



City of Seneca City Council meeting February 2023
6pm City Hall

Council Members

Mayor Brad Smith
Matt Wenick
Lindsey Wenick
Barbara Northington
Susie Hood

Public

Jim Klum
Mike Allen
Deb Oatman
Robert Hunt
Drew Mecham
Mel Herburger

Meeting was called to order at 6pm by Mayor Smith
Minutes taken by Manager/Recorder Deborah Oatman

Open Floor:

Mayor Smith calls meeting to order at 6pm announcing item agenda 1 open floor. New supervisors for the Iron triangle pole mill came to let city know that they are not trying to be rude but are leaving their bright lights on due to theft of fuel from their fuel truck. They are willing to work with us on the lighting. They have set up trail-cams and at some point, will put a camera on their shop. Councilor Northington brought up fencing that was thought about a years ago for a deterrent for the evening but being open during the day. Mayor Smith said the big thing he hears talked about is their burning. Their reply, was at the moment it is an open burn and they do not have a permit with the city, councilor Northington said she thought that they had to have a permit with DEQ. They are getting a smokeless air burner, this spring, that will create electricity and will burn everything they can with a 24hr operation. They will be in contact with the fire marshal. They will be setting up a conveyor belt to better manage the wood chips and knockdown the pile. Councilor Hood asked if the burner would be producing a loud noise? From what they understand the loudest noise it will make is the burning of the wood itself. If they run it 24-7 the idea is to share the extra energy created with the community. Mr. Klum asked who was going to run it as they do not have a 24hr crew now? They will hire help, if need be, when the time comes. Burner was 886 thousand dollars, which came from a half a million-dollar grant. The burner is an air curtain



burner, it has a blower that blows over the top and back into the system, so any smoke or embers gets blown back into the system and reburns. They will be getting a hold of the Fire Marshal to figure out the best area to place it. They want to place it behind their breakroom in the open flat area east of the greenhouse. They will take all fire precautions.

Tyler Roberts had a conversation with Deb about holding the Oyster feed this year, he said he had 15 volunteers and is supposed to be getting more information to her.

Item 2 Seneca Enhancements Variance:

Mayor Smith announced item 2 Seneca Enhancements Variance. The variance is for the 5000sqft lots where they proposed to put 1600sqft homes and was approved by city council in December. It was brought up that it was over the 30% threshold according to the ordinance. After doing the math in January council meeting council decided to ask them to write up a variance request. Councilor Matt Wenick made a motion that we accept Seneca Enhancements request to change the dwelling to cover the 32% of each dwelling. Councilor Northington second the motion. Mayor Smith announced that the motion was made to grant this variance to Seneca Enhancement's for the dwellings on C street, then asked if all were in favor, all said I, motion carried.

Item 3

Mayor Smith announced agenda item 3 Fire Chief update. Mike started with our 2 outstanding grants. One is for a water tender and the other is for red rock that will be placed around buildings and yards for fire prevention, and have requested that it be delivered to Seneca. If the grant is awarded then the public will be notified as to when to pick it up. If there is a vehicle that catches fire on the highway the city is able to charge their insurance company for the emergency crew's time. We have a request for new fire danger rating signs. Mike met with the fire co-op (911 dispatch, wildland firefighters, and Fire Chiefs, from Grant, Harney and Hines County) who inquired about the Oyster feed as they would like to set up a booth for fire awareness and possibly bring out Smoky the bear for the kids. Councilor Matt W. ask Mike if he has thought about working with Irene Jerome and looking into a Firewise community and informed Mike that there is a tremendous amount of money out there for wildfire prevention as our community classifies due to the trees all around us, they are called Community Wildfire Defense Program. Mike requested a line item on the budget for next year and the thought was there is one for 5 thousand. It will be looked into.



Item 4

Mayor Smith announced agenda item 4 Maintenance update. DEQ paperwork is up to date, all requested actions have been taken. Annual calibration test is coming up. Red truck thermostat was replaced. Transducer was replaced 2/3/23, reservoir is back on auto control. Burn pile was torched, thanks to all who helped watch it. Battery replaced in the transfer station trailer. Annual Lagoon Bio Solid analysis has been completed. Maintenance log books created for vehicles and equipment. 2022 recycling collector survey report done.

Item 5

Mayor Smith announced item 5 CyberMill plowing. The CyberMill had thanked Deb for doing some plowing and Deb was asked if we should be plowing the CyberMill without cost as they do provide the city with an important service. Mayor Smith expressed that we should take care of them, which doesn't take that long, and Councilor Matt W. said we should make sure they are last on the list, make the city priority first. That brought us to question charging the post office. Deb had talked to the Postmaster in Canyon City concerning this back in November and he suggested that we contact them around the beginning of the summer as that is when the budgeting items are done. Councilor Matt W. suggested that we reach out to see what others pay for plowing service for next year concerning plowing the Post Office as they have never been charged.

Item 6

Mayor Smith announced item 6 Lagoon closure award. Three bids were given by Hueckman Contracting, R&G Excavating and Wild Honey. HECO has recommended we award project to Wild Honey. Councilor Matt W. made a motion that we accept the bid and go with HECO's recommendation awarding Wild Honey with them putting out the 7day intent to bid notice, Councilor Lindsey W. second the motion and Mayor Smith announced to accept it and signed off on the award.

Item 7 Water Availability vs. Usage

This issue is with residents and non-residents who are using water more months than not and only paying for the availability. When the meter is running then it is usage. Deb would like clarity so that she may move forward to either write letters to whom this will affect as the billing will go up quite a bit or do nothing at all, or come up with a middle billing solution.



Councilor Matt W. thinks if we enact a fee change, we have to make an ordinance change, if so, we would have to have a public meeting for that and asked if there was a prorated fee? Councilor Northington stated that we already have the ordinances in place and does not think there is any reason to change them and that the prorated fee is 1/2 a month.

The idea is that everyone helps pay for water and the new sewer system Councilor Matt W. stated that we have talked about the shut off and turn on fee, which is \$50 turn on \$50 turn off and have talked about a \$5 on \$5 off which will be allowed a couple of times, after that we can raise it to \$100 to \$150 to detour excessive use. Mr. Klum said we were being too nice and if you were in the valley the cost goes up significantly and we could set our prices however we want, then they would not worry about shutting their water on an off. Mr. Herburger mentioned the cost of replacing the transducer at the water tower was paid by full-time residents and they would not have the privilege of that water and sewer. Councilor Matt W. said we should have some way to track it by locking water boxes. Councilor Northington pointed out it's not easy to catch people. Councilor Matt W. said if they pay fully then they can have an agreement with the city and turn on and off their own water. Mayor Smith stated that he was with Mr. Herberger's thought that the part time residents have a house here and they should be paying their way. Councilor Lindsey W. is concerned about residents that are turning their water on and off as they wish which should have some type of penalty. Mr. Klum added that it is stealing city water and the penalty should be a hefty fine. Deb asked "To be clear if they pay the full bill then they get free water shut off and on, if they will be gone for a longer period of time, we shut water off and lock water meter and billing goes back to availability, as long as water is not going through the meter, until further notice?"

Item 8

Mayor Smith announced item 8 volunteer approval. Amy Mitchek came in inquiring into becoming a volunteer in the city office. Mayor Smith said great idea and that there has always been one. Councilor Northington made a motion to approve Amy Mitchek as volunteer in the office and learn all of the office operations. Councilor Hood second the motion, Mayor Smith announced that the motion carried and asked all in favor, all were in agreement.



Item 9

Mayor Smith announced item 9 minutes approval. January 10 2023 minutes were found to have a date error, the year will be changed from 2022 to 2023. Councilor Matt W. made a motion to approve the minutes with a date correction and Councilor Northington second the motion and Mayor Smith announced the motion was made to approve the January 10 2023 minutes with date change, second and carried with all in favor, motion carries. Councilor Northington made a motion to approve December 13 2022, Councilor Hood second the motion, Mayor Smith announce that the motion has been made and approved all were in favor and motion carried.

Item 10

Mayor Smith announced item 10 Bills before the council. Councilor Northington made the motion to pay the bills and Councilor Matt W. second the motion, Mayor Smith announced motion has been made to pay the bills and seconded. He asked if all were in favor, all were, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50

Attest:



Mayor Brad Smith



Report for city council 2/13/23

- ❖ Reservoir transducer was replaced on Friday 2/3/2023
 - Reservoir is back on auto controls
 - There is still repair work to be done in spring to replace busted conduit.

- ❖ There was a substantial leak of cities drinking water
 - The leak was found on the customer's side of the water meter.
 - This has been resolved

- ❖ City transfer station burn pile was torched on Monday 2/6/2023

- ❖ Plow truck (red f250)
 - Thermostat and Air filter was replaced

- ❖ Battery was replaced in the transfer station trailer.

- ❖ We have concluded the DEQ warning letter with opportunity to correct (WLOTC)
 - All requested actions have been taken.
 - All missing reports from 2020 and 2021 were filed
 - Biosolids, I/I report, and recycled wastewater.
 - All missing Discharge Management Reports from 2021 and 2022 were filed.
 - Non compliance reports were filed on all missing permit requirements.

- ❖ All current Biosolids, IIR and recycled wastewater reports due for the 2022 year Have been filed.

- ❖ Annual Lagoon Bio Solid Analysis has been completed.

- ❖ Created maintenance log books for vehicles and equipment

- ❖ 2022 Recycling Collector Survey report for transfer station