

**Minutes of Sweetser Town Council**  
**September 23, 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**

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021, meeting as written. Travis Lemaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

**III. Bills**

The bills docket was unavailable due to a printer issue.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket of 09-10-21 as written. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

**IV. Public Forum**

Kirk Herring of the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department (“PTVFD”) was in attendance. He was following up on an earlier presentation he made to the council in which the PTVFD requested the Council consider allocating a portion of the CARES Act funds received to the PTVFD for equipment needs. Kirk said the PTVFD was a member of the Indiana Volunteer Fire Department Association, and he presented some statistics from the Association about the cost savings of the volunteer model relative to a tax supported model.

**V. Department Reports**

**Maintenance Department** — Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin reviewed and explained the final bill from Bragg Excavating for the CCMG project.
- Devin asked if there was any update on supplying electricity to the utility poles to power the new Christmas lights. Devin said the lights are different sizes, so it would be helpful if the electricity outlets were installed so they would know where to set the support brackets. Kyle suggested that Devin go ahead and set the brackets and then the electrician would adapt the line to the location of the bracket. Devin said that should work and the plan was to have the lights up by Thanksgiving.
- Devin said Bragg Excavating is supposed to provide him pricing for installing risers over the manhole locations at the intersections of Main and Sherron, and Main and Washington.
- Devin said INDOT was going to have reseeding done on the entire sidewalk contract area and was going to have some asphalt wedging redone where the asphalt and sidewalk meet. The timing is uncertain.
- Devin said he would be out next Friday to volunteer to help set-up for the Mississinewa 1812 event.

- Devin said Jeff Speicher will be returning to work on Monday, September 30, after being out since September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Chuck said a resident of Nancy Drive had reported that there are several potholes on Nancy. Devin said the primary area needing repair is at the corner of Nancy and Laura Lane. He is going to get a quote to address that issue from Grant County Asphalt Paving. Devin said that he already had a quote from Brooks Paving of \$45,000 for that work.

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

- Ryan reported that the hospital and university are going to hire part-time security from local departments and will be paying approximately \$25 per hour. He said it is becoming increasingly difficult to find deputies and that we may need to consider increasing the pay of the deputies to attract and retain personnel.
- Ryan has a quote for a replacement radar unit for the 2012 Tahoe and will email that to the council. The projected cost is approximately \$3,000.
- Ryan reviewed the call activity for the prior two weeks. He said the department had responded to 158 calls in the period.
- Kyle asked Ryan to review with town counsel Michael Hotz Deputy John Gavin’s proposal for leasing John’s 2014 Dodge Charger Interceptor to the town police department.
- Kyle said he had a quote from American Auto Body to replace the driver door interior on the 2012 Tahoe.

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

- Steve said he and Ronnie Achor attended the Trails Gathering meeting in Richmond. Steve said they were told that the State of Indiana has 4,310.7 miles of trails. He said a point of discussion was trying to get a line item in the budget for trail maintenance. Steve reported that there was an ongoing attempt in the legislature to establish a fund for trail maintenance.
- Steve reported the Cardinal Greenway (running from north of Muncie to Richmond) has approximately 63 miles of trails, 3 or 4 employees, and several pieces of equipment and is owned and maintained by a private entity.
- Steve said he was going to work with a person from Cardinal Greenway to try to make some grant applications. One possible application would be for a “trail counter” to count the number of pedestrians on the trail.
- Steve reported the new front tires for the gator had been received and installed.
- Steve said the trail camera was taking still photos instead of video. Doug Edmonds is evaluating the unit.

**VI. Continuing Business**

- Clerk reported that the first round of SWIF awards had been announced: Sweetser did not receive an award this round.
- Clerk provided an overview of the proposed 2022 budget. Items covered:
  - 2021 CCMG project, 2021 INDOT Sidewalk Project, 2021 equipment purchases, their impact on the 2021 budget, and how that affects the 2022 proposed budget.
  - Chuck and clerk reviewed the 2022 budget fund by fund
  - Proposed 2022 budget by fund:
 

▪ General Fund	\$272,403
▪ Local Road & Street	\$ 21,000
▪ Motor Vehicle & Highway	\$125,694
▪ Parks & Recreation	\$ 24,900
▪ Cumulative Capital Improvement	\$ 3,600
▪ Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 70,000

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to pass on first reading the proposed 2022 Budget for the Town of Sweetser. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Aye  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Dave Fox-Absent (Dave had to leave the meeting prior to the vote)  
Chuck Briede-Aye

- Michael reported that the redemption period for the Bragg Street property has passed and the property was not redeemed. Next step is to file a petition with the court asserting the town is entitled to a tax deed. Then Michael will recirculate a copy of the original notice of the town's intention to acquire the property. Thirty days after that notice is distributed the judge should sign the order granting the town a tax deed on the property.
- Michael reported what he had learned about the concept of the town having an Ordinance Violation bureau. Michael reviewed the similarities and differences of the that regime with the current one for processing traffic violations occurring within town limits. Matter tabled.
- Michael distributed a proposed ordinance to regulate heavy truck and equipment traffic in town. During discussion, it was agreed to make some exceptions for farm equipment and to adjust the proposed fines for violations.

After discussion, Travis Lemaster made a motion to pass on first reading the proposed Ordinance 2021-4, An Ordinance Prohibiting Truck Traffic Within Town Limits, with Section D. 1. amended to reflect the exception for farm equipment and with Section E amended to change the minimum penalties to "Not less than \$150 for the first offense, not less than \$250 for the second offence, and not less than \$350 for the third offence". Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Aye  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Dave Fox-Absent (Dave had to leave the meeting prior to the vote)  
Chuck Briede-Aye

Michael will publish the ordinance and announce the public hearing and second reading of Ordinance 2021-4.

- Matt suggested we appropriate \$5,500 from the ARPA fund for radios for the PTVFD. After discussion, matter tabled pending determination of the permitted uses of the ARPA fund.
- Matt provided a brief recap of the Harmony Music Festival. Matt said attendance was down compared to last year and attributed it to the heat and other entertainment options in the area.
- Matt said there are now electric hookups in the park area for campers and vendors. He said he would be working with Devin to bring in some more soil to level the area. He said he mowed it and it was very rough.

**VII. New Business**

- None

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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