

July 15, 2026

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session July 15, 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, Ray Shinn, Jacee Corby, Steve Bennett, and Kris Enneking. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Tyson McGreer, Tom Saitta, James Remley, Mike Schmaderer, Kylee Bergstrom, Dylan Blevins, Devin O'Neil, Brian Rusche, and Michele Spring.

Kris Enneking 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 July 1, 2026.
2. Appropriation Ordinance Number 1522

Kylee Bergstrom with Seneca Area Chamber and Downtown Impact spoke in public comment to gauge the interest of a mural to be professionally painted on the north side of city hall and the Stutz Museum. She asked to be sure there was interest before applying for grants and getting prices. Mayor Joe Mitchell stated that he appreciates anyone that would like to move Seneca forward and stated that they would entertain her ideas with the condition of a professional artist doing the work.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1464: An Ordinance Amending in Part Portions of the Current Code of the City of Seneca, Kansas, Regulating Utilities and Services within the City of Seneca, Kansas; and, Repealing any conflicting Ordinances or Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried. This will allow the water rate to be raised by 3% as stated in Ordinance 1450 passed last year.

#### Old Business:

KMEA representative Mike Schmaderer presented items that would go out for bids for the substation/generation project such as transformers, conduit, fencing, concrete, and breakers. Smaller items will be purchased without going out for bid. KMEA representative Tyson McGreer explained bonding options.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of amending the Owner-Engineer Agreement to allow the additional engineering work necessary to add high-service pumps to the water plant. This will be an additional \$25,000 to the original scope of work. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried.

#### New Business:

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of approval of Street Closure request from St. Ann's Altar Society and Sts. Peter and Paul Church of 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Pioneer Street to Elk Street and Elk Street from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street from 7:00 a.m. Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> through Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>; and to make one way streets of Elk Street from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Street and one way street of 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Elk to Amador Street from 12:00 p.m. (noon) through 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 6 for their annual church picnic. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jacee Corby made a motion to approve the consideration of pay rate change of Patrolman, Devin O'Neil to \$23.00 per hour. Devin graduated from the Police Academy on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, qualifying him for the

patrolmen post academy wage. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the consideration of selling the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) for WAPA hydro. Based on conversation with KMEA and the little value that the REC's provide, Steve suggested the council sell REC's for the WAPA hydro. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jacee Corby made a motion to approve the updated Fire Protection Fee's to the townships through 2030. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. City Administrator Steve Brooks recommended no increase in fire protection fee's through 2030.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate, while maintaining the mill levy consistent with the past budgets. We received the RNR from the county of 31.622 with City's being 32.538. The motion was seconded by Jacee Corby. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the consideration of appointments of Travis Emmons as Fire Chief; Dylan Blevins as Police Chief; Scott Anson as Judge; Michele Spring as City Clerk. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve Bennett made a motion to approve a cost-of-living adjustment for employees for the year 2027 contingent that everyone gets the same adjustment. This amount will be based on what the Social Security Administration comes out with in October. The amount will be averaged from all employee's wages to give all the employees the same adjustment. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced the tentative schedule budget timeline as:

- a. July 15, 2026 – Council vote on exceeding RNR (or not)
- b. July 16, 2026 – take RNR intent to county before July 20<sup>th</sup> deadline
- c. August 5, 2026 –budget workshop with department heads
  1. Regularly scheduled Council Meeting, department heads will present to the council the accomplishments of the past year and the look ahead for 2027 and how the budget relates to those endeavors.
- d. August 19, 2026 – Council last look at budget
- e. August 28, 2026 (or earlier) - send budget to paper
- f. September 2 – Publish budget in local newspaper
- g. September 16, 2026 – Budget Hearing/RNR and Adoption
- h. September 17, 2026 – take copy of budget to county before September 20<sup>th</sup> deadline

At 8:35 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, Luke, 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 Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:45 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session until 8:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:51 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session until 8:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:58 p.m., Jim Mitchell made a motion to extend executive session until 9:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 9:10 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.

Jacee Corby made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Michele Spring  
City Clerk