



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
MARCH 10, 2025**

## **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, and Letizia. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Superintendent Shawn Durbin, Billie Chambers, and Darin Kidwell.

## **MINUTES**

After reviewing the regular session minutes from February 24, 2025, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Commissioner Williams abstained. Motion carried. 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were heard

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM**

ORDINANCE #1104-03-25 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution of Release of Reservation of Possibility of Reverter (Fritts – Lot 1)

City Clerk Evans explained to the Council that the ordinance will be removing the reverter from the deed to the Walk Addition Lot #1 purchased by Eric Fritts. Commissioner Letizia asked if Mr. Fritts has satisfied the agreement, and Evans said she has contacted the Cumberland County Assessor, who said that the property has been added to the tax rolls starting January 1, 2025. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Commissioner Letizia abstained. Motion carried. 3-0.

## NEOGA DAYS FIREWORKS

City Clerk Evans informed the Council that the Neoga Days committee has requested permission to have a fireworks display. The council reviewed the location, which is near the sewer plant, and Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to allow the Neoga Days committee to have the fireworks display. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none Motion carried. 4-0.

## **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**PAGE -2-**

**MARCH 10, 2025**

### **MODERN WOODMEN DONATION**

Mayor Helm asked the council for a donation to the Modern Woodmen Easter Egg hunt which would pay for candy and / or prizes for kids. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Williams made a motion to donate \$200 to Modern Woodmen. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, and Letizia. Nays, none. Mayor Helm abstained. Motion carried. 3-0.

## **FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABHING**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Schabbing mentioned to the council that she still has some concerns regarding depleting the general fund, but she is still not sure what can be done with it. With no other comments, Mayor Helm ordered that the treasurer's report be filed in the City Clerk's records.

## **PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER LETIZIA**

### **PURCHASE OF UTILITY METERS**

The council reviewed a bid for the purchase of water meters and software. Mayor Helm told the council that the current meters are over 20 years old, and they will start to read inaccurately. The council questioned whether we should purchase 100 remote shut-off meters or if we could delete that expense and have the public works employees shut meters off. Superintendent Durbin said that they currently shut off the meters and check them daily or as needed. Treasurer Foor said that usually they have approximately 4 or 5 residents that need to be shut off monthly. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to delete the remote meters to save money, but purchase 450 Iperl meters, software, and installation. Commissioner Schabbing seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### **NEOGA MEMORIAL CEMETER BRUSH**

Mayor Helm told the council that he has been inspecting the brush pile at the cemetery, and it has finally dried out enough that it can be burned. Helm said he plans to build a heat shield to protect the cemetery stones from the heat on Wednesday and start burning on Thursday morning.

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

### **2025 MFT PROGRAM**

Since Commissioner Edwards couldn't attend the meeting, Commissioner Williams said that he has some concerns about Walnut Avenue around the bowling alley. Williams said the potholes are horrible, and as long as the trucks and traffic continue to use that area cold mix will not fix them. Williams said that area may need to be concreted or asphalted.

## **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**PAGE -3-**

**MARCH 10, 2025**

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

Commissioner Williams asked if the city clerk had received any quotes on the city-wide cleanup, but she said she has not yet. Evans asked if the council wanted quotes on just roll off dumpsters or quotes on electronics, shredding, recycling, and tires. It was the consensus to get quotes for all of them.

Commissioner Williams also stated that he feels the public works department should have identification on the side of the public works vehicles. Superintendent Durbin said that he is working on designs and quotes.

Devin Kidwell approached the council regarding the Neoga Memorial Cemetery mowing contract. Mr. Kidwell explained that he is interested in placing a bid for the mowing, but he would rather bid at a monthly rate instead of each mowing. The council thanked him for his suggestions and will consider that.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to move into Executive Session for Personnel – Section 2 (c)(1) – employee hiring, firing, compensation, and discipline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia at 8:19 pm. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

### **RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was reconvened at 8:52 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Williams. Commissioner Schabbing seconded the motion. Those present for roll call were Commissioners Williams, Schabbing, Letizia, and Mayor Helm.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to participate in the Neoga School Work program. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

Commissioner Letizia made a motion to not pay for public works employees CDL fees but to give them a \$.25 pay increase once they receive the CDL license, if received before June 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**PAGE -4-**

**MARCH 10, 2025**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Letizia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

---

Brenda Evans, City Clerk