



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
MARCH 11, 2024**

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, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Police Chief Andy Schabbing, Superintendent Shawn Durbin, and Billie Chambers.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from February 26, 2024, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Commissioners Edwards and Letizia abstained. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were heard.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM

ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ANCEL GLINK

The council reviewed the agreement to hire Ancel Glink to collaborate with us on the Total Grain Marketing project. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

NEOGA DAYS LIQUOR LICENSE (BEER GARDEN LOCATION)

Commissioner Williams told the council as the Public Health and Safety Commissioner, he has concerns about how people will move safely between the beer garden on the south side of 6th Street to the park. Williams said that he understood why Neoga Days would like to move it to that area, but with the trip hazards, crossing the street, and lack of lighting, he has concerns for the public. Williams would rather see the beer garden on the park grounds. Commissioner Edwards said he reviewed the area and agreed with Williams. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Williams made a motion to deny the beer garden request on the Neoga Community Center property for Neoga Days. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. motion carried. 5-0.

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PURCHASE OF TASERS

Chief Schabbing presented a quote to the Council for two (2) Taser X26P with battery packs, cartridges, and holsters. Schabbing explained that the police department has three (3) tasers but does not have tasers for the part time police officers. Some part time officers are using their tasers from their full-time employers, but their employers do not like for them to do that due to liability issues. Schabbing explained how the current tasers have a firing log and a charging battery, which these will as well. They will have a five (5) year warranty. Chief Schabbing said that if the council would at least approve one taser for now the part time officers would be able to get by with sharing it. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) X26P Taser. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Helm appointed Commissioner Dawn Schabbing, Commissioner Zach Letizia, Brad Keck, Shawn Finney, Austin Robinson, Doug Baker, and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Evans to the Neoga Economic Development Committee.

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER GROVES

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 LETIZIA

No report was given.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

HYDRO EXCAVATION TRAILER RENTAL

Superintendent Durbin updated the Council on the lead line survey that the public works department is working on. Durbin said they have over twenty lots that are vacant at the trailer park, and it will take approximately three (3) hours per meter to dig them out by hand. If the city could rent a hydro vac, this would decrease the time to one (1) hour per meter. Superintendent Durbin said that he could rent a hydro vac for \$7,500 per month plus \$2.50 per mile for delivery costs which will be \$330. Commissioner Edwards asked if there were any other options instead of renting a machine. Durbin said that Toledo has one, but they would not have the time to bring it over. City Clerk Evans asked if they would be interested in renting the machine and an operator to the city. Durbin said that he would have to ask them. Mayor Helm said that he is not sure the lots at the trailer park need to be cleaned out and replaced since they have only moved a couple new trailers into the trailer park in the last few years. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the council to have Durbin bring other options to the council.

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MULCH PILE ON CHESTNUT AVENUE

Commissioner Edwards told the council that he has found a local farmer who would move the large mulch pile for \$2,500. Edwards said that he has been working with Superintendent Durbin about moving this pile and having the area cleared off so that the rock pile in the parking lot could be moved to that area. Superintendent Durbin said the area would still be easy to access when additional MFT work was scheduled to be done. After discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to pay \$2,500 to have the mulch pile moved by Welch Farms. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

MOVING ROCK PILE

Superintendent Durbin told the Council that he has contacted Kevin McKay about moving the rock pile north across from the fire hall; however, McKay was not able to give him an answer. The council decided to table the matter until the mulch pile is moved.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER HELM

No report was given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to move into executive session for Personnel Section 2 (c)(1) – employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline, and performance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia at 8:08 p.m. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 8:14 p.m. by a motion from Commissioner Edwards and seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Those present for roll call were Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to hire Dave Coen for part-time summer help at \$15 per hour. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.