

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NELIGH MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
August 19, 2025

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Neligh was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. at the City Council Chambers. Present was Mayor Joe Hartz, Council Members Leonard Miller, Stephanie Lundgren, Tyler Pedersen, and Ted Hughes. Also in attendance were City Attorney Jim McNally, City Supt. Dan Donaldson, Economic Development Director Lauren Sheridan, Library Director Amy Baker, Police Chief Logan Lawson, City Clerk Danielle Klabenes, Generation Supervisor Josh Capler, and Nate Soper. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in four public places on August 11, 2025, and publication in the Antelope County News on August 13, 2025. A copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Mayor Hartz presided over the meeting and noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Law, located on the east wall of the Council Chambers, was available to the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Clerk Klabenes recorded the minutes.

**MOVING PERMIT 2025-18 FOR NATE SOPER**

Nate Soper reported he would like to move a building from the west parking lot of Antelope Memorial Hospital near 10<sup>th</sup> and N Street to his property on south E Street. He reported the loaded height would be three feet under the power lines. Soper reported he had not yet contacted the Nebraska Department of Transportation for traveling on or over Highway 275 for the route to South E Street. *Hughes moved to approve Moving Permit 2025-18 for Nate Soper as presented.* Seconded by Pedersen. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Lundgren, Pedersen, and Hughes. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**BID LETTING FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL BIDS FOR NEW MOON COMMUNITY THEATER**

Clerk Klabenes reported on a requirement for three competitive bids for asbestos removal for the grant for the theater from Nebraska Department of Water, Energy & Environment. She reported advertising would begin the following week and the work would need to be completed by November 28<sup>th</sup> to allow the city time to complete documentation before the grant deadline. Discussion was held to notify the theater board of the bid letting date. Discussion was held that both the mold and asbestos removal grants offered a 50% reimbursement up to \$20,000. Discussion was held that some asbestos contractors had the credentials to also do mold remediation as well. *Pedersen moved to set a bid letting date of September 12, 2025, at 1:00PM for asbestos removal bids for the New Moon Community Theater and authorize the city clerk to publish a request for proposal.* Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Pedersen, Miller, Lundgren, and Hughes. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**BUDGET FOR 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR**

A budget work meeting for the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget was held. Clerk Klabenes presented a summary of each department individually and collectively. She reported on the city valuation increase compared to last year. The City Council then reviewed each proposed City operation fund and discussed the following additions or deletions:

General: Consideration for Sparq Minutes Management \$4,600 and Bishop Business Document Management \$3,450 technology programs.

Lottery: Consideration for one emergency siren in the current budget and one emergency siren in the next budget each at \$34,000. Consideration for utility assistance to Pierson Museum and Neligh Community Center for one year.

Economic Development: Consideration for website video updates of \$4000, marketing campaign \$5,000, printer and copier of \$4,000, and maintaining same admin fee from LB840.

LB840: Consideration for administrative expenses of \$39,200, and loan disbursement of \$79,630 plus cash reserves as needed, Neligh App upgrades \$3,500 and Apple App \$1,500.

CDBG Loan and De-obligated: Consideration for balance transfer of CDBG De-obligated funds to CDBG Loan account for 2024-2025 projects and closing the de-obligated account.

Street: Consideration for crack and seal of Main Street and west side of town \$50,000, and armor coat of D Street \$12,000 and Baker Road \$22,000. Consideration of loader financed or purchase with a CD and September interest rates. Discussion for sidewalk program \$15,000 for one year trial. Consideration for straight truck for snow removal \$20,000.

Water: Consideration for an increase of the monthly base rate of \$2.00 and rate study following completion of water project. Consideration for single audit estimate of \$3,000 from water project. Consideration for reserve fund accounts to compliance with USDA funding agreements. Consideration for meters split between water and electric departments with \$15,000 to water department. Consideration for mapping expenses within technology for new meters of \$12,000.

Sewer: Consideration of equipment repairs on all foreign parts made for \$20,000. Consideration for concrete sidewalk replacement at wastewater treatment plant \$6,000.

Fire: Consideration for a concrete project on the east side of the firehall \$9,500 and the awning \$5,500. Consideration for creating a certificate of deposit for unused equipment budget for future pumper truck purchase.

Police: Consideration for more economical new phone system with FirstNet. Consideration for license plate reader \$9,000. Consideration for three in-car and body cameras of \$32,000 and offsetting grant up to \$10,500.

Dial-A-Ride: Discussion for 30% reduction in operating assistance from Nebraska Department of Transit and an increase in property tax for local matches and an increase in one-way transit fares from \$1.00 to \$1.50 to offset the 30% reduction. Discussion for minimum wage to increase January 1, 2026.

Solid Waste: Discussion for both contract hauling and tipping contract rate increases January 1, 2026. Consideration for monthly utility rate increase, dumpster sticker fees to increase, and compactor fee per ton increase. Discussion about the new baler to help offset costs. Discussion for removing a recycling pickup replacement.

Pool: Consideration for concrete deck replacement \$11,000 and State Inspector pleased with the deck improvements in 2025. Consideration of fence repair and relocation of \$2,500. Consideration of the new minimum wage January 1, 2026. Discussion for pool Improvements funds contributed to bringing ladders up to date in current budget.

Park: Consideration for notice of grant award in January 2026 and disc golf \$6,000 to complete 18-hole course. Consideration of restroom upgrades in Penn Park and Riverside Pavilion \$9,000. Discussion for Riverside Park Memorial repair this fall for \$10,200 and insurance and court restitution collected. Discussion for Agri-lime loads for south ball field \$6,000. Consideration for 72-inch mower replacement \$22,500.

Park Foundation: Consideration for park upgrades projects toward matching grant if awarded for \$35,000 re-confirmed.

Library: Consideration for window replacement \$4,325 with city staff installation. Consideration for caulking repair in southwest corner with city staff installation. Consideration of the purchase of two public computers per rotation of equipment.

Theater: Consideration for insurance, utilities, and real estate taxes \$8,100. Discussion for asbestos removal estimates with 50% reimbursement from state grant up to \$20,000. Discussion for grant applications being submitted.

Electric and Electric Generation: Discussion for final Polar Vortex payment \$169,500, maintain current electric rates and re-evaluate in 6 months. Consideration for two unfinished line improvement projects with one project for Q Street to be completed and paid for before September 30<sup>th</sup>. Consideration for 5<sup>th</sup> Street line improvement project to be completed this fall after October 1<sup>st</sup> with certificate of deposit redeemed to offset project cost. Discussion for meters expense to be split between electric and water departments with \$15,000 to Electric department. Consideration for mapping expenses within technology for new meters of \$12,000. Consideration for bio-diesel fuel \$33,000 and service call \$30,000 for generation plant.

Consideration for 3% cost of living increase to salaries and wages and new minimum wages effective January 1, 2026.

There being no further business to conduct Council member Pedersen motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Lundgren, Pedersen, and Hughes. Opposed: None. Thereupon Mayor Hartz declared the meeting adjourned. Time: 9:13 P.M.

City of Neligh

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Joe Hartz, Mayor

(ATTEST)

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Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Neligh, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Council on August 19, 2025 that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

(SEAL)

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Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk