

# **City of Seneca**

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

### **February 13, 2023**

Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2023 at City Hall by Mayor Pro Tem Brad Storrs. Members present: Skyler Jones, Jamie Lankford, Dustin Housley and Derinda Malone. Denny Sikes was not present.

#### **DEPARTMENTS:**

##### **Police Department:**

Police Chief James Altic reported a lot of input has been coming from the community regarding the floodplain mapping amendments for the FEMA 10-year flood map. He added we have been granted an extension for appealing.

Police Chief James Altic stated the PD building addition is complete with cameras. He said they are looking for desks and starting the cleanup this week from all the drywall work and dust.

Police Chief James Altic reported Seneca PD hosted the recent "Marijuana Minutes" seminar at the new fire station to introduce new law enforcement and legislation for the recently passed marijuana law. He said 54 attended from other departments. Police Chief Altic said the seminars will be necessary to shed light on what police can and can't do. He said they will be working with the State of Missouri for information and said you can go into a dispensary and buy marijuana now.

Police Chief James Altic stated Officer C. Whitehead recently attended a DUI certification course hosted by Joplin PD.

Police Chief James Altic reviewed they have been assisting a lot of pursuits with Joplin PD and Newton County, narcotic arrests, such as fentanyl cases. He added testing for fentanyl has to be done in the Joplin Crime Lab.

Police Chief James Altic stated they are seeing increased numbers of kids at school under the influence of drugs due to gummies containing marijuana.

##### **Public Works:**

Public Works Supervisor Jerrod Eidson reported the following:

- A sewer line break at the wastewater treatment plant was repaired.
- 2 service calls were handled.
- Public Works is painting the park picnic tables and benches.
- Oklahoma DEQ is scheduled for an inspection of our wastewater treatment facility.

##### **Fire Department:**

Fire Chief Tyler Crow reported there were 32 calls last month adding they have been busy in February also.

Fire Chief T. Crow stated the Gateway Fire Chief's Meeting was here last week with an excellent attendance.

Fire Chief T. Crow said HSTCC submitted a grant application for a filling station for the air pack bottles. He added the grant is for over \$68,000.

#### **VISITORS:**

Troy Lipe addressed his concerns to the City Council about the new flood mapping amendments and asked to be provided a detailed map. T. Lipe discussed the ditches are gone due to rock and dirt settling in them. He said water disperses across his property on Walnut Street stressing there is no pitch or drainage from Highway K. T. Lipe said the water runoff from the south side of Highway K on Irvin Drive flows down also causing water being held in the railroad easement. He stated the culverts along the north and south sides of Highway K are not clear to handle the storm water. The February 24, 2023 Lost Creek Watershed Meeting was mentioned to T. Lipe.

Dave Gaylon and his wife and Carl McLaughlin were present to discuss their new business they are bringing to Seneca. Mr. Gaylon stated they are leasing the old dry cleaners building on Main Street to assemble, promote and distribute an "interactive selfie center" called Magic Mirror. Mr. Gaylon and Mr. McLaughlin stated they are experienced promoting various events in communities and would like to assist in promoting events and festivals here in Seneca. They said their new business will be called Summer Valley Entertainment and will be making "Magic Windows" for outdoor events and festivals. They stated they would like to put on a festival in Seneca as an annual event and become a part of the community. Mr.

McLaughlin stated he was a licensed pyro-tech. They said they want to make Seneca their home and operations base. They stated they would love to have an event in the Green Space once their business is started.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the January 13, 2023 Minutes by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. All members voted yea; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

A motion was made to approve the Bills Paid in the amount of \$77,713.25 by S. Jones; seconded by D. Housley. All members voted yea; motion carried.

**WATER COLLECTION ADJUSTMENTS:**

A motion was made to approve the January 2023 water collection adjustments by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. All members voted yea; motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

S. Jones stated he would like to move forward getting pool information from Carroll Brothers having information by the March 13, 2023 Council Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Approve Newton County Dispatch Center 2023 Contract:**

A motion was made to approve the 2023 Newton County Dispatch Contract by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. All members voted yea; motion carried.

**Resolution 01-2023: HSTCC Member Appointment:**

A motion was made to accept Resolution 01-2023: HSTCC Member Appointment (Appointing Councilman S. Jones as a representative) by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. All members voted yea; motion carried.

**Bill/Ordinance 2023-01: Execute Agreement MoDOT (TAP) for Sidewalks:**

A motion was made to request the First Reading by "Title Only" of Bill 2023-01: Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Seneca to Execute an Agreement Through MoDOT's Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Program for the Cherokee Avenue/Route 43 Sidewalk Improvements by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Storrs conducted the "First Reading by "Title Only" of Bill 2023-01: Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Seneca to Execute an Agreement Through MoDOT's Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Program for the Cherokee Avenue/Route 43 Sidewalk Improvements.

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A motion was made to request the Second Reading by "Title Only" of Bill 2023-01: Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Seneca to Execute an Agreement Through MoDOT's Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Program for the Cherokee Avenue/Route 43 Sidewalk Improvements by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

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**Bill/Ordinance 2023-02: Execute Agreement MoDOT Authorizing Mayor to Execute:**

A motion was made to request the First Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2023-02: Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Accepting the Sidewalk Improvements Agreement Between the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the City of Seneca, Missouri and Authorizing the City Administrator and/or Mayor to Execute this Agreement by D. Malone; seconded by D. Housley. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Storrs conducted the “First Reading” by “Title Only” of Bill 2023-02: Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Accepting the Sidewalk Improvements Agreement Between the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the City of Seneca, Missouri and Authorizing the City Administrator and/or Mayor to Execute this Agreement by D. Malone; seconded by D. Housley. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the First Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2023-02: Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Accepting the Sidewalk Improvements Agreement Between the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the City of Seneca, Missouri and Authorizing the City Administrator and/or Mayor to Execute this Agreement by S. Jones; seconded by D. Malone. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to request the Second Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2023-02: Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Accepting the Sidewalk Improvements Agreement Between the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the City of Seneca, Missouri and Authorizing the City Administrator and/or Mayor to Execute this Agreement by S. Jones; seconded by D. Housley. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Storrs conducted the “Second Reading” by “Title Only” of Bill 2023-02: Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Accepting the Sidewalk Improvements Agreement Between the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the City of Seneca, Missouri and Authorizing the City Administrator and/or Mayor to Execute this Agreement by D. Malone; seconded by D. Housley. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the First Reading by “Title Only” of Bill 2023-02: Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance of the City of Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, Accepting the Sidewalk Improvements Agreement Between the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the City of Seneca, Missouri and Authorizing the City Administrator and/or Mayor to Execute this Agreement by S. Jones; seconded by D. Housley. Roll was called: S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea; D. Malone, yea. All members voted yea; motion carried.

**Review FEMA Proposed Mapping Amendments:**

Police Chief James Altic (Floodplain Administrator) stated he has met with everyone he can in reference to the proposed FEMA 10-year mapping amendments. He stated comments have been submitted to FEMA and that FEMA will be contacting us. J. Altic stated he has done a lot to get the community involved. He added the intention is to have FEMA evaluate the amendments or solutions. J. Altic said Jimmy Sexton from the New Dispatch will be providing newspaper clippings to assist with the history of the Lost Creek Water Shed and Seneca flooding.

Councilman S. Jones said Seneca isn’t the only community affected by the mapping amendments. He stated he recommends a push on the county level to have a Newton County Floodplain Administrator to assist the several communities that deal with the floodplain issues and requirements. He added most smaller communities cannot pay to support having a Floodplain Administrator position for these issues.

**Agenda/Questions for Missouri American Water Meeting (February 27, 2023):**

Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Storrs said the following are questions we want to present to Missouri American Water:

- Buyouts over the last 6 years.
- Acquisitions and history 6 years prior and 6 years after acquisitions.
- Pricing of water only, wastewater only and water and wastewater together.
- Pricing of water and sewer before and pricing of water and sewer after acquisitions.

- **Response times for repairs, etc.**
- **Community opinions/reviews that have Missouri American Water services.**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Storrs stated we want to take a look at the data and we are not in a situation that we have to make a decision.**

**A motion was made to go into Closed Session at 7:50 p.m. pursuant to Section 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting particular employees by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. The following vote was recorded and roll was called. All members S. Jones, yea; J. Lankford, yea; D. Housley, yea and D. Malone, yea; motion carried.**

**Closed Session: Members present: Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Storrs, Councilman S. Jones, Councilman J. Lankford, Councilman D. Housley; Councilman D. Malone; Police Chief James Altic, Public Works Supervisor Jerrod Eidson and C. Hutchings, City Clerk.**

**A motion was made to approve the (2) City of Seneca Volunteer Firemen Applications for Aaron Voight and Jacob Steele by D. Malone; seconded by S. Jones. All members voted yea; motion carried. All members Councilman S. Jones, yea; Councilman J. Lankford, yea; Councilman D. Housley, yea and Councilman D. Malone, yea; motion carried.**

**A motion was made to return to Open Session at 8:04 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. Housley, yea and Councilman D. Malone, yea; motion carried.**

**A motion was made to adjourn by S. Jones; seconded by D. Housley at 8:05 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**CYNDY HUTCHINGS**  
City Clerk

**BRAD STORRS**  
Mayor Pro Tem