

City of Seneca

Public Hearing - 2024 Tax Levy

September 9, 2024

The City of Seneca held a Public Hearing, Monday, September 9, 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

September 9, 2024

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m., Monday, September 9, 2024, at City Hall by Mayor Brad Storrs. Members present: Ryan Schauer, Jamie Lankford, Sheila Whitehead, Skyler Jones and Derinda Malone.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: August 12, 2024

Approval of Bills: \$89,757.69

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 Oversight Committee for 911 promised to revamp the Central Dispatch Center. He said they have planned to completely start over using tax money to enhance communication. Police Chief Altic said the project is estimated to take 18 months to 2 years and there will be a unified radio system.

Police Chief Altic reported new legislation is in place that running from law enforcement is a felony.

Police Chief Altic said he is working with resources from MOCIC out of Springfield.

Police Chief Altic stated the Children's Center has given Officer Scribner a great compliment on the heavy case load and his ability to handle the investigations with the children.

Police Chief Altic said he is waiting to hear if Seneca PD is awarded a Newton County Public Safety Tax grant.

Police Chief Altic reported he is fully staffed and his officers will be working some overtime hours with reimbursement provided through state public safety mini-grants.

Police Chief Altic said Shop With A Cop fund raising will kick off the first of October. He added each year Seneca PD hopes to help 80 to 100 children with Christmas.

Public Works:

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

- 2 water leaks were repaired with 3 on the list to be repaired.
- 24 loads of storm debris and brush were hauled from the City Park.
- 1 sewer repair was done.
- Public Works is busy trying to catch up on the mowing.

- APAC will be starting the Street Overlay Project on west Oneida Street tomorrow.
- A “shout out” was given to everyone that assisted the night of the storm.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Crow reported the following:

- 54 Calls for service in August with 15 being related to the storm.
- Fire Chief Crow said all the effort was awesome during the storm. He said Sonic provided food for everyone and it was greatly appreciated.
- Fire Chief Crow said he will be planning activities at the Seneca Elementary School for Fire Prevention Week, October 6, 2024 thru October 12, 2024. He said he also plans to schedule some fire station tours for students.
- Fire Chief Crow reported he is waiting to hear if Seneca Fire Department is awarded a Newton County Public Safety Tax grant.
- Fire Chief Crow said on the Bills Paid there is a payment to Fleet Pride for fire truck parts. He said that truck is the first one to go out on a call.

VISITORS:

Councilman J. Lankford introduced a new resident to Seneca, Jon Willard. J. Lankford said Mr. Willard is a retired attorney and municipal judge.

Michael Steele told D. Malone he has over 30 flags to donate to the Beautification Committee. D. Malone said thank you.

WATER COLLECTION ADJUSTMENTS:

1013 Hamilton – Water Bill Adjustment Request:

A motion was made to “Table” 1013 Hamilton – Water Bill Adjustment Request until it can be confirmed the timeframe of the water leak and whether the resident was notified by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. All members voted yea; motion carried.

July 24, 2024 – After Collection Account Balances:

A motion was made to adjust the After Collection Water Account Balances to update accounts by S. Jones; seconded by R. Schauer. All members voted yea; motion carried.

August 2024 – Water Collection Adjustments:

A motion was made to approve the August 2024 Water Collection Adjustments by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. All members voted yea; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

FEMA/SEMA Update:

Mayor Brad Storrs said a FEMA/SEMA Meeting is scheduled tomorrow at the Seneca School Administration Office at 1:00 to review floodplain mapping in Seneca. He said the public is encouraged to attend.

SB05:

Mayor Brad Storrs reviewed conflicts between SB5 requested revisions and SB754 Police Omnibus Bill.

City Park Restrooms and Swimming Pool:

S. Jones recommended the City destroy the park restrooms. He recommended filling the old pool with the restroom cinder blocks along with rock, gravel and dirt and drilling holes for drainage. Discussion followed with options to cover the fill and to review the request with Public Works Supervisor Jerrod Eidson.

A motion was made to destroy the City Park restrooms and fill and cap the swimming pool by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. All members voted yea; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 02-2024: Set 2024 Tax Levy:

A motion was made to approve Resolution 02-2024 – Set 2024 Tax Levy by D. Malone; seconded by J. Lankford. 3 members voted yea; D. Malone, J. Lankford, S. Whitehead; 2 members voted nay: S. Jones, R. Schauer. Motion carried.

DNR Requirements – Backflow Prevention Valves:

Mayor Brad Storrs explained backflow prevention valves are required in 12 commercial and school buildings. He added DNR requires these be installed and require the backflow prevention valves be inspected every year. Mayor Storrs said he will get the directives from DNR to distribute to commercial businesses.

A motion was made to go into Closed Session at 7:24 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 was served the letter from the City Attorney stating Lost Creek Wireless needed to schedule installation of an electrical meter at the City's water tower location and run independently from the city's electric service. Mayor Storrs added that C. Driskell inquired about a lease agreement and fee paid to the city for the use of the electric service at the water tower.

A motion was made to have Clayton Driskell on behalf of Lost Creek Wireless, LLC bring a contract/lease agreement to the City of Seneca for the use of electricity at the city water tower including: an indemnity clause, entire meter at his expense, any additional equipment added must be approved by the City of Seneca and the monthly fee will be a meter fee of \$35 plus \$10 a month electricity paid to the City of Seneca by S. Whitehead; seconded by S. Jones. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to return to Open Session at 8:01 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 D. Malone; seconded by S. Whitehead at 8:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

CYNDY HUTCHINGS
City Clerk

BRAD STORRS
Mayor