



City of Seneca City Council meeting May 9th 2023
6pm City Hall

Council Members

Mayor Brad Smith
Matt Wenick
Barbara Northington
Susan Hood
Lyndsey Wenick

Josh Walker
Lisa Foster
Judy Chapman
JW Pettyjohn
Erika Nickolisen

Public

Pete Walker
Robb Foster
Ricky Gray
Patty Davidson

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

Item #1 Open Floor:

Mayor Smith announced agenda Item 1 open floor. Jim Klum let it be known that he is on the budget council and asked permission to elaborate more on the budget for clarity giving examples of line items such as personnel services, that he thought would be better for transparency if the line items were combined all in one fund. Councilor M. Wenick said he has been on the budget committee for 8 years and every year the budget has been presented by the city manager. The manager's job is to do the budget and present a budget message that explains everything, where the money and everything is going. When it comes to the budget that should not be detailed, it is our basic expenditures that are tracked in QuickBooks. Patty Davidson commented that the budget committee has never had the detailed information. Councilor M. Wenick responded that the budget committee always previously had a budget message and explanation of the expenditures. Josh Walker added that the city manager should be part of that process, the funds cannot be combined, and if you were to separate out every expenditure, people would be overwhelmed and suggested that we get an accountant to visit. Councilor M. Wenick recommended, if council approves, get a hold of our auditors or accountant to help Deb go through QuickBooks, all councilors agreed.



Mike Allen brought up a conversation he had with dispatch that someone had told them that he was no longer the Fire Chief, he wanted to clear that up and is not true and he will suggest to dispatch to not listen to others. Secondly City of Seneca was approved for the Red Rock for fire prevention.

Item #2 Seneca Timbers RV

Mayor Smith announced item #2 Seneca Timbers RV. Pete Walker stated that out of courtesy they should have been contacted concerning their business being on the agenda. Mayor Smith asked Pete if he had not seen this and his answer was no. Councilor M. Wenick proposed that we get Pete the information and called for this issue to be discussed in the June 13th council meeting. Councilor Northington said that we are hoping that they come up with a number that they are willing to pay monthly and that there were some ideas which is what they will see. Pete asked if they had put anything in the ideas for when they are closed? Councilor M. Wenick said yes. Pete asked if the city was going to be shutting on and off the water stating that the valve is pretty old. Councilor M. Wenick said that it has been discussed working with owners possibly signing a waiver to do so. Councilor Northington responded that we have not passed that. Josh Walker noted that the city's code says that they, the owner of the property does not turn it on or off. Councilor Northington responded that there is a fee for the process, \$50 on \$50 off.

Item #3 Land Lease

Mayor Smith announced Item #3 Land Lease. Councilor Northington said that this discussion was what she was hearing from others that some people have grazing property and do not have animals and others were wondering why the same families always had the same leases. Mayor Smith said that the leases go back to when Hines gave the land to the city and wanted the leases to go to their employees as a benefit. Mayor Smith stated that he did not see changing leases and creating a waiting list for when a lease comes available.

Item #4 Lagoon Update

Mayor Smith announced Item #4 Lagoon Update. JB stated that he had taken chlorine test that morning and they were good and he had talked to DEQ and things are looking good and pumps are running well. Mayor Smith asked if we had found the pipe, JB responded that Lyndsey had helped him find them and they are underwater.



Item #5 Silvies Roadhouse

Deb told the council that everyone was asking why Silvies was doing upgrades at the Roadhouse and she asked Robb if he wanted to speak to that. Robb stated that it was to be temporary housing for their chefs. Mayor Smith asked if they were leaving the kitchen in? Jim Klum asked how can you do that by code to live in a commercial structure? Councilor L. Wenick for clarification asked "Then what I hear you say Robb is that you put in a kitchen to house the cook, the ranchers, or the public?" Robb answered no public. Josh Walker read ordinance code 10-4B-2, then stated that the residential code for it to be a living facility specifically stated as multifamily dwelling complexes of 10 units or less, single family dwellings including mobile home or individual lot, so technically commercial is not to be used for living, but there is motel hotel and multifamily dwelling which is permitted with a conditional use permit. Councilor M. Wenick suggested to Robb, before moving anyone in, that they apply for a conditional use permit. Jim Klum suggested that they write the city a letter outlining their plans.

Item #6 City Clean Up

Deb said that Councilor Northington had mentioned a city clean up day and she said that there had been mention of scrap metal and talking about getting people to clean up their places and Mayor Smith said that is what they have done in the past to encourage people. The dates chosen were June 3rd and the 10th.

Item #7 Approval of Minutes.

Mayor Smith announced Item #7 approval of the minutes and said we have 2 sets of minutes, March 14th 2023 first. I will entertain a motion to approve. Councilor Northington makes the motion to approve March 14th 2023 meeting minutes and Councilor Hood seconded the motion with all in favor, and Mayor Smith announcing that the motioned carried.

Mayor Smith said he would entertain a motion to approve the April 11th 2023 Seneca City meeting minutes with Councilor M. Wenick making the motion and Councilor Northington seconding the motion with all in favor Mayor Smith announced the motion had carried.




Item #8 Pay Bills

Mayor Smith announced Item #8 pay bills. Councilor Northington made a motion to pay the bills, Councilor M. Wenick seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried, bills were paid.

Item #9 Executive Session

Mayor Smith announced Item #9 executive session and invited the public to leave at 7:15 pm.

Attest: 

Councilor Barbara Northington