

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
July 27, 2023

- I. The meeting was called to order by Travis LeMaster at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
Roll Call:
Charles Myers-Present
Matt Stewart-Absent
Travis LeMaster-Present
Kyle Taylor-Absent
Chuck Briede-Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

II. **Minutes**

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2023, meeting as amended. Charles Myers seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye
Matt Stewart-Absent
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Kyle Taylor-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of July 27, 2023, as amended. Charles Myers seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye
Matt Stewart-Absent
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Kyle Taylor-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Steve Kelley said a citizen has expressed concern with vehicles speeding on Main Street. Steve recommended we stripe the crosswalk. There was discussion of installing a speed bump.

V. **Department Reports**

Police Department – Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan:
 - Reported 199 calls in the two-week period; a typical two-week period would be about 130 calls. He said there have been 2,253 calls year-to-date.
 - Said they would resume radar monitoring of Main Street traffic.
 - Displayed the proposed “Safe Exchange Area” sign. The sign will be acquired by the county at no cost to the town. The sign will be located near the town hall shelter and the area is covered by the video surveillance system.
 - The 2020 Tahoe probably needs a new starter
 - Reviewed for the council the scheduled power outage for work on performed the traffic lights. He borrowed some signs from EMA to post during the outage.
 - Chuck recommended we obtain our own set of signs for future outages.

Maintenance Department – Operations Manager Patrick Kendall was in attendance.

- Patrick reported:
 - That they have been trimming some trees along the trail

- The light pole by the burn pit was being supported by a tree branch, and once the branch was trimmed the pole fell over. The lines have been secured and the power to that pole has been shut off.
- The cylinder has been removed from the vac truck and taken in for repairs.
- The vac truck tube needs repaired, and he has emailed Brown Equipment to get the needed parts ordered.
- They have patched some more potholes.
- They cleaned up the dirt at the Gaga pit and trimmed some trees in the area.
- The DMRQA standard lab test has been completed and submitted.
- Converse is willing to let us borrow their street sweeper in exchange for borrowing our bucket truck.
- John Pierce is fabricating a new cover for the Short Street lift station.
- Chuck asked if we had received a response to the plant permit renewal submission. Patrick said we have not yet received a response.
- Chuck initiated a discussion of the condition and inventory of the town street signs. Patrick suggested that we could lower the street signs a couple of notches and place the street coordinate signs on top of the street signs. Patrick said he and Edward will experiment with a couple of the signs and report back to the council.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve reported:
 - The ECI grant writer is looking for possible funding for seal coating the trail.
 - Beachy Tree Service had completed removing the dead trees from the trail as proposed.
 - There are no redbud trees currently available to replace the five dead trees on Main Street. Steve anticipates they will be available in the Spring.
 - A battery charging station for electric vehicles currently costs approximately \$100,000
- Patrick recommended we plan on trimming back the trees along Main Street so they don't interfere with the street sweeper. Steve recommended that when we do trim them, we seal the cut area to protect the tree.

VI. Continuing Business

- Travis reported we have received a second appraisal of the Church Street property.
- There was no update on the potential SRF and OCRA project.
- No update on the proposed town credit card ordinance
- Chuck reported that we reviewed the CCMG applications with Beth Johnson of USI Consultants. The applications were submitted and:
 - The 2023-02 CCMG Call for Mill and Fill Projects: Estimated total project cost of \$203,500, town match of \$50,875, was accepted with no comments
 - The 2023-02 Call for Material costs for chip sealing & crack filling operations: Estimated total project cost of \$10,000, town match of \$2,500, was returned with a request for more detail
- Chuck reported that there are a couple of stretches of the streets that are not on our INDOT street inventory. USI will work with us and INDOT to update the inventory.
- No update on the Dollar General storm water issue

VII. New Business

- Patrick asked if we could direct deposit payroll. The clerk will research. The matter was tabled.
- Travis said the owners of the property on Maple where new construction is going on need to be contacted about mowing their grass. Chuck said they just tapped into the sanitary system and perhaps they will be completing the grading of the property.
- Chuck said the Indiana Department of Health has requested to use town hall one day this fall as a COVID test and booster site. Council had no objections.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
