

February 5, 2025

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session February 5, 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, Mike Stallbaumer, and Jim Mitchell. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, Assistant City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, Dylan Blevins, Chad Jones, Samantha Phelps, Raymond Phelps, Payden Phelps, Lori Tiller, Lacy Bergman, Serena Huerter, Kylee Bergstrom, and Michele Spring.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Samantha Phelps spoke in public comment about her concerns with food trucks and the food truck ordinance.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1487. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve Bennett made a motion to accept the recommendation of grant request from the Travel & Tourism Committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. Jim Mitchell, Ray Shinn, Steve Bennett, Mike Stallbaumer, and Joe Schmelzle voted yes. Kris Enneking abstained.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the Water Plant Loan as presented. The Ordinance will be presented at the February 19th meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the purchase from Heinen True Value for a 2025 Toro 72923 5000 Series ZMaster for a trade in price of \$7000. Two other bids were considered: Heritage Tractor for a 2025 John Deere Z 955M EFI, trade in price of \$9101.34; and Bruna Implement for a 2025 Grasshopper Model 225, trade in price \$6800, but did not meet bid specifications. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks gave an update on the Substation/Generation project. The city is currently working on a contract for the Folley Generators. Jaycee Field is currently zoned Residential and will go in front of the Planning Commission for consideration of rezone.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the Travel & Tourism Committee has recommended raising the Transient Guest Tax Rate up to 5% from the current 2%.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he has been working with the attorney on updating the Food Truck Ordinance.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the library has a tree that needs to be removed due to safety and library damage reasons. The library had Laura Phillips with K-State Research and Extension and she submitted a letter stating the tree is a threat to the library and its users.

Jim Mitchell brought up his concerns with the Dollar General building that is soon to start construction.

Ray Shinn announced the sales tax received in January was \$105,017.56.

At 8:12 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 20 minutes until 8:32 p.m. for Non-Elected Personnel to include the governing body, Luke Sunderland, Dylan Blevins, and Steve Brooks with possible action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:32 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.

At 8:32 p.m. Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client Privilege until 8:42 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 8:42 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.

Kris Enneking made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk