



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
OCTOBER 23, 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, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Milano and Grunloh Engineer Mitch Hardiek, and Police Chief Andy Schabbing.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from October 10, 2023, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM

ORDINANCE #1068-09-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of an Easement for Utility Purposes (Delbert Williams & Deborah Williams – 106 W. 7th Street)

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Schabbing seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Commissioner Williams abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

ORDINANCE #1069-09-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of an Easement for Utility Purposes (Frank Smith & Cathy Smith – 514 West 7th Street)

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ORDINANCE #1070-09-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of an Easement for Utility Purposes (Edwards W. Steele & Rachelle R. Steele – 556 West 7th Street)

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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ORDINANCE #1071-09-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of an Easement for Utility Purposes (Randall Potter, Kathy Potter, & Dustin Potter – 408 E. 6th Street)

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ORDINANCE #1072-09-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of an Easement for Utility Purposes (William F. Swank & Margaret A. Swank – 650 East 6th Street)

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABGING

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$164,089.70. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ORDIANANCE 1073-09-23 An Ordinance Levying the Taxes for the Corporate Purposes of the City of Neoga, Cumberland County Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2023, and Ending April 30, 2024

City Clerk Evans told the council that the ordinance was the annual tax levy, and reflects the maximum 5% levy. Evans explained the only concern would be if TGM built their addition; however, Evans said it would more likely be on next year's tax levy. Evans also told the Council that this ordinance did not need to be approved tonight, but would need to be passed before the last meeting of the year. Commissioner Williams said that he would like to pass this ordinance when all commissioners were in attendance. It was the consensus of the Council to wait until the full council was in attendance.

LONG & SHORT-TERM BANK ACCOUNTS

City Treasurer Diana Foor informed the Council that she discussed with the two banks in Neoga the current interest rates on CDs and money market accounts. Foor explained that the city currently has money in both banks, but was hoping for a better return on their money. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have Treasurer Foor speak with both banks about specific dollar amounts and better 6 month and 12-month CDs rates.

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PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mitch Hardiek, engineer from Milano & Grunloh, updated the Council on the projects for the city. Hardiek said that the RLF & State Grant Project is complete, but liquidated damages are still being resolved. The wastewater treatment plant is completed as well; however, the storm water flows did not have any work done on them. The CDAP Water Grant plans are finalized, and the council was given an updated construction estimate with projected material price increase totaling \$1,015,000. The city is applying for an IEPA Public Water Supply Loan which does offer principal forgiveness in the amount of \$140,107. The ITEP project is 80-90% complete, and the bids letting should be in March of 2024. Plans will be sent to IDOT for bidding review this week.

ORDINANCE 1074-09-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Neoga, a Municipal Corporation, Cumberland County, Illinois, to Borrow Funds from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Public Water Supply Loan Program

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Letizia made the motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

WATER AND SEWER RATE REVIEW FOR 2024

Commissioner Schabbing told the Council that she has been approached by numerous residents about high water and sewer bills. Schabbing said that a new sewer increase is coming up in January, and she would like to have the Council reconsider the increase. Treasurer Foor gave the council numerous handouts from water and sewer income & expenses graphs for the past 10 years, monthly water purchased from EJ since April 2021, a scenario with no increase on January 2024, a scenario with only a sewer increase of 5% on May 1st and no water increase, and a scenario with a 5% increase in water and sewer on May 1st each year. Commissioner Schabbing also gave the council a handout showing water rate comparisons for Neoga, Toledo, Greenup, Windsor, and Sullivan. City Clerk Evans said Neoga was in line with all the other communities except Sullivan who was higher. After a very lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to eliminate the sewer rate increase in January of each year, and review the rate increase for water and sewer in March of each year.

ITEP INVOICE FROM MILANO & GRUNLOH

After reviewing the invoice, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pay the invoice to Milano & Grunloh in the amount of \$3,922.64. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

PAINTING “N” ON 7TH STREET

Mayor Helm told the Council that the Neoga Boosters would like to paint the letter “N” on 7th Street again this year. Helm said that he thinks that 7th Street still has too many loose rocks due to the oil and chip program, but spring would be a better time. Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to approve the Neoga Boosters to hire a company to paint the “N” on E. 7th Street when the weather and road conditions permitted.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS

Commissioner Williams said that he has reviewed the household hazardous waste cleanup, and it will be more work than we may be able to manage by ourselves. Williams suggested we might reach out to another community or taxing district as a joint effort on the project. Williams is also looking into a “Drug Take Back” program to see if that would be something we could do in Neoga. Williams hopes to have additional information on that as well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Commissioner Schabbing seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Brenda Evans, City Clerk