

July 19, 2023

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session July 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, Ray Shinn, Mike Stallbaumer, Steve Bennett and Alice Lackey. Also present were Steve Brooks, Assistant City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Kylee Bergstrom, Robert Wolfgang, Matt Diehl, and Michele Spring.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. Jim Mitchell, Mike Stallbaumer, Joe Schmelzle, and Ray Shinn voted yes. Steve Bennett and Alice Lackey abstained due to their absence at the July 5, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1450. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At the July 5, 2023 meeting, City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that we were going to notify the county clerk of our intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. We failed to get action on our intent to exceed the RNR at that meeting. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the notice to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate Intent. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the Sunset Hills Subdivision Plat. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried. This plat has 4 lots and only one of the lots is partially in the ETJ. The other 3 lots are all outside of the ETJ. The council discussed how to handle permitting in this split lot.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve sending the proposed Ordinance 1432 amending Ordinance 1371, Article 9 to the planning commission. This amendment would address the new state regulations of propane tanks within the city. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Since the July 5, 2023 council meeting, City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the parade route would follow the backup route. All the rain that we have had recently it was going to be a very tight schedule for the road to be opened by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Steve Bennett expressed concern over this decision and stated that he really wanted the road to be opened temporarily for the parade. After much discussion the council agreed to continue with Steve Brooks decision and for the parade to follow the backup plan. The parade will line up as usual and begin on Main, turning north on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and ending at Amador Street. With this re-route plan, the firemen will need a place to stage their trucks after they are done with the parade since the road in front of the fire house will be blocked. Kylee Bergstrom with Seneca Area Chamber and Downtown Impact requested a street closure to block off Main Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street for the firetrucks to park until after the parade is finished. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the request for street closure from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street during the parade on Sunday, July 30, 2023, 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks presented a job description for adding a Community Development Officer. This position would in charge of code enforcement, zoning, inspections, animal control, and issuing permits. Steve Bennett made a motion to allow Steve to advertise for the position of Community

Development Officer. The motion was seconded was by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Steve Brooks also presented a revised job description for the Community Program and Recreation Director.

City Administrator Steve Brooks shared a letter that he received from Evergy. Evergy would like to take over the line that goes from the meter to the substation. Evergy recently had to repair this line after a storm that caused a blackout. If Evergy takes over this line, the city will not be responsible for the cost incurred for the repair. The council agreed to have Steve sign the contract and return to Evergy.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced during the July 12, 2023 Economic Development Committee meeting about industrial growth in Seneca. For growth we would have to guarantee fire protection and that is a problem since water is already at peak. The city needs to start thinking about the potential of a new water tank. Steve also mentioned that Seneca has a shortage of housing.

Alice Lackey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Michele Spring  
City Clerk