

July 6, 2022

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session July 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., in the council room, located at 531 Main Street, Seneca, Kansas. Present were Mayor Joe Mitchell and council members Jim Mitchell, Steve Bennett, Ray Shinn, and Mike Stallbaumer. Lukas Koch and Alice Lackey were absent. Also present were Angel O'Neil, Dylan Blevins, Matt Diehl, and Robert Wolfgang.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1425. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 07062022 granting an exception in accordance with Seneca City Code Section 5.20.161 to permit the sale, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages by Spanky's on the public sidewalk in front of the businesses located at 401, 405, and 407 Main Street during Cruise Night, July 30, 2022 from 3pm – 11pm. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. Jim Mitchell, Steve Bennett, and Ray Shinn voted yes. Mike Stallbaumer abstained. Motion carried.

The American Legion Riders requested permission to extend their prior request for street closures to also include Pioneer Street from 10th – 11th on July 9 from 9am – 11pm. The event has grown and they are requesting the additional closure to accommodate additional activities. Jim Mitchell made a motion to grant permission to also close Pioneer Street on July 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Tami Haverkamp sent an RFP for Audit Services to 6 different firms. Only one submission was received, by Varney & Associates, who indicated interest in performing the 2021 audit as well. Tami Haverkamp also requested a Letter of Engagement from our past audit firm, SSC, CPAs for 2021 audit services, but never received a response. It is Tami's recommendation to retain Varney & Associates for audit services for the 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 years. For cost comparison, the fee for the 2020 audit was \$9485. Varney & Associates annual fee for 2021-2024 is \$9500. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the Letter of Engagement from Varney & Associates for audit services for the years 2021-2024. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

A timeline for the budget process has been provided to the governing body. A City can choose to exceed the RNR by following a process that includes notifying the county clerk and holding a public hearing. The county clerk must be notified no later than July 20th if a city intends to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Because Seneca's total valuation has increased, the result is an RNR for 2023 that is less than the mill levy in 2022. Tami Haverkamp is working on the budget and building it to keep the mill levy the same as it was last year (32.585), which means we will exceed the 2023 RNR of 30.302. Seneca's mill levy rate has held steady for over 20 years. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent, to be delivered to the county clerk before July 20. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

A police officer candidate was interviewed by Chief Blevins and the personnel committee. Austin Watts is a certified officer with 18 months of full-time and 2 years of part-time experience with the Marysville PD. He is currently under a 31-month recruitment contract with Marysville, which would require compensation to the City of Marysville in the amount of \$7,028.84. The cost to certify an officer is around \$14,000. The personnel committee recommends to hire Austin Watts at the rate of \$20/hour, compensate the City of Marysville for the remainder of his contract, and to have Austin sign a 14-month recruitment contract with the City of Seneca to cover the buy-out expense should he choose to leave employment. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the hiring of Austin Watts at a rate of \$20/hour, to compensate the City of Marysville, and to have Austin sign a 14-month contract with the City of Seneca. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn reported the sales tax collected for the city's 1% was \$90,254.04, and from the county was \$15,094.61 for a total of \$105,348.65.

Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Angel O'Neil
Acting City Clerk