

August 2, 2023

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session August 2, 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, Mike Stallbaumer, Steve Bennett and Alice Lackey. Ray Shinn was absent. Also present were Steve Brooks, Brian Rusche, Kylee Bergstrom, Robert Wolfgang, Matt Diehl, and Michele Spring.

Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 19, 2023. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1451. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

The Travel & Tourism Committee recommended the following grant awards:

- NE Kansas Arts Foundation - The Day Before the Music died - \$1000
- Chamber/SDI – Wine About Winter - \$300
- Chamber/SDI – Christmas Celebrations - \$1500
- Chamber/SDI – Seneca’s Night Out - \$800
- Chamber/SDI – Oktoberfest - \$600
- Chamber/SDI – Hwy 36 City-Wide Garage Sales - \$300
- Chamber/SDI – Seneca Car Show - \$1150
- Total Grants - \$5650

The Travel & Tourism Committee recommended approval of a request from Seneca Chamber/SDI for \$1854 for a Come See Seneca Website. This item falls within the Community Projects category of the Travel & Tourism’s annual budget. Jim Mitchell made a motion to accept the community project and grant recommendations from the Travel & Tourism Committee for a total of \$7504. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the Seneca Area Chamber & Downtown Impact application for a Special Event Cereal Malt Beverage License from 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> during Oktoberfest. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve a request for street closure submitted by Seneca Area Chamber & Downtown Impact to close Main Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street during Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve a request for street closure submitted by Seneca Area Chamber & Downtown Impact to close Main Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street during Seneca Spooktacular on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Brian Rusche presented the council with 5 different options to repair a block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Pioneer Street and Nemaha Street. The street is needing to be repaired after the curb and gutter project was completed the center of the street is now an inch below the curb. There was much discussion on why this happened. Steve Brooks did express Ray Shinn’s opinion since he was absent at

the meeting. Brian's recommendation was Option 5. Option 5 would involve J & B Contractors to remove and replace 300 feet of curb. The City of Seneca crew would then remove bricks and replace the manhole cover and ring. City crew members could then build up the crown and chip and sealing the whole block. This would be a cost of \$17,397.40 to the city. Jim Mitchell made a motion to accept Brian's recommendation of Option 5 for 5<sup>th</sup> Street repairs, with a note that he doesn't want this to set president for every street with issues in Seneca. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve Brooks presented an updated Public Sidewalk, Curb, and Gutter Improvement Policy. The last policy increased the maximum reimbursable cost per sq foot of 4" thick concrete to \$7.25 over the prior \$5.25. The maximum allowable reimbursement for the project was 50% up to \$2000. The updated policy would increase the maximum allowable reimbursement per project to 50% up to \$3400. Questions arrived about the policy and Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to table this decision until the August 16, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks requested a special meeting next Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the 2024 budget.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he met with KMEA on this week. Points of discussion with KMEA were the Every Substation at Koch & Company; what we can expect with our membership; and future possible projects.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he met with Wilson & Company this week as well. Points of discussion were the Alley Electrical Distribution System Project; Main Street Project; Highway 36 widening project; and the Water Plant Project. Wilson & Company stated that the Main Street project should be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September. AHRS has also requested to close the intersection at 11<sup>th</sup> Street to replace it instead of the original plan to do one lane at a time.

There will be a public hearing in front of the planning commission on August 3, 2023 for approval of a condition use permit for Seneca Memory Care.

There will be a public hearing in front of the planning commission on August 14, 2023 to discuss Ordinance 1432 an ordinance amending Ordinance 1371 Article 9. Ordinance 1432 will address the new State of Kansas regulations regarding propane usage within the city limits.

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing and Budget Hearing will be during the September 6, 2023 council meeting.

Steve Bennett announced that the sales tax received for the month of July was \$109,961.62.

Alice Lackey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Michele Spring  
City Clerk