

July 1, 2026

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session July 1, 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, Ray Shinn, Jacee Corby, Steve Bennett, and Kris Enneking. Mike Stallbaumer was absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, City Attorney Martin Mishler, Brian Rusche, and Michele Spring.

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

1. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held June 17, 2026.
2. Appropriation Ordinance Number 1521

Old Business:

Jacee Corby made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2027 Ford F350 Crew Cab from Honeyman Ford, contingent on the Fire Department moving the bed over from the old truck or purchasing the new bed if needed. This will be to replace Fire Truck Number 4, a 2003 Chevy Fire Truck that is aged and starting to need many repairs. City Administrator Steve Brooks had a conversation with 4 townships about the purchase. The truck that Nemaha Valley Motors bid was sold prior to the July 1, 2026 meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Jacee Corby made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of Food Trucks allowance during the Nemaha County Free Fair on July 24th through July 27th. The Fair Board has been provided with retailer's sales tax registration certificate, liability of insurance and their model unit license. The food trucks will be in the Northridge Church parking lot. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Bruce Hermesch respectfully declined the reappointment as board member of the Seneca Free Library.

Brian Rusche presented a list of Curb and Gutter work for Summer 2026. Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of Curb and Gutter List for 2026. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of Brian Rusche's recommendation of the purchase of a Caterpillar 420 backhoe from Foley Equipment for \$96,265. This machine is built and ready for delivery and has a 6-speed auto transmission with 1-year unlimited HR, premier 7 year or 1500 HR with travel, ultimate 1500 HR CVA with travel. Payment for this backhoe will come out of the electric, water, street, and sewer funds. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried. The other bids received for a backhoe were from: Murphy Tractor & Equipment for a John Deere 320P for \$104,560; Equipment Share for a Case 580 SN for \$119,760.40; Foley Equipment for a Caterpillar 420 4 speed manual transmission with 1-year unlimited HR, premier 7 year or 1500 HR with travel, ultimate 1500 HR CVA with travel for \$91,400; and Foley Equipment for a Caterpillar 420 4 speed manual transmission with 12 month unlimited standard, no extended warranty, and no CVA for \$86,285.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of the purchase of AMI Metering from Core and Main for \$113,222.25 with annual fees after the initial year. The motion was seconded

by Jacee Corby. All voted yes. Motion carried. The city has also taken bids for load control but decided to discontinue this service when the contract runs out.

Jacee Corby made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of the purchase of Outifi for \$800 per month with an installation fee of \$3000. Outifi will reduce outage calls with A.I. call handling, be able to notify residents of outages if customers sign up for it, and track phone calls/text messages that come in. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks updated the council with an update of Fire Protection Fees.

Ray Shinn announced that sales tax received in June 2026 was in the amount of \$115,577.37.

At 8:19 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss a potential candidate for the electric department position pursuant to the nonelected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) to include the governing body and Steve. The open meeting will resume in the city council chambers at 8:24 p.m. with possible action. The motion was seconded by Jacee Corby. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:24 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to retract the employment offer to Gary McGuire. The motion was seconded by Jacee Corby. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:25 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to recess into executive session pursuant to the attorney client exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) to include the governing body, Martin, and Steve. The open meeting will resume in the city council chambers at 8:45 p.m. with possible action. The motion was seconded by Jacee Corby. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:45 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Jacee Corby. All voted yes. Motion carried. No action was taken.

Jacee Corby made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk