



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
JUNE 12, 2023**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Helm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were Commissioners Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, Public Works Supervisor Shawn Durbin, and Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers. Others present were Cumberland County Jr. Miss Avery Rider, Cumberland County Fair Pageant Director Kristan Scott, Ted Niemerg, Randy Niemerg, and Josh Esker.

## **MINUTES**

After reviewing the regular and executive session minutes from May 22, 2023, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM**

RESOLUTION 06-06-2023 A Resolution Appointing Douglas Baker to the City Council of the City of Neoga, Illinois

After reviewing the resolution, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. No one proceeded to second the motion, so the resolution died.

### DONATION TO CUMBERLAND COUNTY FAIR PAGEANT

Cumberland County Jr. Miss Queen Avery Rider, along with Pageant Director Kristan Scott, requested a donation to the 2023 Pageant. Ms. Rider explained they are working to raise \$3,000, and they are far from reaching that goal. Commissioner Schabbing asked if businesses have donated, and Scott said they have, but it has been slow coming in this year. Mayor Helm wanted to know if other communities have donated to the pageant, and Ms. Scott said that Greenup has donated \$500. Commissioner Williams asked if they have contacted Neoga businesses to donate, and Ms. Rider said they have contacted the businesses and will be reapproaching them as the fair gets closer. City Clerk Evans said that the fair is held just outside of Greenup, and with the additional sales tax revenue that Greenup will see from those attending the fair, she was disappointed that they didn't donate more. Commissioner Edwards said that he would not be in favor of donating as a community, but he would donate as an individual. The Council tabled this until the next meeting.

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### **SMART 12 RADAR TRAILER**

City Clerk Evans explained to the Council that the Shelby County Sheriff department will be accepting sealed bids on a surplus radar trailer. Evans said that Chief Schabbing would like to bid on the trailer. The trailer is the same one that the police department used last year, and it seemed to work very well at slowing traffic down. Evans said that Chief Schabbing gave each council member a quote for a new trailer, but he felt that this trailer would work fine. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to allow Schabbing to place a bid on the trailer with a limit of \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### **RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT FOR FIBER COMPANIES**

City Clerk Evans informed the Council that the City has received another Right of Way Permit application from American Fiber to install fiber cable within the city's right of way. Evans said the current company, Seamless Fiber, has done really good work with little items damaged; however, two companies doing the same work could get confusing. Evans explained that once American Fiber submits their bond paperwork, we will not be able to deny them the permit. Evans will keep the council updated when American Fiber completes the paperwork.

## **FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABBING**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

## **PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER**

### **WASTEWATER SERVICES OUTSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS**

City Clerk Evans updated the Council on the possibility of the new Lake Mattoon campground wastewater project. Evans said that the owner previously decided that he couldn't afford to bring the sewer line to Neoga. After further discussion, he has decided to review the option again. Evans said that she is working with Mr. Ramsey and Milano & Grunloh for a possible solution where additional residents could opt into the services and defray the cost. It was the consensus of the council to bring back an update at the next meeting.

## **STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS**

### **2022 MFT COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

Commissioner Edwards told the council that the 2022 MFT audit has been completed, and the report is in their packet. With no questions asked, the report was filed.

### **MFT 2023**

Commissioner Edwards said that the bid opening is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Commissioner Schabbing said that she would still like to see an annual, five-year, and ten-year plan for MFT.

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### **HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS**

Commissioner Schabbing said that she received a complaint from the Neoga American Legion regarding the trash barrel across the street that has not been emptied in front of their building. City Clerk Evans said that it has been taken care of.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Seamless Fiber Operations Manager Josh Esker introduced himself and expressed his concern regarding another fiber company coming into Neoga. Esker said that his company worked for almost a year to get their permit, and he is asking for fair and equal treatment. Esker also commented that they would like the city to give them time to complete their project before issuing another permit for the next company to install fiber optics and requested that the new company be held to the same time frame as they were. Commissioner Edwards asked how long it will take Seamless Fiber to complete their project. Esker thought it would be another six (6) months to a year before they are completed. Esker further explained that one of the delays is obtaining railroad permits in a timely manner.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to move into executive session for Personnel – Section 2 (c)(1) Employee hiring, firing, compensations, discipline, and performance at 7:46 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### **RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was reconvened at 8:47 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Edwards. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Those present for roll call were: Commissioners Edwards, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to increase Public Works employee Scott Sokolinski to \$20 per hour. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.