

February 7, 2024

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session February 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., in the council room, located at 531 Main Street, Seneca, Kansas. Present were Mayor Joe Mitchell and council members Ray Shinn, Joe Schmelzle, Steve Bennett, Kris Enneking, Jim Mitchell, and Mike Stallbaumer. Also present were Steve Brooks, City Attorney Martin Mishler, Brian Rusche, Tom Haug, Travis Emmons, Brad Kramer, Robert Wolfgang, Matt Diehl, and Michele Spring.

Michele Spring, City Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to 3rd Ward Councilmember Michael Stallbaumer.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2024. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. Ray Shinn, Joe Schmelzle, Steve Bennett, Kris Enneking, and Jim Mitchell voted yes. Mike Stallbaumer abstained due to his absence at the January 17, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1463. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Tom Haug presented the 2023 annual report. Tom also announced that they have the new fire truck back with the slide on unit added. He added that the extra cost of \$2151.28 came from a change order to add door skins, auto charge with auto eject, and brackets for drip torch. The fire truck also came with an add on of a thermal camera at no additional cost to the city for the added troubles incurred while the slide in unit was being installed. The council all thanked the Fire Department for everything they do.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the Travel and Tourism Grant request as recommended by the Travel and Tourism Committee. The Travel and Tourism Committee did not accept the application from the Nemaha County Conservation District for the Statewide Women in Ag Conference due to the conference not being held in the City of Seneca. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. Ray Shinn, Joe Schmelzle, Steve Bennett, Jim Mitchell, and Mike Stallbaumer voted yes. Kris Enneking abstained due to serving on the Travel and Tourism Committee. Motion passed.

Kris Enneking made a motion to accept the Seneca Golf Club Agreement allowing the Mayor to sign. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. Motion carried.

Mayor Joe Mitchell opened the sealed bids received for City Park Sidewalk. Bids were received from J&B Contractors and Premier Concrete.

	JB Contractors:	Premier Concrete:
5' sidewalk	\$7.80 per square foot	\$6.75 per square foot
Handicap ramp	\$625 per each	\$600 per each
6" concrete parking	\$7.90 per square foot	\$7.25 per square foot

Premier Concrete also added that Fibermesh is an additional \$8 per yard; expansion joint will be \$10 per foot; and to install a thickened edge along the parking area as a bumper will be \$10 per foot. Mayor Joe Mitchell advised Brian to take the bids to compare and come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

Mayor Joe Mitchell opened the sealed bids received for a City Administrator vehicle. Bids received were from Honeyman Ford for a 2024 Ford Explorer for \$40,428; Honeyman Ford for a 2024 Ford Edge for \$38,878; Nemaha Valley Motors for a \$2024 Dodge Durango for \$41,580. Mayor Joe Mitchell asked Steve to compare the Dodge Durango to the Ford Explorer and to come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

City Superintendent Brian Rusche presented his request of an asphalt roller. The current asphalt roller has required a lot of maintenance and parts are getting harder to find. Equipment Share submitted 2 quotes a New Case DV26E for \$48,864 and a used Case DV26D for \$30,815. Foley Equipment submitted bids for a Cat CB245B with 1500 hours for \$35,000; a 219 Cat CB24B with 512 hours for \$43,000; and a new Cat CB2.7-03 for \$58,113.84. Brian's recommendation is for the Case DV26D for \$30,815 from Equipment Share. Ray Shinn made a motion to go with Brian's recommendation of the Case DV26D asphalt roller from Equipment Share for \$30,815 contingent of Brian checking it over thoroughly to meet his satisfaction and checking on the warranty. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks stated that he is not in favor of how we handle employee evaluations currently. He would like to conduct employee evaluations at the end of the year rather than on anniversary dates of the employee.

City Administrator Steve Brooks stated that he would like to do away with the step pay plan and go strictly merit based pay increases. The council unanimously agreed to allow Steve to move to strictly merit based pay increases.

At 8:20 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes until 8:30 p.m. for personnel to include the governing body and Steve for 10 minutes with possible action. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:30 p.m. Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to allow Dylan Blevins to be in charge of a public safety fund with a 3% salary increase amounting to \$1700 annual. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:31 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 20 minutes until 8:51 p.m. for attorney-client privilege to include the governing body, Steve, Martin, and Brian with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:51 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes until 9:06 p.m. for land acquisition to include the governing body, Steve, and Martin with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:06 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 5 minutes until 9:11 p.m. for land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Kris Enneking made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes.  
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Michele Spring  
City Clerk