



City of Seneca City Council meeting March 14th 2023
6pm City Hall

Council Members

Mayor Brad Smith
Barbara Northington
Susie Hood
Lindsey Wenick

Public

Chuck White
Patty Davidson
Fire Chief Mike Allen

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

Agenda Item 1 Open Floor:

Mayor Smith calls the March 14th 2023 meeting to order and announces agenda item 1 open floor. Patty Davidson stated that she has been hearing rumors that the city bills will be going up again because of Mt Vernon's water and wanted to know if that was true or false. Councilor Northington responded that there has not been anything passed or changed at the moment, only discussion and will not affect the majority of the city. Councilor L. Wenick stated that it will not affect full time citizens at this point in time. Mayor Smith added that we are working on getting those who are absentee owners to pay their fair share of the maintenance and upkeep of our infrastructure, the water and sewer. Mt. Vernon's ordinances were only used as an example to set prices. Councilor Northington said the problem is that we discovered this year accounts that have water availability but run their water off and on in summer and some through the winter for \$20 a month. People come and turn on their water when the ordinance says you can't, there has been no policing on these issues so we are watching them closer to come up with a solution. It is on the agenda to discuss do we do anything different or enforce what we have. Mt Vernon charges \$300 for new service connection, 47.50 per 5000 gal with overage of \$2.50 a gal and increases to 3.10 with 1000-gal overage, turn on fee \$30 during regular hours and \$50. Non business hours, and charge for non-potable water and fire hydrant use. Every now and again we have to evaluate where we stand, are we comparative or not to other cities. Seneca gets 10,000 gal of water; Mt Vernon gets 5000 gal and John Day gets 4000 gal before water rates increase for usage over base amount.

Mike Allen was concerned about the plowing down his road, D Ave, and said that only ½ of the plowing was done which left a berm in the road. Patty Davidson would like to see more instruction on the plowing. Councilor L Wenick assured her that there has been ample training.

Mike Allen said that there had been multiple false alarms coming from Grayback facility and he doesn't know how to shut them off. HE suggested that if we don't know then we fine them for him going out to check the premises and making sure it is secure. Mayor Smith agreed and said we need to contact Grayback, he saw Carol who cleans for them and Brad thought she was turning off the alarm. Deb said she would contact them.



Item 2 Oyster Feed Update:

Mayor Smith announced agenda item 2, Oyster Feed Update and asked if Tyler Roberts was supposed to be at the meeting. Deb replied that she thought that was the case but doesn't know if his heart is in it as he does not want to be in charge and her thought is that it will not be happening. Mayor Smith said he would talk to him and see what he has in mind and maybe we could do something.

Item 3 Maintenance Update:

Completed servicing fleet vehicles, oil, oil filter and air filters as needed.

Completed servicing backhoe engine oil, grease fittings and air filter.

Completed repairs on white f250 brakes.

Replaced lighting in the shop stock room.

Grader was brought back online and is operational

Special thank you to Jerry Wayne and his son for the repairs

Batteries were replaced and the U joint that controls the angle of the blade was replaced.

A non-routine drinking water test was performed and delivered to the lab in Prineville this test was performed as a public safety service due to a main line break and came back negative for harmful bacteria.

Another special thanks to Jerry Wayne and Shane Kopple for their time on 3/13/23 for their help with widening the city streets and snow removal.

Parking brake was on the D3 CAT?

Item 4 Lagoon Closure Bid Award Update:

Mayor Smith announced Item 4 DELTA Operations. Mayor Smith asked who they are. Deb replied that they are a company who gives us the operator certification we need for our system and all the responsibility that goes with that for \$550, Councilor L Wenick was concerned that it was spendy and asked if it was monthly or yearly, Deb said she would find out for sure and thought that was monthly, and Mayor Smith responded that we do need it. Deb said that David had done his research and found them to be the best cost, that cost will stay low as long as they do not have to come to onsite, and that David has it laid out so they will not have to unless it is an emergency. Councilor Northington added that she knew David had talked to all the cities around us numerous times trying to get someone closer and called Coos Bay who charged \$1400 a month. Deb added that other operators were not interested in taking on the responsibility. Councilor Hood asked if the public understood what we were talking about and said we have to have someone who is certified in sewer maintenance and testing. Councilor Northington said that Josh Walker was our certification over Shane Kopple and that Josh Walker had let his license go and until we have someone who can pass the test and can operate on their own, we have to have an operator. Mayor Smith said we do not have a choice. Councilor Hood asked if that was a state requirement? Deb said yes and that we could be fined for not having an operator. Councilor L Wenick said that you have to be licensed with the state board to work on sewer and water. Councilor Northington made the motion to approve DELTA to handle our wastewater system until we have someone who is certified. Councilor Hood second the motion. Mayor Smith announced that the motion was seconded to approve DELTA for remote consulting over Senecas wastewater treatment system and asked if all were in favor? All were in favor with Councilor L Wenick stipulating that only as long as it was a month-to-month contract. Mayor Smith announced that the motion carries.



Item 5 Mt Vernon Water Rates for Comparison:

Brad announced Item 5 and stated that we have already talked about this. Councilor Northington said that we either do nothing or enforce what we have, with all councilors agreeing, which is turn on/turn off fees \$50, no one allowed to turn off or on their own water at the meter, pay the water and sewer rate of \$101.69 if water is being used, with the same overage fees and the meter locked when the water has been requested to be turned off, paying for non-potable water and hydrant use, industrial rate be determined by council, and they have a RV park rate for every 4 spaces, and that is one place we do not have metered right now. Councilor L Wenick said we should stick with our ordinances and asked why the RV park has no meter? Councilor Northington said she did not know why but it has been addressed in the past. The question was asked if they have a well and Mayor Smith said they do not, they are hooked up to the city paying a fee and they are aware they do not have a meter and aware they are supposed to have a meter but do not want to put one in because the cost is around \$5000, and suggested that we put the Seneca Timbers RV on the next meeting's agenda.

Item 6 Lagoon Closure Bid Award:

Mayor Smith announced Item 6 ad and bid letting date for lagoon closure. Invitation to bid publication date set for January 11th through January 25th.

Item 7 City Insurance Evaluation:

Mayor Smith announced Item 6 Insurance Evaluation, Deb explained that she and David sat down with Mandy Taylor to reevaluate the Cities Insurance which will bring the city a small savings and we will know how much in April.

Item 8 Minutes Approval:

Mayor Smith announced Item 8 to approve February 13 2023 minutes, Councilor L Wenick made a motion to approve meeting minutes and Councilor Northington seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Item 9 Bills Before Council:

Mayor Smith announced Item 9 bills before the council. Councilor Northington made a motion to pay the bills, Councilor Hood seconded the motion with all ayes, motion carried.

Adjournment:

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7pm.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad L. Smith". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Brad Smith