

November 5, 2025

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session November 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, Jim Mitchell, Mike Stallbaumer, Kris Enneking, and Steve Bennett. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Jacee Corby, Jay Herrmann, Eric Stallbaumer, Jordan Weaver, Brian Rusche, Heidi Wolfgang, and Michele Spring.

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried. Consent agenda items:

1. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held October 15, 2025.
2. Appropriation Ordinance Number 1505

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve Ordinance 1458: An Ordinance Amending the Current Code of the City of Seneca, Kansas to Establish the Departments of Parks and Recreation under the Authority of the City of Seneca, Kansas; and, Repealing any Conflicting Ordinances or Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried. This ordinance will allow the City to move forward with the building of a parks and recreation board. Since approved we will have Park & Rec By-laws; Establishment of selection committee for said board; and an application for board at the next meeting.

Old Business:

Much discussion was had over the different possibilities associated with the new ballfield project. Many opinions were stated over the differences between a turf vs. skinned field. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the preference of a turf field that is approximately \$300,000 more than the dirt field option. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. Jim Mitchell, Ray Shinn, Mike Stallbaumer, and Kris Enneking voted yes. Steve Bennett and Joe Schmelzle voted no. Motion carried.

Mike Stallbumer made a motion to approve the request of reducing the wall height of the backstop from 36" to 24" and extending the netting. The motion was seconded by Joe Schmelzle. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the change to cantilever dugout. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

The council unanimously approved to hold for a decision to be made on the Bullpen. The fencing will be the standard fencing that was proposed. A decision on the lighting will be at the next council meeting. The scoreboard will be moved for repurpose from Jaycee Field to be installed by the city. The current bleachers from Jaycee Field will also be repurposed and moved to the new field.

Other items discussed that the council felt were a want not a need were a storage shed, batter's eye, and a PA system.

New Business:

Mike Stallbaumer made a motion to approve the consideration of the resignation of Jordan Weaver as Parks and Recreation Director. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Schmelzle made a motion to approve the consideration of hire Nick Honeyman as Public Works Maintenance Worker at \$18.70 per hour, in accordance with the City's current pay plan. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he and Dylan went to look at patrol vehicles that council approved to purchase at last meeting for \$31,900. They found a much nicer vehicle that was an additional \$1775. Steve called the Mayor and they decided to purchase the nicer vehicle for \$33,675. The difference in price was within the City Administrators spend authority.

Ray Shinn announced that sales tax received in October was in amount of \$140,947.77.

At 8:44 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes until 8:59 p.m. for contractual to include the governing body, Steve, and Luke with possible action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:59 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. No action taken.

At 9:00 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes until 9:10 p.m. for non-elected personnel to include the governing body, Steve, and Luke with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:10 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 15 minutes until 9:25 p.m. for non-elected personnel to include the governing body, Steve, and Luke with no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes.

At 9:25 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 9:26 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk