August 7, 2024

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session August 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 Joe Schmelzle, Steve Bennett, Kris Enneking, Jim Mitchell, and Mike Stallbaumer. Ray Shinn was absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, Dylan Blevins, Brian Rusche, Jordan Weaver, Dylan Blevins, Andrea Beyer, Marcia Philbrick, Mark Hermesch, Russ Torrey, Ashton Torrey, Martin Mishler, Heidi Wolfgang, Matt Diehl, and Michele Spring.

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

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approved the minutes of the special meeting held August 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All presented voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Joe Mitchell announced that Sanderling Properties attorney Gordon Olson had requested a continuance for the public hearing regarding condemnation of a property located at 501 Merton Street Lot 1. There was no motion to grant the continuance.

At 7:33 p.m. the public hearing opened for Sanderling Properties Condemnation. City Administrator Steve Brooks explained that over the last 9 years Maple Leaf Park have received repeated violations including the property at 501 Merton Street Lot 1. Sanderling Properties had indicated the estimated value of the trailer is $500 through court document for Petition for Quiet Title. According to City of Seneca Ordinance if repairs to structure cannot be made at a cost of fifty percent or less of its fair market value, the owner shall remove or demolish the structure. The trailer is titled to Chris Roberts as the last known owner. There are also past due utilities of $956.81 owed for the property.

Mayor Joe Mitchell asked if anyone would like to speak on behalf of Sanderling Properties, but no comments were made.

City Attorney Martin Mishler and Andrea Beyer announced that the city has made effort to serve Mr. Roberts, but certified letters were returned. The publication resolution 06192024 was also printed in the Courier Tribune on June 26, 2024 and July 3, 2024.

The public hearing was closed at 7:38 p.m.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to move forward with condemnation of the trailer located at 501 Merton Street Lot 1. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1475. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1443 An Ordinance Amending in Part Portions of the Current Code of the City of Seneca, KS Regulating the Licensing of Contractors Performing Work within the City of Seneca, KS. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1444 An Ordinance Regulating Traffic within the Corporate Limits of the City of Seneca, KS; Incorporating by Reference the “Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, Edition of 2024”, providing Certain Penalties and Repealing Ordinance No 1434. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1445 An Ordinance Regulating Public Offenses within the Corporate Limits of the City of Seneca, KS; Incorporating by Reference the “Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities, Edition of 2024.” The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Marcia Philbrick with the Nemaha County Historical Society presented a request to declare the City of Seneca, KS a Purple Heart City. Joe Schmelzle made a motion to have Mayor Joe Mitchell sign a Proclamation Declaring the City of Seneca, Kansas a Purple Heart City. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the Travel and Tourism Grants as presented. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. Jim Mitchell, Steve Bennett, Mike Stallbaumer, and Joe Schmelzle voted yes. Kris Enneking abstained due to serving on the Travel and Tourism board. Motion carried.

Brian Rusche presented his recommendation to new adjusted water tapping fees to offset the increasing cost of supplies. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Brian’s recommendations for the new water tapping fees. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Brian Rusche and Jordan Weaver presented the pool maintenance work that will need to be done before the 2025 season. The slides are in need of repair, 2 quotes were received for the work. Splashtacular bid $68,925 for slides and mushroom with a yearly maintenance plan for $19,860. Safe Slide Restoration bid $56,872 for slides and mushroom with a yearly protection plan for $3485 - $12,856. Mayor Joe Mitchell asked what was covered under the warranty. Jim Mitchell made a motion to table the decision on slide work until a later date. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

2 bids were received for pool painting. R-Torrey Construction bid for painting and mushroom was $89,750. J.F. McGivern bid for painting and mushroom was $93,800 plus an alternate bid for an additional $12,230 for caulking. Mayor Mitchell asked if drying time could be added in a contract before a bid is accepted. Jim Mitchell made a motion to table the decision on accepting a pool painting bid. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Kris Enneking made a motion to allow City Administrator Steve Brooks attend the Kansas Certified Public Manager Program starting in January 2025 at a cost of $3900. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

If a third ball diamond is added at Skoch Park their will need to be a plan for future soccer fields. Moving soccer fields east of ball fields will require ground work and added parking. Brian received a bid from Shawn Kramer Construction, LLC for possible dirt work at a max cost of $30,000.

City Administrator Steve Brooks presented a quote received for GIS Mapping from SAM. He stated that it is very important for possible growth in Seneca or in the matter of a natural disaster.

City Administrator Steve Brooks had it brought to his attention that maybe we should have sidewalks in front of the school parking lot. He recommends not having a sidewalk there, but maybe we could paint a crosswalk from where the current sidewalk ends across 11th to the new sidewalk on the west side of the north park and then another crosswalk back across 11th.

City Administrator Steve Brooks presented the council with an updated version of the budget for a last look. If any council member has any concerns they should reach out to Steve before the end of next week.

Steve Bennett announced the sales tax received for July was in the amount of $108,135.90.

At 9:00 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes until 9:15 p.m. for attorney-client privilege to include the governing body, Martin, and Steve with no action. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:15 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:15 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion go into executive session for 15 minutes until 9:30 p.m. for non-elected personnel to include the governing body, and Steve with no action. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:30 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go back into open session. 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 9:32 p.m.

Michele Spring

City Clerk