

September 6, 2023

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session September 6, 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, Steve Bennett, Alice Lackey, and Ray Shinn. Mike Stallbaumer was absent. Also present were Steve Brooks, Assistant City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Bruce Deters, Brian Rusche, Tim Heinen, Jordan Weaver, Robert Wolfgang, Matt Diehl, and Michele Spring.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 16, 2023. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. Jim Mitchell, Ray Shinn, Joe Schmelzle and Alice Lackey voted yes. Steve Bennett abstained because of his absence at the August 16th council meeting. Motion carried.

At 7:31 p.m., a public hearing on the 2024 Budget and Intent to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate was opened. No comments were made. The hearing closed at 7:32 p.m. Mayor Joe Mitchell and Councilmembers Ray Shinn, Steve Bennett, Jim Mitchell, Joe Schmelzle, and Alice Lackey all signed off on the 2024 Budget. Mike Stallbaumer did not vote because of his absence at this meeting.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09062023 A Resolution of the City of Seneca, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. Ray Shinn, Steve Bennett, Jim Mitchell, Joe Schmelzle, and Alice Lackey all voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve Bennett made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1453. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jordan Weaver presented a National Fitness Campaign Outdoor Fitness Court. The fitness court could provide a full body workout session using their own body weight to accomplish their fitness goal. This 38' x 38' outdoor court would be able to handle any types of weather. A possible location for the fitness court would be south of the tennis court. The city may apply for grant money from Blue Cross and Blue Shield for this project, if awarded the city may receive \$30,000 to \$50,000. Mayor Mitchell asked Jordan to find out about the liability issues that may arise from having the fitness court. The council unanimously agreed to allow Jordan to look further into the project.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve a request for street closure submitted by Saints Peter and Paul School PTO to close Elk Street between 4th & 5th Street and Amador Street between 4th & 5th Street from 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 30, 2023 to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 1, 2023 for their smoking competition and tailgate lunch. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve an application submitted by Saints Peter and Paul School PTO for a special event CMB license on Sunday, October 1, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during their smoking competition and tailgate lunch. The motion was seconded Ray Shinn. All present voted yes.

Mayor Joe Mitchell opened the sealed hay bids for the Airport and Maxwell Springs properties for the 2024 and 2025 hay season. The city received 4 bids for the airport hay ground and 3 bids for the Maxwell Springs property. Elijah Sudbeck was the high bidder on the Maxwell Springs property at \$1200 per year for 2 years. The other bids were \$640 per year from Tim Heinen and \$600 per year from Cole Deters, both were for 2-year terms. The high bidder for the airport property was Cole Deters at \$2000 per year for 2 years. The other bids were \$1650 per year from Brandon Ohlsen, \$1100 per year from Elijah Sudbeck, and \$1600 per year from Roger and Jason Deters, all for 2-year terms. Ray Shinn made a motion to accept the high bids from Elijah Sudbeck and Cole Deters for the hay properties for the 2024 and 2025 seasons. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks congratulated Tim Heinen for obtaining the Class II Water Certificate. Tim is now certified in Class II Water and Class I Wastewater.

City Administrator Steve Brooks notified the council that residents have been notified via local newspaper and Facebook that the Electric Department will begin tree trimming around September 15, 2023.

City Administrator Steve Brooks notified the council that we received revised plans for the Electrical Main Street Alley Project on Thursday, August 31, 2023. The plans will be at city hall for council

members to review. Steve will ask for approval to seek bids for this project at the September 20, 2023 council meeting.

Jordan has been asked if the concession stand at Swisher could be used by others for fundraising opportunities during the soccer season. Mayor Mitchell expressed his concern about having a Soccer Association made up of parent volunteers. He would like to see parents working a concession stand shift if they sign their children up for the sport. There was discussion on who is responsible for damages that may occur if others are allowed to use the concession stand. The council unanimously agreed that they are willing to listen if a set policy and procedures is brought forth.

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

City Administrator Steve Brooks notified the council that there was a profile done today on the sludge levels of the lagoons. Tim, Brian, and Steve were all at the lagoons for this profile. Discussion was had about the possible removal of the sludge.

Ray Shinn announced the sales tax received for August was in the amount of \$125,216.78.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced the resignation of Angel O'Neil as Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk as of September 5, 2023. The position has been advertised for.

At 8:25 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to enter into executive session for 15 minutes until 8:40 p.m. for personnel matter with possible action. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Alice Lackey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk