



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
AUGUST 25, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-tem Schabbing. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those present were Commissioners Williams, Letizia, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Others present were City Clerk Brenda Evans, City Treasurer Diana Foor, Engineer Lee Beckman, Neoga News Editor Billie Chambers, Joanna Kingery, Tom Strohl, Linc Andrews, Lisa Mueller, Tony Kenworthy, Cassandra Huff, Amy Gentry, Vickie Ervin-Richardson, Joe Meinhart, and Tony Reynolds.

MINUTES

After reviewing the regular session minutes from August 11, 2025, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joanna Kingery addressed the council regarding drainage at the Shaffer Avenue and 6th Street corner. Kingery said that the water pools at the northwest corner after it rains. Ms. Kingery also mentioned that the council voted to remove the trees on the right-of-way adjacent to her property on Shaffer. She requested that the council reconsider it in hopes that the trees may last another couple of years and the money could be used on other trees in town. Ms. Kingery also reminded the council that during a previous meeting, it was requested to see the safety certificates for the public works employees regarding their training on the use of the bucket truck. Lastly, Kingery gave “kudos” to the city on getting the railroad tracks repaired on 7th Street between Grove and Burrows Avenue.

Linc Andrews voiced his opinion on the proposed service tax ordinance. Andrews told the council that it is a bad time to add a new tax, and that just because other communities are imposing the tax doesn't mean Neoga should. This tax would also mean a 1% tax on trash services, staffing services, insurance, trucking, Nutrient, FS, wait staff, contractors, lawn services, tree removal, electric, gas, and funerals.

Tom Strohl stated that at the last meeting the council passed a grocery tax, which had a two (2) percent tax in it, not just a one (1) percent tax. Strohl said that he did have a brief post on social media regarding the proposed tax, but the administrator of the page thought it was too controversial, so they removed the post. Strohl asked “How would these proposed taxes impact Kirbside Coffee?” Also, Strohl mentioned the sidewalk from Rt #45 to the high school is in bad shape, and instead of removing

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

PAGE -2-

AUGUST 25, 2025

the two trees on Shaffer Avenue take the \$6,600 and put it towards repairing the sidewalk. Mr. Strohl did thank the council for addressing the previous issues that he had mentioned.

Joe Meinhart, from Total Grain Management, updated the council on the new addition to the Neoga facility. Meinhart explained that the project is close to being complete, and they will be holding an open house in the coming weeks. Also, the current TIF project that they requested funds for has not started yet, and it may be twelve months down the road. Meinhart projected that the farmers will have a bumper crop this year, and TGM will have considerably less waiting time for the farmers to unload their crops compared to the past years. Any trucks waiting to unload will be on their property and not on public roads. Meinhart also said that FS held their annual employee/family picnic at Jennings Park, where they had over 150 employees and family members in attendance.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM

CEO INVESTOR PLEDGE

The council reviewed a request to be a CEO Investor again. Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pledge \$1,000 per year for three (3) years as the investor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR NPP

City Administrator/Clerk Evans informed the Council that Neoga Partnership for Progress has requested a special event liquor license for this year's Sooeefest, which will be held on Saturday, September 27th at Neoga Jennings Park. After a little discussion, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to grant the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

ORDINANCE #1120-08-2025

An Ordinance Implementing a Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax for the City of Neoga

The consensus of the council was to table this until a full council was in attendance.

TIF APPLICATION

The council reviewed a TIF application from Ashley Hartke to purchase the property south of the Neoga American Legion, PIN #06-07-420-012. Hartke is requesting \$81,000, which would include property acquisition, windows, doors, brickwork, and HVAC. The remaining work will be over \$99,000, which Hartke will be investing. This was tabled until additional information was obtained.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

PAGE -3-

AUGUST 25, 2025

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABBING

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Williams made a motion to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$253,720.83. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Letizia, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

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 – No updates.
- CDAP – this project is going very well and should be completed within thirty (30) days, other than the settling and grass seeding.
- ITEP – walk-through will be done soon. There are a few sections of sidewalk that have been broken by vehicles, which will be repaired outside of the contract.
- RFL – no updates.
- Lead Service Line Inventory grant – This project has been finalized.
- Community Facilities Grant – this grant will be opened back up again in October.

INVOICE #31918 FOR MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

After reviewing the invoice, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$3,989.38. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

INVOICE #31835 FOR WATERMAIN GRANT

After reviewing the invoice, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$11,571.25. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

INVOICE #31902 FOR MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

After reviewing the invoice, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$467.50. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PAY REQUEST #4 FOR WATERMAIN IMPROVEMENTS

After reviewing the pay request, Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the pay request in the amount of \$197,927.53. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Letizia, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

PAGE -4-

AUGUST 25, 2025

CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR THE WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

After reviewing the change order #2, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to approve the change order, saving \$186.40. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

PAY REQUEST #8 FOR IDOT SIDEWALK

After reviewing the pay request, Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the pay request for \$13,500. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Letizia, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

2025 MFT RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE

Commissioner Williams explained the proposed MFT project and the projected costs. After a little discussion, Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the resolution for maintenance for \$154,000. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Letizia, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

STREET STRIPING

Police Chief Schabbing told the Council that he received a quote to have 6th Street from Elm Avenue to the post office striped and curbs painted in the amount of \$7,485. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the quote for \$7,485. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Letizia, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS

SHRED-IT

Commissioner Williams said that the city received a quote to have Shred-It drop off locked totes for residents to bring in their papers they would like to shred. After concerns from residents, it was the consensus of the council to request a quote to have a shredding truck on site for one day.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Letizia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Pro-Tem Schabbing. Nays, none. Motion carried. 3-0.