

August 20, 2025

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session August 20, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., in the council room, located at 531 Main Street, Seneca, Kansas. Present were Acting Mayor and Council President Kris Enneking and council members Joe Schmelzle, Ray Shinn, Steve Bennett, Jim Mitchell, and Mike Stallbaumer. Mayor Joe Mitchell was absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, Jordan Weaver, Dylan Blevins, Robert Ohlsen, Tim Heinen, Wyatt Rusche, Kyler Ganstrom, Tracy Rusche, and Michele Spring.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the amended agenda adding action item number 9. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve Bennett made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1500. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution 08202025: Integrated Resource Plan for the Western Area Power Administration. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the consideration of request for Street Closure submitted by NEK-CAP, Inc. Head Start to close ½ the block on 8th Street from Pioneer to Nemaha on Thursday, September 25th at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for Family Engagement Night, Touch a Truck. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve a \$1.00 per hour wage increase for Hunter Feldkamp and Cody Palmer for obtaining their wastewater class 1 certificate, wage to be retroactive August 4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of retirement of Duane Burdick effective August 29, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. The council expressed their thanks to Duane for 37 years with the City of Seneca. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of promotion of Brad Rohlmeier to Corporal position. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to table the consideration Skoch Park Plan. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Kyler Ganstrom presented a plan for landscaping around the Sylvester Skoch memorial plan for his Eagle Scout Project. Ray Shinn suggested that they could reach out to the extension office for shrub/tree advice. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of Eagle Scout Landscaping Project at Skoch Park contingent on the tabled action for Skoch Park Plan. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was had about allowing Phil Boeding to install curb and gutter at 7th and Merton and if the project needed engineering and who is responsible for paying for engineering. Kris Enneking stated that

she would abstain from this matter, due to conflict of interest. Jim Mitchell made a motion to allow the curb and gutter to be installed with the city paying for the engineering service. No second to the motion. Motion died. After much more discussion, Ray Shinn made a motion to table the decision on curb and gutter project. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. Ray Shinn and Joe Schmelzle voted yes. Steve Bennett, Mike Stallbaumer, and Jim Mitchell voted no. Motion denied. Council President Kris Enneking stated a decision was going to need to be made tonight and more discussion happened. Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to approve the allowance of curb and gutter to be installed by Phil Boeding at 7th and Merton with the city paying for engineering services and the fees being assessed to the tax role. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. Mike Stallbaumer, Steve Bennett, Jim Mitchell, and Ray Shinn voted yes. Joe Schmelzle voted no. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of authorization of Mayoral signature for Lot 12, Spring Creek Estates Subdivision sale. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Tim Heinen and Robert Ohlsen presented a request to take the Stutz to Minnesota for a special by invitation only car show. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the consideration of allowing the members of the Seneca Fire Department to take the Stutz out of town with the possibility of financial contribution to be decided on a later date. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the budget hearing was sent to the paper and updated the council on one small change.

At 8:33 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes until 8:43 p.m. for Attorney-Client Privilege to include the governing body, Luke Sunderland, Steve Brooks, and Tracy Rusche with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:43 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 10 minutes until 8:53 p.m. for Attorney-Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:53 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 10 minutes until 9:03 p.m. for Attorney-Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:03 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 9:03 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes until 9:13 p.m. for Attorney-Client to include the governing body, Luke Sunderland, Steve Brooks, Dylan Blevins, and Brian Rusche with possible action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:13 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go back into open session. The motion seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve a RFP for dirt work to be done at the Seneca Municipal Airport. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk