

May 20, 2026

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session May 20, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., in the council room, located at 531 Main Street, Seneca, Kansas. Present were Mayor Joe Mitchell and council members Jim Mitchell, Mike Stallbaumer, Steve Bennett, Kris Enneking, and Jacee Corby. Ray Shinn was absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Brian Rusche, Andrea Beyer, Kim Linck, and Michele Spring.

Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Jacee Corby. All voted yes. Motion carried. Consent agenda items:

1. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held May 6, 2026.
2. Appropriation Ordinance Number 1518

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve Ordinance 1462: An Ordinance amending Ordinance #1371 and amending the Seneca Zoning Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Kansas, as recommended by the Seneca Planning Commission. This Ordinance addresses the use of Storage Containers for Offices or Storage. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

New Business:

Kim Linck with Varney & Associates presented their finding of a clean 2025 audit. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of the 2025 audit from Varney and Associates. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Brian Rusche presented 3 options for Street Sweeper Rebuild. Option 1 was replacing all parts needed with no warranty on any of the work for \$13,137.42, to get 2-3 more years out of the sweeper. Option 2 was replacing the whole conveyor structure with a prebuilt whole drop-in unit with all parts warranted for a year for \$30,474.33, to get 10 more years. Option 3 is replacing the machine with a new machine for \$300,800. Jacee Corby made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of Brian's recommendation of option 2 at the cost of \$30,474.33. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he and Luke are reviewing the new Interconnect Standards. An updated ordinance that is dictated by State Statue will come in front of the governing body at a later date.

City Administrator Steve Brooks provided an update on the Electrical Project. The city's capacity contracts for June 1, 2026 to June 1, 2027 will go from the current \$2.25 to \$5.00/Megawatt. We will see some relief from the increase in cost once the Ninnescah Flats Solar Project comes on line. The last update we had indicated that relief could come anywhere from early March 2027 to late July 2027.

City Administrator Steve Brooks and City Superintendent Brian Rusche met with Tyson McGreer and Tom Saitta from KMEA and Mike Schmaderer of Midstates to discuss timelines and project details. The target dates are:

- July 15, KMEA Midstates will come before the governing body and present a breakout of items necessary to purchase for the project and seek authorization to start the bid submittal process.

- Spring 2027, Break Ground
- September 2027, anticipated delivery of the 3 generators
- June 2028, anticipated completion date of the entire project, the substation and generation

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he will put together a RFQ for a later council meeting to select a Financial Advisor. This will help determining whether the city should bond the project or to use KMEA to bond the project and just pay payments to them.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that he met with AHRS. They can not turn the field and will put a sidewalk on the west side. There will be a change with the netting, but the cost should be covered by the contract contingency.

At 8:02 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to move the city council into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss a potential candidate for the Park and Recreation Director and a Seasonal Help position pursuant to the nonelected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) to include the governing body and Steve with possible action. The open meeting will resume in the city council chambers at 8:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:12 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session for 10 minutes, until 8:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:22 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.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to hire Lori Gray as Park & Recreation Director at the rate of \$25.00 per hour starting in August 2026. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jacee Corby made a motion to hire Loren Heideman as Seasonal Help at the rate of \$13.50 per hour starting immediately. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jacee Corby made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Michele Spring  
City Clerk