

City of Seneca Public Hearing - 2024 Tax Levy August 12, 2024

The City of Seneca held a Public Hearing, Monday, August 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall where citizens could be heard on the 2024 Tax Levy.

Mayor Brad Storrs called the 2024 Tax Levy Public Hearing to order.

No objections were brought to the hearing.

City of Seneca Council Meeting Minutes August 12, 2024

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m., Monday, August 12, 2024, at City Hall by Mayor Pro Tem Brad Storrs. Members present: Ryan Schauer, Jamie Lankford, Sheila Whitehead, Skyler Jones and Derinda Malone.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: July 8, 2024

Approval of Bills: \$68,947.60

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. All members voted yea; motion carried.

DEPARTMENTS:

Police Department:

Police Chief Altic reported an officer resigned and a new hire, Officer Carter Hands started yesterday.

Police Chief Altic said the Police Department ordered 7 radios. He said better communication is needed with the school. Police Chief Altic said the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee will be able to communicate as well and use our channels.

Police Chief Altic stated Back to School training is going on this week at the school.

Police Chief Altic reported the recent election has a new Newton County Sheriff taking office. He said there will be a transitional period to get through.

Police Chief Altic stated he attended the recent Police Chief's Association meeting and a major topic was voter fraud reporting.

Police Chief Altic said 4 patrol vehicles have had alternator problems in one month. He said it is due to the extreme heat and the vehicles are being repaired at Ivey's Service Center.

Police Chief Altic said the PD and Animal Control have been working well together. He reported we need to be aggressive with these continual animal abuse charges and added a recent abuse situation involved horrific starvation of dogs.

Police Chief Altic explained the Code Enforcement Officer is dealing with a lot of issues finding the owners of the property owners to resolve nuisance violations. He said the new online system will help.

Police Chief Altic said as a result of the meeting on July 22, 2024 for SB05 and phone calls, Senator Jill Carter's office and Representative Lane Roberts office have been made aware of SB05 problems.

Police Chief Altic stated Officer Arthur Scribner at school in St. Louis for Child Investigation training.

Public Works:

Public Works Supervisor Jerrod Eidson was not present. Mayor Storrs reported the following:

- 2 water leaks were repaired.
- 1 sewer repair was done.
- APAC will be starting the Street Overlay Project on west Oneida Street next week.
- The City Park restrooms have had the exterior wings cut and removed.
- The wastewater treatment plant will be having electrical work done on the east bridge to prevent pump failures.
- A big “shout out” to the summer mowers for their great work this summer.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Crow was not present. Mayor Storrs reported the following:

- 32 Calls for service in July. (3 fire, 7 traffic and 22 medical calls)
- Several training sessions are coming up.
- Fire Chief Crow will be reaching out to Seneca Schools for fire station tours and activities with the students.

VISITORS:

Malory Kean was not present. She communicated to Police Chief J. Altic the Back to School Car Bash will be held on the school parking lot instead of the City Park.

WATER COLLECTION ADJUSTMENTS:

A motion was made to approve the first three July 2024 Water Collection Adjustments by S. Jones; seconded by R. Schauer. All members voted yea; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor B. Storrs read a letter about the upcoming Seneca Hay Auction scheduled September 7, 2024 at the Seneca Rodeo Grounds.

OLD BUSINESS:

FEMA/SEMA Update:

Mayor B. Storrs said FEMA reviewed the 3 floods in the past 10 years and expanded the Seneca floodplain bringing in 186 more homes. He added we filed an appeal. Unfortunately, they did not look at anything we sent. Mayor B. Storrs said the July 2, 2024 FEMA meeting had impressive representation from Senator Jill Carter, Representatives Dirk Deaton and Lane Roberts, Seneca School Board, Seneca City Council, Eastern Shawnee Tribal representatives, Lost Creek Watershed representatives and other local agencies and the public. Mayor B. Storrs stated SEMA is working with contractors for infrastructure upgrades. He added it’s great news for our community although we don’t know what we’re getting but a plan is in place to move forward at no expense to the City.

Senate House Bill 005 Review:

Mayor B. Storrs said Senator Jill Carter and Representative Lane Roberts set up a meeting for SB05 revisions. He added we will have legal drafts in a few weeks. Police Chief J. Altic said the recent meeting on July 22, 2024 had representation from area communities including judges, city administrators, court clerks and officers to identify changes needed in SB05 legislation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve 2024 Tax Rate Levy:

A motion was made to approve the 2024 City of Seneca Tax Levy of .4930 (General .4443, Park .0487) by R. Schauer; seconded by D. Malone. All members voted yea; motion carried.

Bill 2024-01: Ordinance 130:130 – Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest:

A motion was made to request the First Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2024-01: Ordinance 130.030 – Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. Roll was called: R. Schauer, yea; J. Lankford, yea; S. Whitehead, yea; S. Jones, yea and D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

Mayor Brad Storrs conducted the First Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2024-01: Ordinance 130.030 – Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest.

A motion was made to accept the First Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2024-01: Ordinance 130.030 – Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. Roll was called: R. Schauer, yea; J. Lankford, yea; S. Whitehead, yea; S. Jones, yea and D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to request the Second Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2024-01: Ordinance 130.030 – Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. Roll was called: R. Schauer, yea; J. Lankford, yea; S. Whitehead, yea; S. Jones, yea and D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

Mayor Brad Storrs conducted the Second Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2024-01: Ordinance 130.030 – Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest.

A motion was made to accept the Second Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2024-01: Ordinance 130.030 – Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. Roll was called: R. Schauer, yea; J. Lankford, yea; S. Whitehead, yea; S. Jones, yea and D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to go into Closed Session at 7:40 p.m. pursuant to Section 610.021; Section 610.022: (1) Legal Actions by S. Jones; seconded by R. Schauer. Roll was called: Councilman R. Schauer, yea; Councilman J. Lankford, yea; Councilman S. Whitehead, yea; Councilman S. Jones, yea and Councilman D. Malone, yea; motion carried.

Closed Session: Members present: Mayor B. Storrs, Councilman R. Schauer, Councilman J. Lankford, Councilman S. Whitehead, Councilman S. Jones, Councilman D. Malone, Police Chief J. Altic and C. Hutchings, City Clerk.

Mayor B. Storrs stated Lost Creek Wireless, LLC, Clayton Driskell is done removing equipment and compliant with Liberty Electric requirements. Mayor B. Storrs said Clayton Driskell needs to get his own electric meter with a deadline.

A motion was made to have the City Attorney provide a letter to Lost Creek Wireless, LLC, Clayton Driskell allowing him 5 business days to contact Liberty Electric and confirm his request for an electric service meter with 30 calendar days to have his new electric meter/service installed for the Lost Creek Wireless equipment instead of the City’s service meter at the Well sites and if the requirements are not met, the City of Seneca will revoke the Business License for Lost Creek Wireless, LLC by D. Malone; seconded by S. Whitehead. Roll was called: Councilman R. Schauer, yea; Councilman J. Lankford, yea; Councilman S. Whitehead, yea; Councilman S. Jones, yea and Councilman D. Malone, yea; motion carried.

Mayor B. Storrs stated a long term lease of the City’s property on the east side of the Liberty sub-station on Oneida Street would allow Liberty Electric to have equipment onsite for faster recovery during power outages. He added they would be allowed to have a fence for storing the equipment to service Seneca.

A motion was made to approve Diane Carter, the attorney with Liberty Electric draft a 25 year lease for \$1.00/year with the City’s connecting Oneida Street property, east of the power sub-station with an option to renew by D. Malone; seconded by J. Lankford. Roll was called: Councilman R. Schauer, yea; Councilman J. Lankford, yea; Councilman S. Whitehead, yea; Councilman S. Jones, yea and Councilman D. Malone, yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to return to Open Session at 8:18 p.m. by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. The following vote was recorded. Roll was called: Councilman R. Schauer, yea; Councilman J. Lankford, yea; Councilman S. Whitehead, yea; Councilman S. Jones, yea and Councilman D. Malone, yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

CYNDY HUTCHINGS
City Clerk

BRAD STORRS
Mayor

