



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF NEOGA
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
533 CHESTNUT AVENUE, NEOGA, IL
AUGUST 10, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Those present were Commissioners Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Others present were City Administrator/Clerk Evans, Treasurer Foor, Superintendent Durbin, Police Chief Schabbing, Officer Noble, Building Inspector Morrison, Mike Drennan, Sarah Walk, Chad Walk, Ryan Magnoni, US Solar, and Sarah Ruholl.

MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes, Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from July 27, 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schabbing. Ayes: Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ryan Magnoni, US Solar, informed the Council that he was present to answer any questions regarding the proposed solar project located south of Neoga and within the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. Magnoni said the project would bring an economic opportunity to the community by offering a community solar program.

Sarah Walk, who lives across the street from the proposed solar project also spoke. Mrs. Walk opposed the project due to her concerns for the health and safety of her family. Walk explained that she has a history of brain tumors and is worried that this solar field would contribute negatively to her and her family's life. She also mentioned her concern about the constant noise and the decrease of property values. Walk asked the council to deny the conditional use permit for the USS Solar project.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAYOR HELM

MIKE DRENNAN

Mr. Drennan updated the council on the progress of the house being built at 498 Walnut Avenue. Drennan reminded the council that the deadline to have the house finished is October 15th. He

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believes it will be completed by then,, but requested that the council extend the deadline an additional 60 days. Commissioner Williams made a motion to extend the deadline until December 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

LETTER FROM THE ZONING BOARD

The council reviewed a letter from the Zoning Board regarding a variance request application from USS Rail Solar, LLC. Commissioner Letizia made a motion to accept and file the letter of recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT

The council discussed the proposed community benefit agreement from Glacier Moraine Solar, LLC (also known as Earthrise), to make a monetary commitment in the form of a donation to support Neoga's commercial parking area, downtown lighting upgrades, beautification of the downtown area, and new signage in the downtown area. After extended review of the agreement, Commissioner Schabbing made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Letizia. Ayes, Commissioner Schabbing, Letizia, Williams, and Mayor Helm. Nays, Commissioner Edwards. Motion carried. 4-1.

PROPOSED REGULATION REGARDING DATA CENTERS AND CRYPTOCURRENCY DATA MINING FACILITIES

City Administrator/Clerk presented a "draft" ordinance to the council regarding data centers and cryptocurrency data mining facilities. Evans explained that due to the increase in facilities in the state, the city should look at zoning pertaining to them. It was the consensus of the council to request the zoning board to review regulations for data centers and cryptocurrency data mining facilities.

FINANCE, COMMISSIONER SCHABGING

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Foor informed the council that this report reflects the first installment of property taxes but also shows the purchase of the three (3) sewer blowers. After the council reviewed the treasurer's report and without any further questions, Mayor Helm ordered the report to be filed.

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PUBLIC PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER LETIZIA

CHANGE ORDER ON AERATION BUILDING

The council reviewed change order #1 reflecting a \$500 decrease due to the deletion of landscaping at the wastewater treatment plant. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the change order as presented. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioner Edward, Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

PAY REQUEST #1 FOR AERATION BUILDING

After reviewing, Commissioner Letizia made a motion to pay the request for \$28,390. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes, Commissioner Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 82 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEOGA, ILLINOIS REGARDING THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM AND SEWAGE SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF NEOGA.

City Administrator / Clerk Evans informed the council that the office has noticed residents have been damaging the water radio-read equipment when they are mowing or working around the meters. Evans explained that numerous communities have had the same issues, and they have put in place an ordinance like the one presented to them. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to pass the ordinance as presented; however, the motion died due to the lack of a second. It was the consensus of the council to put something on social media before passing an ordinance.

CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR CITY HALL PARKING LOT

The change order was briefly discussed, and determined that it was passed at a previous meeting. No action was taken.

STREETS AND ALLEYS, COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

Commissioner Edwards asked Superintendent Durbin to update the Council on some of the projects the Public Works Department has been working on. Durbin said the Public Works department has put rock in the parking lot between 6th – 7th Street on Chestnut Avenue; replaced the large water meters; the ditches have been mowed by Kevin McKay, and he will finish them next week; trimmed trees; installed new tin horns on Maple and Grove Avenue; and cleaned up the ditch on Rt #45.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS

Commissioner Williams asked if the city has received any updates on the sidewalk along Rt. #45 between 11th Street and Neoga Estates. Evans said IDOT informed her they will not be replacing the concrete culvert under the sidewalk and will not repair the sidewalk either. At this time,

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Superintendent Durbin has contacted local concrete companies about quotes to replace the entire sidewalk or repair the broken sections. Durbin said he should have those by the next meeting. Commissioner Williams also asked about the status of the property located at 142 W. 7th Street. Evans said she has spoken with the property owner; however, the owner is still unsure of her next steps. It was the consensus of the council to proceed with forwarding the nuisance violation to the attorney.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sarah Ruholl asked the council for permission to place purple pinwheels around the sitting park on Oak Avenue for Recovery Month from September 1-30. Ruholl said that they did it last year, and they would pick them up after September 30th. The council appreciated her work on it, and thought it would be a great idea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Letizia made a motion to move into executive session at 7:59 for Personnel - Section 2 (c) (1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, and performance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Ayes: Commissioners Letizia, Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

RECONVENED AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was reconvened at 9:08 pm. Those present for roll call were Commissioners Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm.

No action was taken.

The council discussed making a truck route on East 6th Street from Oak Avenue to Wilson Avenue and around the corner to 5th Street. This would eliminate truck traffic off of 5th Street and out of the residential neighborhood. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM. Commissioner Letizia seconded the motion. Ayes, Commissioners Williams, Schabbing, Edwards, Letizia, and Mayor Helm. Nays, none. Motion carried. 5-0.

Brenda Evans,
City Administrator / Clerk