

November 6, 2024

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session November 6, 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, Ray Shinn, Kris Enneking, Steve Bennett, Mike Stallbaumer, and Jim Mitchell. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, Tyson McGreer, Tom Saitta, Cheryl Holthaus, Beau Burkitt, Jerry & Fern Odum, Russ Deters, Teresa Holthaus, Alan & Beth Niehues, Tim Holthaus, Dari Hilbert, Pam Haug, Cindy Jones, AJ Heinen, Chad Jones, and Michele Spring.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. Jim Mitchell, Mike Stallbaumer, Ray Shinn, Joe Schmelzle, and Kris Enneking voted yes. Steve Bennett abstained due to his absence at the October 16th meeting. Motion carried.

Julie Kuckelman spoke in public comment on behalf of the baseball association and concerns on losing a baseball field.

Beth Niehues spoke in public comment on concerns of losing green space, safety, and transparency.

Tim Holthaus spoke in public comment on concerns of losing a ball field and asking for numbers/justification for backup generation.

Jerry Odum spoke in public comment asking if substation/generation could be considered at a different location.

Dari Hilbert spoke in public comment on concerns of transparency, safety, and losing ball field.

Beau Burkitt spoke in public comment on behalf of the softball association and concerns of losing a softball field.

Fern Odum spoke in public comment stating many kids meet up and play ball during the day on Jaycee Field.

Mayor Mitchell stated that he appreciated everyone taking time to come in.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1481. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1448 An Ordinance Amending in Part Portions of the Current Code of the City of Seneca, Kansas, Regulating Utilities and Services within the City of Seneca, Kansas; and Repealing any Conflicting Ordinances or Resolutions regarding tap fees. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Tyson McGreer & Tom Saitta with KMEA were present to answer any questions during the generalized discussion of the projected substation/generation future needs.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the contract for sludge removal with Advanced Microbial Solutions, LLC with the change from payment by ACH to check. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried. This is a pay on performance contract with a max payout of \$471,972.53.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that we have three individuals eligible for service awards this year. He plans to issue Visa Gift Cards to these individuals in values comparable to what the league gift cards used to be again this year. Steve also plans on issuing chamber gift certificates to employees and governing bodies.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he would like to have a decision made by the end of 2024 on utility rates. For the future water and electrical projects.

Ray Shinn announced that sales tax received for October was \$134,986.07.

At 9:05 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel until 9:15 p.m. to include the governing body, and Steve Brooks with possible action to be taken. 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.

Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to approve the hire of Spencer Whetstone as Apprentice Lineman at the rate of \$20.70. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. 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 9:17 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk