

**Minutes of Sweetser Town Council**  
**September 9, 2021**

I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Present

Matt Stewart—Present

Travis LeMaster—Present

Dave Fox—Present

Chuck Briede-Absent

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

II. **Minutes**

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2021, meeting as written. Travis Lemaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Absent

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as amended. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Absent

IV. **Public Forum**

Deborah Cain, Marion City Common Council President, addressed the council concerning Grant County Council's proposed change to the Local Income Tax (LIT) rate. On August 26, 2021, the Grant County Council adopted a resolution to support an ordinance that modifies the LIT Rate from 1.3% to 1.18% and modifies the Public Safety Access Point (PSAP) Rate from 0% to 0.12%. If adopted, the change would be effective January 1, 2022, and would reduce the amount of LIT share to Sweetser by \$4,131 in 2022. Before the ordinance can be enacted, a majority of the county units must approve the change by resolution. If no action is taken by a unit, that will be considered a "no" vote on the resolution.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to take no action on the Grant County Council resolution to support an ordinance that modifies the LIT Rate from 1.3% to 1.18% and modifies the Public Safety Access Point (PSAP) Rate from 0% to 0.12%. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Absent

V. **Department Reports**

**Maintenance Department** — Superintendent Devin Cole was not attendance.

- No report

**Police Department** — Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan reported that Brad Moore's leg injury was worse than originally thought and Brad will be out until January.
- Ryan said the recent deputy hire he had done quit before working a shift. Thus, he continues to seek another deputy. Travis asked if our rate for the deputies was sufficient. Ryan responded he thought our rate was better than some of the other towns in the area. He thinks that most of the potential candidates were already working multiple jobs and would not be available as needed. Kyle asked if we need to raise our rate to match or exceed what the schools and hospital are paying and/or look to hire a full-time second shift person. Ryan said he still thinks it is a matter of how much candidates can and want to work. He also said he prefers the part-time approach for now.

**Parks Department**—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said Travis had notified him of an upcoming Trails Gathering meetig. The event is in Richmond this year. Steve has registered he and Ronnie Achor at \$10 per registrant and ask if they could have the town

pay for overnight lodging in Richmond. Clerk indicated that would be within the budget. Council was okay with the expenditure.

- Steve reported that the town trash cans need to be emptied.

## VI. Continuing Business

- Stu Savka of Fleis & Vandenbrink was in attendance:
  - He said he was inquiring of INDOT about the letter the town received concerning ADA plan requirements and eligibility for future funding through INDOT and OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) and would have more information later.
  - Stu said he had contacted Mike Klinepeter about making a presentation to the council about conducting an income survey in an attempt to qualify for OCRA grant funds. There was discussion among Stu and the council about the results of prior surveys, how a survey would be conducted, the cost of the survey, the results of the prior surveys, and the likelihood that there would be a different outcome if another survey was done.
  - Stu reported that the Round 1 SWIF (State Water Infrastructure Fund) awards are scheduled to be announced tomorrow.
  - Clerk suggested that from a budgetary standpoint, the next phase of the sidewalk project should not be undertaken until at least 2023 or 2024.
- Travis followed-up on the work of the Area Plan Commission in assisting the town with addressing problem properties relative to the town nuisance ordinance.
- Matt asked if the town needs to develop an ordinance regarding solar and wind installations. Travis said he thought the Area Plan Commission indicated that the Grant County Council would address those issues.
- Travis asked for an update on Employee memos. Kyle said that they have not been sent yet and probably need some adjustments prior to distribution. Dave suggested that Kyle send the drafts to all the council for review and suggestions.
- Kyle reminded the council that they need to work with town counsel Michael Hotz to develop a new contract for the town Marshal position.
- Dave said Ignite Ethanol Racing Fuels had offered to settle the wastewater ordinance violation fine of \$3,900 for \$1,400. There was review of the events that led to the fine and the eventual decision by Ignite to leave the town wastewater system.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to accept \$1,400 to settle the wastewater ordinance violation fine against Ignite Ethanol Racing Fuels and write-off the remaining \$2,500, with the condition that if Ignite ever reconnects to the town wastewater system the \$2,500 portion of the fine would be reinstated. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-No

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Absent

- Clerk asked if the town would still be receiving funds from the prosecutor's office to fund the purchase of video camera systems for the town police vehicles. Kyle said there had been a reduction in the amount of funding the prosecutor's office could contribute and thus nothing had transpired to-date.
- Kyle reported Deputy John Gavin owns a 2014 Dodge Durango Interceptor model that he is willing to lease to the town for \$1 per year with the provision that he could use it as a take home vehicle while working for the town, and that he would donate the vehicle to the town upon his retirement. Dave said we should have town counsel Michael Hotz review the proposed arrangement.
- Clerk reported the amended 2022 budget adoption schedule is:
  - September 23, 2021, First Reading
  - October 14, 2021, Public Hearing and Second Reading
  - October 28, 2021, Third Reading and Adoption
- 

## VII. New Business

- Kyle distributed a sample of a proposed ordinance to reestablish a Town Ordinance Violation Bureau. After discussion, matter tabled pending review by the council members and counsel for the town.
- Travis initiated discussion of a possible ordinance regulating the use of bow & arrows and bb guns in the town limits.
- Kyle and Travis recommended the town develop a sidewalk ordinance to address who is responsible for keeping the sidewalks clear of snow and debris. After discussion, matter tabled.
- Travis said the crosswalk sign recently purchased has been run over several times. Dave suggested instead of placing it in the center of the crosswalk that it be set on the side of the road. He said in its current placement some trucks and farm equipment would not be able to avoid hitting it.

## VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

---

---

---

---

---