

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council  
October 26, 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, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 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, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of October 12, 2023, as submitted.

Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Kyle opened the public hearing to announce the sale of the Church Street property. It was asked if the minimum acceptable bid would be made public. Kyle responded that it would not, but there is a reserve amount. There were no other questions and Kyle closed the public hearing.

V. **Department Reports**

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

- Ryan reported:
  - 156 calls in the two-week period. He said there have been 3,301 calls year-to-date.
  - That he would have a patrol scheduled for Halloween.
  - He needs to get himself and one deputy registered for the Police1 Academy online training. It is a one-year subscription. The clerk will coordinate with Ryan to get them signed-up and pay the subscription fees.

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

- Patrick reported:
  - He has received quotes for repairing the Town Hall garage door. The quote of \$3,447 from Overhead Door of Indianapolis was the least expensive.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to accept the quote of \$3,447 from Overhead Door of Indianapolis to replace three panels on, and the opener for, the Town Hall garage door. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-No

Chuck Briede-Aye

- They have been making adjustments to operations at the treatment plant to try and improve the efficiency of the processing. He toured the Alexandria treatment plant to get some ideas.
- He has been trying to contact Mission Communications as the alarms and notifications from the plant and lift stations have been sporadic.
- He and Edward attended the Alliance of Indiana Water Expo in Fort Wayne and gathered a lot of information. Edward may be interested in obtaining his operator license for the plant.
- He has provided Silversmith with a comprehensive inventory of the equipment within the treatment plant. They will create a tile view of the equipment, and this will facilitate the generation and tracking of work orders.
- He is still looking for a utility bed for his truck.

- He received quotes from Xylem for a new pump and controller for the Short Street lift station.
- Updated the council on the tree and drainage issues at the pond in Winger Estates. There was a discussion of who is the responsible party for the issues.
- There was no update on grading the alleys.
- Chuck reported there is a tree on Main Street blocking the view of trains coming from the west and it needs to be cut back.

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

- Steve reported that the bicycle repair station cover was finished. The cost was \$350.
- He said Mr. Younce will pick up and deliver the concrete blocks to enclose the town brush and leaf piles as soon as he has a trailer and driver lined up.
- Steve said it's nearing time to winterize the water sources on the train and the shelter restroom.
- Kyle requested that that we get a reflective "Sweetser" sign for the intersection of State Road 22 and 500 W that would go on the same post as the Sweetser Switch Trail sign.

## VI. Continuing Business

- Kyle resumed discussion of the potential sale of the Church Street property.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the sale of the Church Street property and to authorize town counsel Michael Hotz to proceed with advertising for bids. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- No new information on the sidewalk project.
- No updates on the pending credit card ordinance.
- Mitch Hansel and Beth Johnson of USI Consultants were in attendance and distributed the results of the PASER ratings. There are about 4 miles of streets with a "poor" rating that are not scheduled for paving at this time. USI estimates that it will cost about \$900,000 to address those 4 miles. IF CCMG funds were awarded for that work, the town's financial commitment would be approximately \$225,000 plus engineering fees. There was extensive discussion of:
  - The possible timing of the work and whether it could be done in one year or done over 2 or more years.
  - What drainage work was needed and how to coordinate that work with the paving projects.
  - The financial resources available to tackle the paving and drainage projects.
  - The possible financial impact of the upcoming final phase of the sidewalk project.

It was decided to have USI develop estimates for paving projects for the north side of town (north of 18) for the next CCMG call for projects. The remaining paving and drainage projects will be deferred to a subsequent call.

- There was additional discussion of the Dollar General water and sanitation ordinance violation. It was suggested that we involve the Area Plan Commission in the issue. Michael Hotz indicated he was filing with the court on Friday, October 27. Matter was tabled.
- There was discussion of the Dollar General trucks parking overnight along State Road 18 and in the Dollar General lot, and possible ways, if any, for the town to address the issue. Matter was tabled.
- No update on Habitat for Humanity's interest in the Bragg Street Property.
- No update on the new storm siren.
- The council conducted the third reading of the 2024 budget and read the accompanying appropriation reduction resolutions.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-3, an Appropriation Reduction Resolution, reducing MVH Fund 2023 appropriations by \$44,980. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-4, an Appropriation Reduction Resolution, reducing General Fund 2023 appropriations by \$4,990. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-5, an Appropriation Reduction Resolution, reducing CCD Fund 2023 appropriations by \$20,771. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Chuck Briede-Aye

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to pass on the third and final reading Ordinance 2023-5, the 2024 Budget for the Town of Sweetser. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

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

**VII. New Business**

- Matt said that in light of the report from the APC at the last meeting, the council will need to meet to address the zoning along State Road 18. Matter tabled.
- Chuck said Clyde Hatfield is rehabilitating a home in Sweetser. He thinks it will take about a year and has requested that he be allowed to disconnect from the town sanitary sewer during the rehab and then reconnect upon completion. The council has questions and will request that he appear before the council so they can better understand his intentions.
- Kyle reported that Sweetser Maintenance intends to begin leaf pick-up on November 13. The council thinks that is a little late to start. Kyle will request that they start sometime the week of November 6.
- Eric Woodmansee of AME was in attendance and presented an invoice for the work his firm performed under the current PSA (Professional Services Agreement) to assist with the evaluation of the PER developed by TRIAD. Eric also proposed a new PSA that would study the film of the cleaning and camering of the sanitary system and generate a proposal for addressing any issues that are discovered. Matter was tabled.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 7 pm.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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