

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NELIGH, NEBRASKA

September 16, 2025

The special meeting of the City Council of the City of Neligh was held at the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. Present were Council Members Leonard Miller, Steph Lundgren, Tyler Pedersen, and Ted Hughes. Absent was Mayor Joe Hartz. Also in attendance were City Attorney James McNally, City Supt. Dan Donaldson, City Clerk Danielle Klabenes, Police Chief Logan Lawson, Library Director Amy Baker, Dennis and Sherri Maple, Lisa Payne, and Karmen Sauser. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in four public places on September 10, 2025 at the City Office, U.S. Post Office, Pinnacle Bank, and Heritage Bank. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Council of this meeting. All proceedings thereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Council President Hughes presided over the meeting and noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Law, located on the east wall of the City Council Chambers, was available to the public. City Clerk Danielle Klabenes recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

NOTICE OF AWARD FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL AT THE NEW MOON COMMUNITY THEATER

Clerk Klabenes reported that Council Member Lundgren and the City Clerk opened four bids on Friday, September 12th. She reported the four bids ranged from \$24,000 to \$34,710 before an alternate amount all with similar completion times of about two weeks and three of the four bids offered an additional bid alternate amount. City Supt. Donaldson reported the alternate amount was for the removal of transite duct located above the theater seating area ceiling. He reported if the duct work above the ceiling was not removed and left unattended, then the alternate work would not be needed. He reported any new ductwork in the ceiling would be on the exterior of the ceiling. He reported that three of the companies that provided a bid also had worked with Brownfields grants before and noted that the front entry of the theater entailed the biggest labor with two layers of tile. He reported the contractors also reported that the mold removal would be minimal. *Lundgren moved to award the lowest bid to ABC Abatement for \$24,000, without the bid alternate amount, for the asbestos removal of the New Moon Community Theater.* Seconded by Pedersen. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Hughes, Lundgren, and Pedersen. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

PICKLEBALL COURT DONATION

Dennis and Sherri Maple presented a donation proposal for two pickleball courts at Fred Penn Park. The Maples reported they would like to donate funds to build two courts with a fence and wind screens, seating, permanent nets, acrylic courts surface, remote locks for gates, cameras, and open to the public. They reported they selected Fred Penn Park for the location available with parking, restrooms, and electrical lighting in place. They reported that they had worked with the City Attorney and City Superintendent on a Memorandum of Understanding listing the obligations for the Maples and the City. Discussion noted that the city would provide a parking lot which could be a gravel lot and provide sidewalks leading to the pickleball courts. City Attorney McNally reported the donated funds would be placed in a separate account used only for the pickleball project. He reported the Maples would authorize and designate the engineer and contractor with the contracts for the engineer and contractor signed by the city and the City Superintendent would see that contract terms were completed. Council members thanked the Maples for choosing Neligh and investing in Neligh. *Council member Pedersen moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the donation of two pickleball courts as presented.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Pedersen, Lundgren, and Hughes. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

FINANCING TERMS FOR THE HYUNDAI LOADER

Clerk Klabenes reported interest rates offered from two local banks and the vendor could change following the federal reserve meeting the following day. She requested that the Finance Committee of Council Members Miller and Pedersen meet following the federal reserve meeting to select financing terms for the Hyundai loader. *Lundgren moved to authorize the Finance Committee to select the financing terms for the Hyundai Loader following the federal reserve meeting.* Seconded by Pedersen. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Pedersen, Miller, and Lundgren. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

RIVERSIDE PARK GRANDSTAND IMPROVEMENTS

City Supt. Donaldson reported he had met with an engineer and the Fair Board President for the Grandstands structural inspection. He reported the engineer was willing to provide a structural plan for recommended repairs that could be made over 2-3 fiscal years if necessary. He reported the engineer had expected worse conditions and the structure was not needing demolished. Discussion noted to look at options for shared costs with the Fair Board and Park Foundation. *Pedersen moved to accept the engineering service proposal of KC Engineering PC of \$3,914 for the Grandstand repair recommendations from the General Fund Park department budget.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Lundgren, Pedersen, Miller, and Hughes. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 664 SETTING SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Discussion was held to postpone the sidewalk program to provide an additional 1% cost of living increase to city employees. Discussion was held for the public works and police departments offering budget cuts. Discussion noted the increase in the library budget during the last five years with no budget cuts. Discussion noted the January 2026 increase in minimum wage contributed to two library employees working decreased hours which lead to hiring a new full-time employee. Following discussion, *Council Member Miller introduced Ordinance 664B with the 3% and 5% wage increase entitled as follows:*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NELIGH, ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, SETTING AND ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND CONTINUING TO AND THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; SETTING RATES OF CONTRIBUTION TOWARD EMPLOYEES’ HEALTH INSURANCE, HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND RETIREMENT; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

And moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different times be suspended. Council Member Lundgren seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote on the motion, the following Council Members voted YEA: Miller, Lundgren, Hughes, and Pedersen. The following voted NAY: None. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said ordinance.

Said ordinance was then read by title and thereafter, *Council member Pedersen moved for final passage of the ordinance*, which motion was seconded by Council member Miller. The Council President then stated the question, “Shall Ordinance No. 664 be passed and adopted?” Upon roll call vote, the following Council Members voted YEA: Miller. The following voted NAY: Pedersen, Hughes, and Lundgren. The motion failed as not having three-fourths of all members agree.

Discussion was held for removing the sidewalk cost share program from the budget, retaining the license plate readers in the budget, bringing Library and Dial-A-Ride employee wages to the January 2026 minimum wage effective October 1st, and to consider a 4% and 6% cost of living ordinance at a special meeting the following week. *Miller moved to set a special meeting for Tuesday, September 23rd at 5:30pm to consider an ordinance for wages.* Seconded by Pedersen. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Pedersen, Lundgren, and Hughes. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-20 SIDEWALK COST SHARE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

No action was taken, and the matter was tabled indefinitely.

DIAL-A-RIDE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clerk Klabenes reported one comment had been received within the current 10-day comment period for the increase in the transit fare from a family with four children. She reported that the parents inquired about the transit fare price when the bus was picking up or dropping off at the same location. She reported the price was set by the seat on the bus, not by the location. Discussion noted that public transportation was set as a price per person. No action was taken.

There being no further business to conduct, *Miller moved to adjourn.* Seconded by Pedersen. Roll call votes in favor were Lundgren, Pedersen, Hughes, and Miller. Opposed: None. Thereupon Council President Hughes declared the meeting adjourned. Time 6:42 P.M.

City of Neligh

Ted Hughes, Council President

ATTEST

Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Neligh, Nebraska, hereby certify that on September 16, 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 agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; 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 for public inspection at least twenty-four hours before the meeting; 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; and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible to members of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

(SEAL)

City Clerk