

September 2, 2026

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session September 2, 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, Steve Bennett, and Kris Enneking. Jacee Corby was absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Brooks, City Attorney Luke Sunderland, Lori Gray, Dylan Blevins, Kylee Bergstrom, Tracy Rusche, and Michele Spring.

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

1. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held August 19, 2026.
2. Appropriation Ordinance Number 1525

Kris Enneking made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1467: An Ordinance Adopting Updated Behind the Meter Policy & Procedures for Customer-Owned Renewable Energy Resources and Interconnection Standards for Parallel Installation and Operation of Customer-Owned Electric Generating Facilities. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09022026: A Resolution to Grant an Exception in Accordance with Seneca City Code Section 5.20.161 to Permit the Sale, Possession, and Consumption of Cereal Malt Beverages during an event to be held on City-Owned Property. This is the first step for Kylee (Seneca Area Chamber) to apply for a Special Event CMB for Oktoberfest to be held on Main Street. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

New Business:

Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the consideration of Street Closure request from Seneca Area Chamber & Downtown Impact to close Main Street from 5th Street to 6th Street on October 10, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.; and Main Street from 3rd Street to 4th Street from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (same date) for Oktoberfest. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration for reappointment of Galen Niehues and Brad Lueger to the Seneca Planning Commission term to expire September 2029. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried. Bruce Hermes has elected not to seek reappointment leaving a vacancy on the board for a member that lives in City-Limits, and an advertisement has been circulated to find a new member.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the consideration of contract for airport lease with Heinen Bros. Agra Service. The motion was seconded by Kris Enneking. All voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the new softball/baseball field is progressing nicely. The grade has been established in preparation of underdrain installation, base installation, and then turf installation. Also in conversation with AHRS was discussion of some low spots in the outfield. AHRS representative Eric Stallbaumer has explained to Steve his thoughts on outfield grading and seeding. It appears the ballfield is still on track for a fall finish as planned.

City Administrator Steve Brooks announced that the budget is finished. The mill levy of 32.538 has been established for 2027 budget year. The budget is a zero-base budget with full exposure of the city's funds. Some highlights to the budget are:

General Fund: Aged city hall; filling open Police Department positions; park improvements

Library: slight increase

Bond & Interest: covering the 2013A GO Bond

Pool Debt: interim financing revolving fund for water plant project

Water: new water plant and upgrade reserves

Electric: substation

Ray Shinn announced that the sales tax received for August 2026 was \$124,088.65.

At 7:49 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, Dylan, Tracy, Lori, and Steve. The open meeting will resume in the city council chambers at 7:59 p.m. with possible action. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 7:59 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.

At 8:00 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, Dylan, and Steve. The open meeting will resume in the city council chambers at 8:10 p.m. with possible action. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:10 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.

At 8:10 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 8:20 p.m. with possible action. The motion was seconded by Mike Stallbaumer. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 8:20 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 8:22 p.m.

Michele Spring
City Clerk