

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council  
September 28, 2023

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

Roll Call:

Charles Myers-Present

Matt Stewart-Present

Travis LeMaster-Present

Kyle Taylor-Present

Chuck Briede-Present

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

II. **Minutes**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2023, meeting as submitted. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of September 28, 2023, as submitted. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Khalsa Attinderpal and Gurinder Kaur, via Zoom, presented plans for the proposed liquor store. The plans have received a design release from the State of Indiana. They requested the town sign off on the building permit so they can proceed with construction. There was discussion of the sanitary tap fee amount and the monthly sewer rate. The council noticed the plans submitted did not have the Architectural Stamp and thus were not necessarily the final approved plans. Questions arose as to the zoning of the parcel.

After discussion, Charlie Myers made a motion to table the discussion pending receipt of the stamped plans and resolution of the zoning question. There was no second and motion died. Chuck Briede will get with the county on the outstanding issues and the council will take up the matter at the next meeting.

V. **Department Reports**

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

- Ryan reported:
  - 166 calls in the two-week period. He said there have been 3,014 calls year-to-date.
  - The gun rack has been installed in the 2020 Tahoe.
  - A new battery was installed in one of the AED units.
  - He will be purchasing some new uniform pants.
- There was a discussion of ordinance violations that have reached judgement and any on which fines have been collected. The discussion was in reference to the town submitting data to the county to apply for funds from the violation pool. Ryan will follow up on filing with the county.
- Kyle inquired of Ryan of his preference for a new police vehicle. Ryan said he would prefer a new Tahoe.

**Maintenance Department** – Operations Manager Patrick Kendall was in attendance.

- Patrick reported:
  - The Case and Short Street lift stations are not working correctly. Toric Engineers will be here on Monday to diagnose the issues.
  - He and Edward are training to be able to repair the lift station pumps.
  - He and Edward will be needing some new clothes.
  - He will be ordering some portable signs: stop, road closed, road work ahead.
  - The new blower motor has been installed.
  - They have started cleaning up the grinder station on Nancy Drive. Patrick suggested we erect a privacy fence around the area. The council approved.
  - He is searching for the proper equipment attachment to enable him to install and grade new gravel in the alley east of Main Street.
- There was a discussion of the Cates Farms request and what rate to charge.
- There was a discussion of cleaning-up the northeast area of the pond and removing some of the trees whose roots are infiltrating the storm water system.
- There was a discussion of the status of the dump truck and the timing of a possible replacement.

**Parks Department**—President Steve Kelley was not in attendance.

- No report

#### **VI. Continuing Business**

- There was a discussion of the status of the Dollar General ordinance violation. Town counsel Michael Hotz will follow-up.
- Michael reported that regarding the sale of the Church Street property, there has been a change in the law. We should have published a notice 10 days prior to the meeting where the council voted on selling the property. Michael will submit a notice that the public meeting prior to the re-vote will now be held on October 26, 2023. Subsequent to that vote, we will have to publish twice, at least seven days apart, notice of details of the sale. The second notice must be at least seven days before we have the hearing to open bids. Michael has prepared, and will submit, the required notices. There was a discussion of the bidding process, reserve requirements, and possible usage restrictions. The minimum bid was set at \$75,000.
- Matt said Habitat for Humanity is still interested in the Bragg Street property. Michael summarized the process for deeding the property to Habitat.
- The house at 137 Peterson continues to deteriorate. Michael said it has been sold at a tax sale. Michael will monitor to see if the proper notifications are made. If not, the town may be able to foreclose on its liens and take possession.

#### **VII. New Business**

- The council had the first reading of Ordinance 2023-5, the 2024 Budget for the Town of Sweetser.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to pass on first reading Ordinance 2024-5, the 2024 Budget for the Town of Sweetser. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7 pm.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

---

---

---

---

---