



**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF NEOGA  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL  
MAY 11, 2026**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 and Attorney Chris Koester.

## **MINUTES**

None presented.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments were made.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM**

### AUTHORIZE SETTLEMENT IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY CAUSE NO. 2022-LA-12

City Clerk Evans informed Mr. Koester that the council had a meeting on May 5, 2026, to approve the settlement in the Followell case. However, the council had some questions that she could not answer. Commissioner Letizia asked Mr. Koester how the settlement amount was determined. Mr. Koester explained that a lawsuit was filed against the city for \$858,000 plus attorney fees a couple of years ago. At one point, the council authorized Mr. Koester to offer \$175,000 to settle the case. Mr. Koester received a reply from the other counsel asking why only \$175,000 was offered, even though counsel had previously offered \$250,000 before the lawsuit was filed. However, long story short, they counteroffered at \$560,000. Mr. Koester further explained that he felt they were truly leaning towards a \$375,000 settlement. However, the council approved Mr. Koester's offer of \$300,000 in increments. Mr. Koester said that he knew the first number he had to offer would need to have a 3 in the beginning, or they wouldn't look at it. Fortunately, they agreed to the \$300,000. Commissioner Letizia asked if Mr. Koester offered \$300,000 right out of the gate, and he said he did, but only after receiving notification that Followell would accept the offer. Mr. Koester said that he felt everyone understood this process and agreed to it, so court proceedings would not be necessary.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to authorize settlement in Cumberland County Cause NO. 2022-LA-12 and further authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the settlement. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Edwards, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, Commissioner Letizia. Motion carried. 4-1.

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**MAY 6, 2026**

**FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABBING**

No report was presented.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER LETIZIA**

No report was presented

**STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS**

No report was presented.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS**

No report was presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

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Brenda Evans, City Clerk