



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
APRIL 28, 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, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Building Inspector Jeff Morrison, Engineer Lee Beckman, Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers, Shari Morrison, Kasey Wickiser, Devin Kidwell, Rachel Kidwell, Tom Strohl, Walley Owen, and Joi Owen.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular and executive session minutes from April 14, 2025, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Commissioner Williams abstained. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kasey Wickiser, owner of Hula Ice, discussed the location for her trailer. In the past years, she has parked her trailer in the city parking lot. This year she heard that it might be a problem. Wickiser said that City Clerk Evans recommended moving over to Rt. #45 south of Casey's General Store; however, she has safety and lighting concerns. The Council asked if she had any other locations in mind because the city parking lot will be too crowded for that kind of business. Wickiser said that she was also concerned about the expense of moving the electric meter. It was the consensus of the council to discuss this after Ms. Wickiser receives a quote on the cost of moving the electric meter.

Tom Strohl also addressed the council regarding the following concerns:

1. The sidewalk project construction – trash, concrete, and rocks along the sidewalk and ditch areas; The corner of 6th & Wilson Avenue needs to have a culvert in the ditch; and the area around the 6th & Maple Avenue sidewalk should extend past 6th Street.
2. Seamless Fiber manholes have not been backfilled, or have settled and need additional dirt.
3. Water meter pits are too high, and need to be lowered for mowing purposes.

The Council thanked Mr. Strohl and said they would investigate these issues.

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM

WALLY OWEN

Wally Owen, property owner at 606 E. 7th Street, addressed the council regarding a nuisance violation that he received from the Neoga Police department. Owens said that he has had some health issues and will do his best to get everything addressed before the ten (10) day window; however, he may need additional time. Owen said that he has moved two (2) mowers already but he understands he has more to get done. The council said that the police department will review the property after ten (10) days. If he needs additional time, the council will decide then.

CEMETERY MOWING BIDS

Mayor Helm opened the sealed bids for mowing the Neoga Memorial Cemetery. The bids were read as follows:

John Icenogle - \$840 per mow
M & E Spray - \$850 per mow
Kidwell Construction and Landscaping - \$700 per mow
Randy Beltz - \$845 per mow

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to accept the bid from Kidwell Construction and Landscaping in the amount of \$700. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. motion carried. 4-0.

AWARDING OF CLEANING BIDS

Mayor Helm opened the sealed bids for cleaning of the Municipal Building and the Annex building. The bids were as follows:

Shari Morrison \$375 per month

Commissioner Williams made a motion to award the bid to Morrison at \$375 per month.

Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. motion carried. 4-0.

The bids for cleaning of the Community Center came in as follows:

Shari Morrison \$600 per month

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept the bid from Morrison for \$600 with the understanding that the fee may change due to the school having someone clean part of the building. If they have their own personnel, then Morrison will only need to clean the food pantry, Backpack Ministries, and day care rooms. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

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EFFINGHAM DAILY NEWS AD FOR NEOGA DAYS

City Administrator / Clerk Evans asked the council if they wanted to purchase an ad for Neoga Days that the Effingham Daily Newspaper will be running. After they reviewed the different prices, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to purchase a quarter of a page size ad in the amount of \$240. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

JUSTIFACTS CREDENTIAL VERIFICATION PROGRAM

City Administrator / Clerk Evans informed the council that the office has received numerous complaints regarding door-to-door sales; mainly solar companies. Evans explained that the police try to find those people, and if they do, they mandate that they get a solicitor's permit from the city. Evans said the only problem is that most people are not local, and doing a background check is very difficult. Evans said this company will do a federal and state background check for under \$60 per person. Evans said that when someone requests a permit they are required to pay a fee of \$250, and if approved they must pay another \$50. These fees would pay well over the cost of the background check. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to purchase the program. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

ORDINANCE #1109-04-25 Appointment Ordinance for the City of Neoga, Illinois

After reviewing the ordinance, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABING

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$67,296.64. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER LETIZIA

UPDATES FROM MILANO & GRUNLOH

Engineer Lee Beckman handed out the project update sheet to the Council and explained the following:

- SWTP – The city needs to draw down all funds by July.
- CDAP – Construction should begin late March or early April.
- ITEP – No update.
- RFL – \$141,000 in liquidated damages is still being resolved.
- Lead Service Line Inventory grant – Wiggs Excavating has completed this project and it was submitted to IEPA.

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- Rebuild II/RISE Grant – Announcements were made, and the city was not successful this time.
- Community Facilities Grant – This application has been submitted and if granted, the city would receive \$30,000 toward a vac trailer.

PROJECT AUTHORIZATION WITH MILANO & GRUNLOH

The council reviewed the authorization form for Milano & Grunloh to design the pavement on Walnut Avenue and the alley south of 6th Street and pave a parking lot behind the municipal building. After the design is approved, they will prepare the bidding documents. After reviewing the authorization form, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the authorization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

MILANO & GRUNLOH INVOICE #31389

After reviewing the invoice, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$2,185. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

Commissioner Edwards informed the Council that he will be meeting with Superintendent Durbin regarding parking on 6th Street and planning the 2025 MFT program.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS

Commissioner Williams reminded everyone about the city-wide cleanup on May 3rd, from 8-11 am. Williams said we will take metals, appliances, furniture and other miscellaneous items at no charge. We will also take tires at a cost of \$3 / tire.

OTHER COMMENTS

City Administrator / Clerk Evans informed the council that the Neoga School would like to rock additional areas at the Community Center for parking for the students and staff. Evans presented a map showing the areas requested. It was the consensus of the Council to allow the areas requested except for 6th Street from Park Avenue west.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 4-0.