

April 19, 2023

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session April 19, 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 Jim Mitchell, Joe Schmelzle, Alice Lackey and Steve Bennett. Mike Stallbaumer and Ray Shinn were absent. Also present were Tami Haverkamp, Tom Hilbert, Robert Wolfgang, and Matt Diehl.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Tom Hilbert expressed his concern during public comment on the Main Street project, with sidewalks being his main focus. Tom started by thanking the council for their time serving on city council. Tom was concerned about how the land/homeowners weren't notified about what would be done with the sidewalks. He was concerned about the width of the sidewalks; he had heard different widths of 8-foot, 5-foot, and 6-foot. Tom wanted to know what width the sidewalks would be. He also stated that yards are being torn up and wanted to know who is responsible for the repairs to yards. Mayor Joe Mitchell stated to Tom that this subject would be discussed later in the meeting.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1444. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the application from the American Legion Riders for a Special Event CMB license on July 8, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve the hiring of Cole Hermes and Levi Kraisinger as summer maintenance employees for a second year at a rate of \$12.25 per hour. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the request from the Seneca Area Chamber and Downtown Impact to close half a block of 5th Street from Main Street north to the alley during Second Saturdays Live Music: May 13, June 10, August 12, and September 9, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to amend real estate contract between the city and Senior Living Capital Group Development, LLC, extending the closing date to on or before July 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to increase the number of hours included in the city attorney's retainer from 7 hours per month to 8 hours per month, contingent on a written agreement defining specific terms: Beginning May 1, hours included in the retainer are billed at a rate of \$150/hour for a total of \$1200 per month, with hours in excess of 8 billed at Mishler & Sunderland's regular rate of \$200 per hour. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

The Main Street Project was discussed. Mayor Mitchell expressed that he was not impressed with the communication between the contractor and the landowners. Joe Schmelzle made a motion to change the sidewalk on the north side of Main Street in the project area (7th Street – 11th Street) from an 8' width to a 5' width, to require a survey to determine the exact location of the right-of-way, and to place the north edge of the sidewalk on the edge of the right-of-way. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

The sewer lagoon dredging project was discussed and it was stated that a deadline needs to be set to get the project done.

Alice Lackey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk