

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

August 13, 2026

The special meeting of the City Council of the City of Neligh was held at the City Council Chambers on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 5:30 PM. Present was Council Members Ted Hughes: Present, Steph Lundgren: Present, Leonard Miller: Present, Tyler Pedersen: Present. Mayor Joe Hartz was absent. Also in attendance were City Attorney James McNally, City Supt. Dan Donaldson, Economic Development Director Lauren Sheridan, City Clerk Danielle Klabenes, Police Chief Logan Lawson, Library Board member Laurel Miller, Library Director Cedrela Bennett, and Lee Wilkinson. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in four public places on August 10, 2026. 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 Ted Hughes presided over the meeting and noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Law was located on the table in the City Council Chambers and available to the public. City Clerk Danielle Klabenes recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

BUDGET FOR 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR

A budget work meeting for the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget was held. Clerk Klabenes presented a summary of each department individually and collectively. She reported the city valuation was not available yet. The City Council reviewed each proposed department operation fund and discussed the following additions or deletions:

General Fund: Consideration for removing shelving, door replacement, and carpet cleaning \$3,050. Consideration of increasing building and fence permits.

Lottery: Consideration for Dial-A-Ride new bus purchase and local match of \$15,000. Consideration for utility assistance to Pierson Museum and Neligh Community Center for one year.

Economic Development: Consideration for recalculating in-lieu from Electric for general fund shortfall. Consideration for removing office siding project \$11,000. Consideration to delay comprehensive plan.

LB840: Consideration for administrative expenses of \$40,376, façade grants to consider restaurant grants, and historic property survey reimbursable by Nebraska State Historical Society \$25,000.

Street: Consideration for crack seal west side \$50,000, bridge planks of \$9,600, remove downtown street lighting of \$14,000, awaiting bids on asphalt surface for Baker Road with two different thicknesses of asphalt.

Water: Consideration for vibrating packer with shared cost with the electric department \$5,000, water meters of \$15,000, monthly base rate increase to \$34.00 following rate study. Discussion for short lived asset and debt service fund accounts to comply with USDA bond agreement.

Sewer: Consideration for Q & R Street project \$53,000, Countryside Acres \$5,000, monthly base rate increase of \$3.50, \$1.00 per 1000 gallons usage increase, jetting of hills from Rutjens \$3500, east lift station Hydro Optimization and Automation \$17,000.

Fire: Consideration for paving and awning project \$15,000, increase in chief and assistant chief stipend total of \$2,500, equipment purchase for new truck with certificate of deposit of unused equipment budget.

Police: Consideration for removing a vehicle of \$50,000, remove flock cameras \$9,000, adjust purchase amount of ATV license plates and stickers \$650, repairs to the Charger \$3,000-5,000. Consideration to increase dog licenses and ATV/ golf cart fees.

Dial-A-Ride: Consideration for approximately \$30,000 in local match from property taxes for operating assistance with federal and state operating assistance.

Solid Waste: Consideration for \$1.00 month base rate increase, tonnage rate increase of \$5/ ton, tipping fee 3% increase and \$50 per load increase for hauling, electric upgrade at compactor awaiting bid, and camera system \$3,500. Consideration of the minimum charge for bags brought to the Compactor.

Pool: Consideration for bathhouse painting \$6,000 to come from Pool Improvements, diving boards replacement \$9,000 and pool pump \$3,500. Consideration for Park Board to consider increase on pool admissions and pool parties.

Park: Consideration for Riverside campground restroom upgrades \$5,000, camping rates during the county fair, North baseball field Agri-lime \$2500 and ask Ball Board about additional Agri-lime. Consideration to remove costs for laser level, shrubs and trees, and fence toppers.

Park Foundation: Consideration for park upgrades projects and re-confirmed contribution of \$35,000.

Library: Consideration of removing 2 public computers replacement and looking for an equipment grant and bids for lawn fertilizing. Discussion of foundation audit of \$850. Consideration for requesting increase from county for library for 2027-2028.

Theater: Consideration for insurance, utilities, and real estate taxes, \$8,041. Consideration for state and private grants for electrical and mechanical project phases \$663,000.

Electric and Electric Generation: Consideration to delay downtown lighting project and ask Ball Board to share or contribute to the ball field lighting project. Consideration for 9% usage rate increase. Consideration for vibrating packer and shared cost with water department \$3,000. Consideration for meter deposit increase of \$50. Consideration for bio-diesel fuel \$33,000 and service call for generation plant \$30,000.

Consideration for a 3.5% cost of living increase for part-time employees, 3.5% flat amount increase for full-time employees, and minimum wage for lifeguards at \$15.00 per hour plus 1.75% increase. Consideration of health insurance and health savings accounts.

Thereupon being no further business to conduct, *Council member Pedersen moved to adjourn the meeting.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Steph Lundgren: Yea, Tyler Pedersen: Yea, Leonard Miller: Yea, Ted Hughes: Yea. Yea: 4, Nay: 0. Motion Carried. Time: 9:23 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 August 13, 2026; 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