

City of Seneca Council Meeting Minutes July 8, 2024

Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 8, 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: June 10, 2024

Approval of Bills: \$77,257.93

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

DEPARTMENTS:

Police Department:

Police Chief Altic reported the 4th of July activities went well.

Police Chief Altic stated officers have been busy going to the Children's Center in Joplin working child crime cases.

Police Chief Altic reported officers were in a stolen car pursuit and the individual wrecked the car at Doug's Body Works.

Police Chief Altic said the July 2, 2024 SEMA/FEMA meeting went well.

Police Chief Altic said a meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2024 for Senate Bill 05 with Senator Jill Carter.

Police Chief Altic reported the police department is working on Code Violations. He added it's difficult to locate the property owners to clean up their property. Police Chief Altic said an online system will be available that will help with locating individuals that own these properties and will be helpful to find people. He added the system will provide criminal background information, paid tax information, bills, etc. Police Chief Altic said this will be very beneficial and will be available to every officer for a minimal monthly rate.

Public Works:

Public Works Supervisor Jerrod Eidson reported the following:

- 5 water leaks were repaired.
- APAC will be starting the Street Overlay Project in 2 to 3 weeks.
- The City Park looked good and was cleaned up well after the 4th of July activities.

Councilman D. Malone gave a "shout out" that Seneca Main Street looked awesome after Public Works' employees and the firemen cleaned and painted the street. She said "thank you".

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Crow reported they had 30 calls last month.

Fire Chief Crow stated everything went well for the 4th of July activities.

Fire Chief Crow said all of the vehicles are in service.

Mayor Brad Storrs inquired if the Seneca Fire Department is going to schedule school kids to come tour the new fire station. Fire Chief Crow said they are reaching out to the school to get things scheduled for the kids.

VISITORS:

Marshall Decker, Decker and DeGood – 2023 Financial Audit Review:

Marshall Decker, City Auditor from Decker and DeGood presented the 2023 Financial Audit to the City Council members. Marshall Decker reported there were no findings in the audit and the city's finances are in good standing meeting all requirements.

WATER COLLECTION ADJUSTMENTS:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Senate House Bill 005:

Mayor B. Storrs reviewed the concerns that SB05 results in increasing uncollectable court debt and the need to restructure courts. He reviewed municipal operations, police officers, the judge and court clerk are all impacted by the increase in uncollectable court debt and courts not having any authority to enforce non-payment of charges and fines. Mayor B. Storrs said a meeting is coming up with State Representative Lane Roberts about the issue.

FEMA/SEMA:

Mayor B. Storrs reviewed the topics of the July 2, 2024 FEMA/SEMA meeting held in Seneca having 30 to 35 people attending. He stated the revised floodplain mapping is going to expand and pull in nearly 200 additional homes in Seneca. In review he said RTTA grant project funding may be available to help get work done for corrective mapping. Mayor B. Storrs also said they changed the calculation for water flow with an increase. He stated no changes at all with the mapping would be a win for Seneca.

NEW BUSINESS:

Liquor Licenses: Dollar General and OM C Stores Inc. (Big Daddy's):

A motion was made to approve the liquor license renewals for Dollar General and OM C Stores Inc. (Big Daddy's) by R. Schauer; seconded by D. Malone. 4 members voted yea; 1 abstained (Councilman J. Lankford); motion carried.

Council Review of Old Swimming Pool and Location:

Mayor B. Storrs discussed options to either drill holes to have the city pool drain or fill it in and cap it with concrete or asphalt. Discussion followed. No action taken.

Park Restroom Vandalism:

Councilman S. Jones asked if the park restrooms can have the block side wings taken down due to the repeated vandalism. Public Works Supervisor J. Edison said they can take the walls down.

A motion was made to have Public Works remove the block wings at the park restrooms by S. Jones; seconded by S. Whitehead. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to go into Closed Session at 7:45 p.m. pursuant to Section 610.021; Section 610.022: (2) Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate, 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, Public Works Supervisor J. Eidson, Fire Chief T. Crow and C. Hutchings, City Clerk.

Real Estate:

Discussion followed about the H & R Block building for sale next to City Hall. No action was taken; no voting.

Letter from Cemetery Board President J. Wright:

A motion was made to accept the letter of resignation from J. Wright from membership on the Seneca Cemetery Board as Board President and committee member by D. Malone; seconded by R. Schauer. All members voted yea; motion carried.

Letter for Vacant Ward 1 Council position:

A letter of interest from Denise Ackerson to fill the open Ward 1 vacant council seat was read by Mayor B. Storrs. A motion was made to not fill the Ward 1 Council seat until candidates can file and run in the April 2025 Municipal election by D. Malone; seconded by J. Lankford. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to return to Open Session at 8:47 p.m. by S. Jones; seconded by J. Schauer. 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. Whitehead; seconded by R. Schauer at 8:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

CYNDY HUTCHINGS
City Clerk

BRAD STORRS
Mayor