

August 16, 2023

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session August 16, 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, Alice Lackey, and Ray Shinn. Steve Bennett was absent. Also present were Steve Brooks, City Attorney Martin Mishler, Tom Haug, Robert Wolfgang, Matt Diehl, and Michele Spring.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 2, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. Jim Mitchell, Mike Stallbaumer, Joe Schmelzle and Alice Lackey voted yes. Ray Shinn abstained because of his absence at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held August 9, 2023. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. Ray Shinn, Mike Stallbaumer, and Joe Schmelzle voted yes. Jim Mitchell and Alice Lackey abstained because of their absence at the August 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Motion carried.

Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1452. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1432 An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1371 and amending Article 9 of the Seneca Zoning Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Kansas, as recommended by the Seneca Planning Commission. This ordinance addresses the new State of Kansas regulations regarding propane usage in municipalities. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to pay Fleagle Electric for cost incurred when a wind storm caused a tree to take down an electric line that provides service to Boyd and Donna Altenhofen. Boyd and Donna Altenhofen had hired Fleagle Electric to repair this electrical line since it was their understanding that it was on them. The tree was actually in an old alley that is city property. The council agreed that since the tree was the city's responsibility that we would cover the cost of the repairs to the line. The council asked that Altenhofen's and Fleagle's be contacted and to have the bill reissued to the city. The city is tax exempt and would not have to pay sales tax on the bill. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the reappointment of Betty Wenzl to the Seneca Housing Authority Board. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the updated Public Sidewalk, Curb, and Gutter Improvement Policy with the additions: the city will not be responsible for the tear out of the old; and the maximum budgeted payout for all projects is not to exceed \$17,000 per year. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to seek bids for tearing down the house at 213 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried. The council had also requested checking in to see about getting a tax exemption for the property.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Settlement Statement for the closing of Lot 1 of the Community West Addition property. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried. The abstract office is planning on closing with SLCG on Monday, August 21, 2023.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he attended a symposium recently at Kansas State University that discussed solar in rural America.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he is disappointed in the little progress that is being done on the 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Main Street project. He has had conversations with AHRS about the matter. AHRS is planning on now having the project completed around the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the Step Foundation has a match day coming up on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The Step Foundation would like to set up a Seneca Community Fund and work together with the City on a project that is yet to be determined. The council unanimously agreed that they would like to work with the Step Foundation.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing will be on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Seneca Fire Chief Tom Haug announced that the 2023 Ford Superduty F550 came into Honeyman's on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. They took this truck to Emergency Fire/Invena Corporation on Tuesday to get the slide-in unit put on the truck. The council approved the purchase of this truck and slide-in unit at the April 5, 2023 council meeting.

Alice Lackey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Michele Spring  
City Clerk