

January 2, 2025

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session January 2, 2025 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, and Jim Mitchell. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, Doug Berkley, Roy Winkler, and Michele Spring.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 2024. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. Jim Mitchell, Steve Bennett, Ray Shinn, Joe Schmelzle, and Kris Enneking voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1485. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. Joe Schmelzle, Jim Mitchell, Steve Bennett, Ray Shinn, and Kris Enneking voted yes. Motion carried.

Mike Stallbaumer arrived at 7:34 p.m.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of Pony Express Signage through the Bureau of Land Management. This will allow 4 street signs to be placed in the City working with City Superintendent Brian Rusche. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the consideration of 2 Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses, both Snak Atak building on North Street. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 7:40 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes until 7:50 p.m. for Contractual to include the governing body, Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, and Steve Brooks with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 7:50 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 10 minutes until 8:00 p.m. for Contractual to include the governing body, Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, and Steve Brooks. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 7:55 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. No action was taken.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve part a of the consideration of new proposed water rates. The new rates will come back at the next council meeting as an Ordinance. The new rates are needed with the water budget tracking negative; to cover short lived assets; and to help cover the cost of a new water plant according to the PER work done. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. Jim Mitchell, Ray Shinn, Steve Bennett, Joe Schmelzle, and Kris Enneking voted yes. Mike Stallbaumer voted no. Motion carried.

**Inside Corporate City Limits / Residential and Business**

Base Charge includes first 2,000 gallons:	\$ 23.50
2,001 – 6,000 gallons:	\$ 3.28 / 1,000
6,001 – 10,000 gallons:	\$ \$ 3.78 / 1,000

10,001 and ABOVE: \$ 4.28 / 1,000

**Outside Corporate City Limits / Residential, Business, and Institutions**

Base Charge includes first 2,000 gallons: \$ 26.00

2,001 – 6,000 gallons: \$3.74 / 1,000

6,001 – 10,000 gallons: \$4.24 / 1,000

10,001 and ABOVE: \$ 4.74 / 1,000

**Abolish special rate:** Hospital billing practice has been to allow 0 – 90,000 gallons for a minimum billing of \$ 17.00 and then \$1.75 / 1,000 gallons in excess of 90,000 gallons used.

**Future Rates:** It was proposed that every year, following the acceptance of these rates, the rates automatically increase by 3 percent.

**Bulk Water Rates:** \$5.00 base rate for first 1,000 gallon and then \$5.00 per each 1000 gallon.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve option 2 of part b (water district water rates) of the consideration of new water rates. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**Current Rate, Contract Expired:**

0 - 2,500,000 gallons: \$ 1.61 / 1,000

2,500,000 and ABOVE: \$ 2.30 / 1,000

**Proposed Rate, With a New Contract**

**Option 1**

0 – 2,500,000 gallons: \$ 3.06 / 1,000

2,500,001 and ABOVE: \$ 3.98 / 1,000

These rates reflect the Fixed Cost of Water Production as presented in the PER, plus 15%, the market standard for wholesale suppliers. Our fixed cost is \$ 2.66 / 1,000 gallons. The rate for above 2.5 million gallons is based on the base rate plus 30%.

**Option 2**

0 – 2,500,000 gallons: \$ 3.77 / 1,000

2,500,001 gallons and above: \$ 4.90 / 1,000

These rates reflect the total cost of production as presented in the PER, plus 15%, the market standard for wholesale suppliers. Our total cost is budgeted at \$ 3.28 / 1,000 gallons. The rate for above 2.5 million gallons is based on the base rate plus 30%.

**Future Rates:** It was proposed that every year, following the acceptance of these rates, the rates will automatically increase by 3 percent.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that they are still actively engaged in discussion for an alternative site for the generation/substation.

Ray Shinn announced the sales tax received for the month of December was \$109,919.41.

At 8:25 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Land Acquisition until 8:40 p.m. to include the governing body, Luke Sunderland, and Steve Brooks with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:40 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 20 minutes until 9:00 p.m. for Land Acquisition to include the governing body, Luke Sunderland, and Steve Brooks. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:00p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried. No action was taken.

Kris Enneking made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Michele Spring  
City Clerk