

City of Seneca Council Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023

Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Monday, January 9, 2023 at City Hall by Mayor Pro Tem Brad Storrs. Members present: Skyler Jones, Jamie Lankford, Denny Sikes and Derinda Malone. Dustin Housley was not present.

DEPARTMENTS:

Police Department:

Police Chief Altic reported his 2022 yearend status report shows everything that went through Seneca Municipal Court. He added the stats reflect warrants, arrests and other felonies. Police Chief Altic said the DWI's, DWS's and DWR's go to Newton County. Police Chief Altic stated most warrants are not from our area but individuals that participate in the entertainment in our area.

Police Chief Altic reported the Police Department Interior Renovation Project is winding down. He added doors and trim have been ordered and will finish the project.

Police Chief Altic stated the State of Missouri is dealing with changes since the law legalizing marijuana passed. He said drug dogs are not trained to identify marijuana as they are meth. Police Chief Altic explained currently an individual that refuses a BA test can have their license taken away for a year but marijuana stays in a person's system. He said Seneca PD will be hosting training at the end of this month. Police Chief Altic said it will be scheduled at the new fire station training room and will be an eight-hour seminar. Mayor Pro Tem B. Storrs stated retail marijuana will be available mid-February as a result of the law passing.

Police Chief Altic stated he hired Arthur Scribner who graduated 2nd in the academy class. He said Officer A. Scribner is riding and getting training now.

Police Chief Altic said a year ago communication was improved with the Tribal Police. He added the radio equipment has been beneficial and very nice.

Public Works:

Public Works Wastewater Operator Paul Carver reported the following:

- 2 water main breaks were repaired.
- 1 service connection has been done.
- 1 sewer call was done.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Tyler Crow reported the Gateway Fire Chief's meeting will be hosted by the Seneca Volunteer Fire Department on February 9, 2023. He added Fire Chiefs from all over the state will be attending. Fire Chief Crow said they will alternate years with the District Fire Department to host the meeting. He added he expects between 25 and 50 members to attend.

Fire Chief Crow stated he will be sending 8 firefighters to Reddings Mill for car crash training.

Fire Chief Crow reported they received 17 new air packs from the Wyandotte Tribe each having a 30-year warranty. He added 34 bottles and 17 masks with cameras were donated as well. Fire Chief Crow said the firemen are training with the new equipment now. He added MSA has a grant available that may cover the cost of the station to fill the bottles rather than taking them to Reddings Mill fire station. Fire Chief Crow said a small filling station will cost approximately \$30,000.

VISITORS:

Geneva Fisher addressed the City Council about her house flooding from a frozen water pipe while she was out of town for the Christmas holiday. She said she is not able to stay in the house while remediation crews are there and the HVAC system has water in it also. Ms. Fisher said she has been told the water leak is over 80,000 gallons of water and asked the City Council if she could be granted a water adjustment on the billing. Mayor Pro Tem B. Storrs said the city will allow Ms. Fisher to make payments to catch up her bill but at this time will now adjust her bill as a result of the frozen water line break. J. Lankford encourage Ms. Fisher to look extensively at her insurance policy and see if financial assistance is there for the water leak. He offered his help to go through her policy with her and it was recommended that Ms. Fisher report back to the City Council when she has more information about her coverage. Ms. Fisher stated the cleaning and repairs are estimated to take several months and she isn't able to stay there without any heat.

Carrie Campbell, HSTCC Director attended the meeting and addressed the City Council members on the community planning and grants HSTCC assists with. Ms. Campbell explained several municipal infrastructure projects that have been awarded as a result of the HSTCC grant applications. She encouraged everyone to consider projects that would benefit our community and how the HSTCC group would like to help. Discussion followed with questions and answers from Ms. Campbell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the December 12, 2022 Minutes by S. Jones; seconded by D. Sykes. All members voted yea; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

A motion was made to approve the Bills Paid in the amount of \$115,688.74 by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. All members voted yea; motion carried.

WATER COLLECTION ADJUSTMENTS:

A motion was made to approve the December 2022 water collection adjustments by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. All members voted yea; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review FEMA Proposed Mapping Amendments:

Police Chief Altic reviewed the new mapping for the City of Seneca regarding the expansion of the floodway. He added every 10 years FEMA/SEMA revise the maps to including the properties at risk and enforce floodplain insurance for individuals having a mortgage. Police Chief Altic explained the floodplain insurance is mandatory and even though some of the residents have not had to pay it in the past, it will be required by the lending institutions. He reviewed causes and effects that were discussed at the recent meeting with the FEMA representatives. Police Chief Altic also expressed the Lost Creek Watershed needs to be accountable for the water retention they currently have that will not allow any more water retention during a heavy rain. He said additional water will overflow causing problems and the retention dams need repairs as well. Discussion followed that water quality is poor due to the water retention and lack of normal water flow. Police Chief Altic reported that not having the consent and support to remove creek gravel under the local bridges creates problems with 15 feet of gravel from the creek bed needing removed to allow better water flow and reduce flooding risks. He stated we have 45 days to have public comments and appeal the mapping amendments. Mayor Pro Tem B. Storrs encouraged the City Council to be proactive and file an appeal. He added we need to have conversations with members of the Lost Creek Watershed Committee and see what can be done to help reduce our risk of flooding. Mayor Pro Tem B. Storrs stated February 3, 2023 is the cutoff.

Agenda/Questions for Missouri American Water meeting February 27, 2023:

Mayor Pro Tem B. Storrs explained he wants data from Nathan, the representative from Missouri American Water concerning:

- Buyouts over the last 5 years.
- Acquisitions and history 6 years prior and 6 years after acquisitions.
- Pricing of water only, wastewater only and water and wastewater together.
- Response times for repairs, etc.
- Conversations with communities that have the Missouri American Water service and their opinions.

Mayor Pro Tem B. Storrs said he wants a list of questions compiled for Missouri American Water and also impromptu questions for discussion at the February 27, 2023 meeting at City Hall.

A motion was made to go into Closed Session at 8:42 p.m. pursuant to Section 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting particular employees by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. The following vote was recorded and roll was called. All members S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Sikes, yea and D. Malone, yea; motion carried.

Closed Session: Members present: Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Storrs, Councilman S. Jones, Councilman J. Lankford, Councilman D. Sikes; Councilman D. Malone; Police Chief James Altic and C. Hutchings, City Clerk.

A motion was made to approve a \$1.20/hour (8%) pay increase for all full time city employees and Police Officers to help compensate for the cost of living increase by S. Jones; seconded by D. Sikes. The following vote was recorded. Roll was called as follows: all members Councilman S. Jones, yea; Councilman J. Lankford, yea; Councilman D. Sikes, yea and Councilman D. Malone., yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to return to Open Session at 9:14 by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. The following vote was recorded and roll was called. All members Councilman S. Jones, yea; Councilman J. Lankford, yea; Councilman D. Sikes, yea and Councilman D. Malone, yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones at 9:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

CYNDY HUTCHINGS
City Clerk

BRAD STORRS
Mayor Pro Tem