CITY OF Seneca OREGON

106 A Ave., PO Box 208
Seneca, OR 97873
(541) 542-2161
www.SenecaOregon.com

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 8, 2026
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Seneca City Hall

Council Present:
Mayor Andrea Officer
Councilor Chuck White
Councilor Barb Northington

Public Present:
Tina McCormick
Staff:
Deborah Oatman

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Andrea Officer called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA
The consent agenda included the August 11, 2026, City Council meeting minutes, the financial statement, and approval for payment of bills. Councilor Barb Northington made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Chuck White seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FLOOR
Councilor White raised a safety concern regarding the gate at the City compound. He reported that the damaged gate does not open fully and creates difficulty for the Fire Department tender to enter and exit the compound. The Council discussed repairing the damaged lower portion of the gate. City Manager/Recorder Deborah Oatman stated that the repair would be completed. Councilor White also noted the need for lighting at the compound to improve visibility and emergency response time.
The Council also briefly discussed properties with multiple RV hookups and whether additional utility charges or City regulations apply when RVs are occupied for extended periods. The Council discussed the possibility of developing written regulations for RV occupancy. Tiny homes were also discussed. The City's current ordinance requires a minimum dwelling size of 600 square feet for a mobile home, and any proposed construction would also be subject to Grant County permitting requirements.

MCCORMICK FENCE REQUEST
Tina McCormick requested approval to install a four-foot privacy fence in the front yard of her property, exceeding the standard two-and-one-half-foot front-yard fence height limitation. Ms. McCormick explained that the additional height would provide privacy and keep unwanted dogs out.

Mayor Andrea Officer made a motion to approve the requested fence height adjustment. Councilor Barb Northington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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PUBLIC RECORDS FEE RESOLUTION
City Manager/Recorder Deborah Oatman presented an updated public records fee schedule to reflect current costs and replace the City's previous fee schedule. The Council reviewed the proposed fees and agreed that the updated schedule was reasonable.

Councilor Barb Northington made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-7, adopting updated public records request fees and procedures and superseding Resolution No. 08-18. Mayor Andrea Officer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SRS FUNDS (SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUND) UPDATE
City Manager/Recorder Deborah Oatman updated the Council regarding Grant County's proposed change in distribution of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds. Seneca had previously received approximately $23,000 annually for the Road Fund. Ms. Oatman explained that the loss of these funds required the City to reduce Road Fund contingency to approximately $9,000. Representatives from cities throughout Grant County attended the County Court meeting to request further discussion. The County agreed to hold a workshop regarding the proposed change. The Council discussed the importance of the funds to Seneca for road maintenance, grading, snow removal, equipment repairs, and other road-related expenses, and expressed concern that cities had not been notified before the funding change was proposed. City representatives will continue participating in the County discussion and workshop.

PAYMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT
The Council proceeded with payment of bills.

ADJOURNMENT:
Mayor Andrea Officer adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST: Andrea Officer
Andrea Officer, Mayor

Deborah Oatman
City Manager/Recorder