

March 1, 2023

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session March 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., in the council room, located at 531 Main Street, Seneca, Kansas. Present were Mayor Joe Mitchell and council members Steve Bennett, Jim Mitchell, Joe Schmelzle, Mike Stallbaumer, Ray Shinn, and Alice Lackey. Also present were Tami Haverkamp, Brian Rusche, Dylan Blevins, Jordan Weaver, Julie Bergman, Kylee Bergstrom, Kate Haynie, Tom Haug, Travis Emmons, Brad Kramer, and Matt Diehl.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 15, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. Steve Bennett, Joe Schmelzle, Mike Stallbaumer, Jim Mitchell and Alice Lackey voted yes. Ray Shinn abstained because of his absence at the February 15th meeting. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1441. The motion was seconded by Alice Lackey. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Kylee Bergstrom with the Seneca Area Chamber and Downtown Impact presented their 2022 Annual Report. Kylee also requested an increase in monthly payments for office support to \$3500 from the current \$2500. City contributions to the Chamber hasn't been raised since 2013. Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to approve payments to Seneca Area Chamber and Downtown Impact to be raised to \$3500 per month. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Seneca Fire Chief Tom Haug was present to give the 2022 Fire Department Annual Report. Tom stated that is currently working to get bids to replace Truck 5.

Ray Shinn made a motion to award Hammes Trucking the low bid for hauling materials in 2023 at the rate of \$6.00 per ton from Dubois and \$20.00 per ton from New Market, MO to Seneca. Seneca Transportation also submitted a bid of \$7.50 per ton from Dubois to Seneca and \$20.99 per ton from New Market, MO to Seneca. The motion was seconded by Alice Lackey. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Honeyman Ford and Nemaha Valley Motors submitted bids for a new Police Department Vehicle with a trade in of the 2013 Dodge Ram in consideration. Nemaha Valley Motors bid a 2023 Dodge Durango at a trade in price of \$33,500. Honeyman Ford bid a 2023 Interceptor SUV at a trade in price of \$35,893. Both vehicles would need accessories added by Haug Communication at a cost of \$10,940. Ray Shinn made a motion to accept the low bid from Nemaha Valley Motors of \$33,500 for a total price after accessories of \$44,440. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to accept the resignation of City Administrator Tami Haverkamp, effective April 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. Jim Mitchell, Steve Bennett, Ray Shinn, Mike Stallbaumer, and Joe Schmelzle voted yes. Alice Lackey voted no. Motion carried.

At 8:00 p.m., the council went into a planning session. The fund balances and 2023 budget was the first item discussed. Tami announced that all the funds are looking good, other than the water fund which rate increases might need discussed in a couple years. Tami also asked about the industrial development fund and what them funds are intended for.

City Hall renovations were discussed and the council agreed to get an architect on boards for opinions to restore a historic building.

Street improvements were discussed on which streets need repair prioritized. The council did agree that they would like to see the Community Drive and Branch Street sidewalk loop get finished in front of the bowling alley.

The council asked Jordan to get information from Netawaka Fitness center on what it takes to operate an indoor recreation facility.

Brian announced that if we develop much that another water tower will need considered. Brian also announced that he currently has 3 guys all studying to take test to become water certified. He currently has one other guy that is sewer certified and the other two are working on that.

The police department currently has 4 full time and 1 part time officer but they are set up for 5 full time and 1 part time officer, so they currently have one spot open.

Tami announced that the monthly compensation for elected officials is Council member \$220; Mayor \$300; Treasurer \$475, and Judge \$300. These haven't been adjusted in over 20 years.

Tami announced that the Board of Zoning appeals passed the High Plains Resources for gas exploration wells. Ground Water Associate, Brad Vincent is preparing a report at the expense of High Plains Resources.

Tami announced that the progress of the concession stand. The upstairs has been insulated by city crew and are waiting to do the downstairs until the plumbing gets done. The first game is March 24.

Ray Shinn announced the sales tax received in February was in the amount of \$114,270.39.

At 9:05 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for personnel matter for 15 minutes until 9:20 p.m. to include the governing body, and Tami Haverkamp with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:20 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 10 minutes until 9:30. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk