, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

FARM GROUND BIDS

City Administrator / Clerk Evans gave the bids for the farm ground to Commissioner Hakman to read off. The bids were:

Damon Potter	\$255 / acre
Justin Oseland	\$203.67 / acre
Scott Partlow	\$237 / acre

Commissioner Hakman made a motion to award the farm bid to Damon Potter for \$255 per acre. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Hakman, Edwards, Schabbing, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nay, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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REMOVAL OF OLD TANK AT WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Superintendent Durbin told the Council that he has received two quotes from companies that would be able to remove the old tank in the water treatment plant. Once this tank is removed, Durbin said that they will be able to utilize the building better. The bids were as follows:

Sigel Welding	\$4700	
Liberty Blasting and Welding		\$4500

Commissioner Edwards stated that the city has worked with Sigel Welding before and was very happy with the quality of work that they do. Commissioner Edwards proceeded to make a motion to have Sigel Welding remove the tank at the water treatment plant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Schabbing, Hakman, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

STREETS AND ALLEYS

2023 MFT

No report was given.

HIRING SUMMER HELP

Superintendent Durbin asked the Council permission to advertise for summer help with mowing. It was the consensus of the Council to advertise for summer help.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report was given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Building Inspector Morrison informed the Council that one of the new house has been started on Jennings Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hakman. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Schabbing, Hakman, and Mayor Pro-tem Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.