



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
APRIL 27, 2026**

## **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 Schabbing, Engineer Lee Beckman, News Editor Billie Chamber, Shari Morrison, Mel Workman, Police Officer Fitzgerald, and Wes Chambers.

## **MINUTES**

After reviewing the regular session minutes from April 13, 2026, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments were made.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM**

### MEL WORKMAN - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Workman updated the council on what the Economic Development Committee has been working on and gave them a copy of the final draft of the proposed comprehensive plan. Workman said he had planned to submit a letter regarding the final draft of the comprehensive plan, but he was willing to answer any questions that the council might have. Workman also said that the committee members would like to have "sub-committees" that would work on housing, public infrastructure, and economic development, but didn't know if that would be allowable. These sub-committees would be able to bring information from the general public to the Economic Development Committee for additional advice. City Clerk Evans said that she would have to find out if that would be allowed. The council thanked him for his dedication to updating the comprehensive plan, which saved the city thousands of dollars.

### CLEANING BIDS

Mayor Helm opened the only cleaning bid. After reading the bid, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to award the bid to Shari Morrison for cleaning the Community Center for \$300 / month and the Municipal & Annex building for \$400 / month. The motion was approved by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

PAGE -2-

APRIL 27, 2026

### CEMETERY MOWING BID

City Administrator / Clerk Evans said that no one submitted a bid before the deadline; however, two bids came in after the deadline. The bids were as follows:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| M & E               | \$800 / mowing |
| Kidwell Landscaping | \$900 / mowing |

After a brief discussion about accepting the bids after the deadline, it was decided to postpone the decision.

### PURCHASE OF TASERS AND BODY CAMERAS

Chief Schabbing informed the council that the department has been having problems with the tasers, and they cannot be repaired. Schabbing presented a five (5) or ten (10) year program that would replace both tasers and body cameras. Schabbing explained that in those years, the department will be given the newest updated tasers and body cameras. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to purchase the ten (10) year bundle for \$105,891. Commissioner Schabbing seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### WATTS LEASE AGREEMENT

City Administrator/Clerk Evans informed the council that the copier lease with Watts Copier is expiring. The new lease proposed would be up to three (3) printers and a copier for \$340.42 per month, which is a savings of \$46.31 per month. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the new lease in the amount of \$340.42. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## **FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABHING**

### MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the bill list, Commissioner Schabbing moved to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$226,340.22. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

ORDINANCE #1139-04-26 An Amended Ordinance Setting Forth a Budget of Estimated Receipts and Disbursements and Making Appropriations for City Purposes of the City of Neoga, Cumberland County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year 2026 Commencing on May 1, 2025, and Ending on April 30, 2026

After reviewing the amended ordinance, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Schabbing seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

PAGE -3-

APRIL 27, 2026

**PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER LETIZIA**

UPDATES FROM MILANO & GRUNLOH

Engineer Lee Beckman updated the council on the projects for the month as follows:

Sewer Plant – the project is complete. There is still \$165,000 in liquidated damages being resolved, and a current balance of \$195,520 left in the Rural Development Funding

CDAP Water Grant – the project is complete except for the seeding and mulching, which will be completed in the next couple of weeks, weather permitting.

ITEP – This project is complete. There are sections of the sidewalk that will need to be replaced, but that will be outside of the contract.

RLF & State Grant Project – This project is complete, but \$141,000 in liquidated damages are being resolved.

Rebuild IL/RISE Grant – the city applied for the grant, but was not successful.

Community Facilities Grant – this grant was not funded by Rural Development

IDOT – this grant was applied for, but the city was not successful.

Street & Alley – this project should be completed in the next few weeks, weather permitting.

City Hall Parking Lot – this project will start after the alley project is complete.

Watermain Relocations – the contractor is substantially complete.

RESOLUTION #02-04-2026 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for Cleaning the Municipal Building and Annex

After reviewing the resolution, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Schabbing seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

ORDINANCE #1140-04-26 An Ordinance Waiving the Automatic Increase of Water Rates and Sewer Rates Effective May 1, 2026, in the City of Neoga, Illinois

Commissioner Letizia made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

PAGE -4-

APRIL 27, 2026

### INVOICE #32701 FROM M & G

Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$2,087.50. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### INVOICE #32758 FROM M & G

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to pay the \$6,570.50 invoice. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### PAY ESTIMATE #9 FOR SIDEWALK PROJECT

The Council reviewed the pay estimate, and with no discussion, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to pay estimate #9 for \$700.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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

### PAY REQUEST #2 WALNUT AVENUE AND ALLEY

After reviewing the pay request, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to pay the request to F & C Concrete in the amount of \$50,950.10. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

### PAY ESTIMATE #1 I57 WATERMAIN RELOCATION

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve pay estimate #1 to Kieffer Brothers for \$191,785.99. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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

### CITY-WIDE CLEANUP

Commissioner Williams informed the Council that this year's cleanup brought in more items than ever before. This year, they collected four (4) roll-off containers, almost filled one (1) electronic container, and three (3) recyclable containers. This was all done within three (3) hours. Williams gave a special thank you to the city employees, volunteers, and city council members who helped with the cleanup.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Personnel – Section 2 (c)(1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline, and performance at 7:46 pm, by Commissioner Edwards. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Edwards, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**PAGE -5-**

**APRIL 27, 2026**

**RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was reconvened at 8:59 p.m. Those present for roll call were Commissioners Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm.

Commissioner Letizia made a motion to extend Officer Noble's probation for another 6 months so that additional training could be done with Chief Schabbing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to increase Officer Fitzgerald's salary to \$26.91 per hour with a six (6) month probationary period. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Commissioner Letizia also made a motion to purchase two (2) new Hustler mowers for \$15,152.25. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

The council reviewed the mowing bids again, and after further discussion, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to award the cemetery mowing to Kidwell Landscaping for \$900 per mowing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

---

Brenda Evans, City Clerk