

September 3, 2025

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session September 3, 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, Steve Bennett, Jim Mitchell, and Kris Enneking. Councilmember Mike Stallbaumer was absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, Jordan Weaver, Dylan Blevins, Tom Haug, Tim Heinen, Brad & Jennifer Rohlmeier family, Bonnie Meeks, Jessica Hermes, Brenna Eilert, Heidi Wolfgang, and Michele Spring.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 20, 2025. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 7:31 p.m., Joe Schmelzle made a motion to open a public hearing for the 2026 Budget and Intent to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate public hearing. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Joe Mitchell asked if anyone would like to speak in the public hearing. No comments were made.

At 7:32 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to close the 2026 Budget and Intent to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate public hearing. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance Number 1501. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution 09032025-01: A Resolution of the City of Seneca, Kansas, to levy a property tax exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution 09032025-02: A Resolution to Grant an Exception in Accordance with Seneca City Code Section 5.20.161 to Permit the Possession and Consumption of Cereal Malt Beverages and Alcoholic Liquor during an Event to be held on City-Owned Property. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of additional insurance on the Stutz Fire Truck. The Stutz will now have full coverage for an additional \$450 for the remainder of the insurance year. 2026 Budget. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the adoption of the 2026 Budget. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. The results of the roll call vote were as follows: Joe Schmelzle – yes; Ray Shinn – yes; Steve Bennett – yes; Kris Enneking – yes; Jim Mitchell – yes; Mike Stallbaumer – no vote (absent). Motion carried.

Jessica Hermes with the Nemaha STEP Foundation presented a request of a Toddler Park project for the Seneca Community Fund. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration the Seneca Community Project of a toddler park with the understanding that a committee would be formed to help with the decision of details. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks spoke briefly about a plan for Seneca Municipal Airport. This will come back at a later meeting. The council guided Steve to join KAA (Kansas Association of Airports).

Jordan Weaver updated the council on the plan for the Sylvester Skoch Memorial at Skoch Park. Ray Shinn made a motion to table the consideration Skoch Park Plan to allow time to talk with the Skoch Family. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jordan Weaver presented the Ballfield RFP's and recommended using AHRS as the contractor over Mammoth. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve AHRS as contractor for the Ballfield project. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

3 hay bids were received for the Airport Bids. High bid was \$2050 per year for 2 years from Cole Deters. Other bids received were for \$2000 from Brandon Ohlsen and \$1450 from Roger and Jason Deters. 1 hay bid was received for the Maxwell Springs property for \$2500 per year for 2 years from Brandon Ohlsen. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the \$2050 per year bid from Cole Deters for the airport hay with contingency of possible disturbance of 1.5 acres due to work at airport; and bid for \$2500 per year bid from Brandon Ohlsen. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried. Contracts will come back at the next meeting.

Mayor Joe Mitchell and Police Chief Dylan Blevins presented Brad Rohlmeier his Corporal Badge and thanked him for his service. City Administrator Steve Brooks also complemented him on doing the work for this promotion.

City Administrator Steve Brooks and City Superintendent Brian Rusche updated the council on the possible curb and gutter project at 7th and Merton Street. Steve Brooks also announced that we need to draft a policy to cover situations as such. Phil Boeding's decision was to not proceed with his project at this time.

Ray Shinn announced the sales tax received in August was in amount of \$106,902.07.

Kris Enneking made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk