

**Minutes of Sweetser Town Council**  
**March 25, 2021**

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:  
Kyle Taylor-Present  
Matt Stewart—Present  
Travis LeMaster—Present  
Dave Fox—Present  
Chuck Briede-Present

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

II. **Minutes**

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

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

IV. **Public Forum**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

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

- Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink presented a professional service agreement (PSA) to perform the Town of Sweetser 2021 Transportation Asset Management Plan PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) update. The estimated lump sum fee is \$4,175. The plan is required to be updated every two years.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to accept the PSA from Fleis & Vandenbrink of \$4,175 to perform the Town of Sweetser 2021 Transportation Asset Management Plan PASER update. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

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

- Regarding the upcoming CCMG project, Mitch reported that we had received the signed contract from Bragg Excavating with the adjustments for extra pipe. Mitch reported that Bragg is experiencing a minor delay in getting the pipe due to the bad weather in Texas. He expects it in by April 9.
- Travis asked if we had a start date for the State Road 18 Bridge Project so we could notify town residents of lane closures and/or restrictions. Mitch said we could check with James Apple at E & B

Paving for specifics. Devin said that INDOT has been out making some preliminary markings for the work. Dave said he had spoken with a representative of the project contractor (R. L. McCoy) who indicated the bridge will be closed from sometime in June till sometime in November. Dave said we will need to communicate to our police department the importance of keeping big trucks off the town streets during that period. Mitch indicated that there is a provision in the INDOT contracts that contemplate INDOT being responsible for repairing any damage resulting from detoured traffic. There was a discussion of possibly instituting through ordinance permanent weight limits on town streets. Town counsel Michael Hotz said he would review the issue and report back to the council.

- Kyle asked if more surface could be added to the cut-out that was done on Scott Drive and Main. Mitch and Devin both thought it could be addressed during the paving projects this summer.
- Clerk reported that the town had received the invoice from INDOT for the town's portion of the 2021 CCMG project. The invoice total is \$78,524.13.
- Fleis & Vandenbrink had made previously a donation for the Sesquicentennial. Chuck presented to Mitch a document of acknowledgement and thanks that illustrates a recap of the events for that day and how that contribution and others are being utilized.
- Devin distributed the 2020 Sweetser Wastewater Treatment Plant Annual Summation of Monthly Reports of Operation. Devin said we were at 81% of flow capacity for 2020 (target amount is 90% or less).
- Devin reported that the new camera trailer and the vac truck should be here in about four weeks.
- Devin said we rented the camera to Bragg Excavating for a job at Eastbrook High School. Estimated rental fee is \$4,500.
- Chuck and Matt inquired about the progress towards bring fill dirt into the dog park. Devin said it is still in the works. Dave said that Bragg Excavating would be utilizing the area to store some of the pipe and related materials for the CCMG project prior to installation.
- Kyle said street signs are missing at Broadway and Washington and Scott and Main. Devin said new sop signs will be installed soon: he is waiting for a couple of parts for the pneumatic post driver. Travis and Devin commented that there are many signs in town that need updated. There was a discussion of timing, styles, and costs. Devin will research options and costs. Clerk reported that the asset tags (some of which will go on the street signs and trail signs) should be shipped today.
- Clerk reported a check had been mailed today for the Hometown Banner brackets and hardware.

**Police Department Dept.**—Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- Ryan submitted the following written report:
  - We have been busy at times recently. There have been two recent theft reports and a domestic disturbance on top of our usual extra patrols, vacation checks, lockouts, etc. We are sitting at 819 calls that we've added ourselves or been given by dispatch. I was also called out to an accident at 18 and Laura Lane. I have been working on getting Brian Sharp officially hired and on the books to get him on the road as soon as possible.  
Brad has been on vacation this week and some of last week and I want to commend Corey because he and Brad always step up and help me out when I'm in a jam with staffing and Corey has done that this week. It comes at cost for him because he gets run down. He left the sheriff's department shift early and asked to be off last night. I was able to get Jim to take his shift.  
The stop sticks that I ordered came in and I'll get them mounted in the new Tahoe soon.  
While I was typing I got a sales related phone call in the office and I asked for pricing on roadside drug test kits. We are lacking in this area right now and there was a time not long ago that one of the guys needed a drug test kit and had to go to the sheriff's department and use one of their kits. It worked out ok that time, but it could easily get us in trouble, and we should look at making a move to get us self-sufficient in that area.  
If anything changes or comes up, I'll advise.
- Matt reported that Ryan indicated he would prefer to have an answering machine for the police department rather than carry a department cell phone.
- Kyle and Dave commented on some possible vehicle nuisance violations at Jackson and Hubert. Dave also reported that he had received a letter of complaint from a resident regarding the property at the

corner of Laura Lane and Nancy. A discussion ensued about enforcement of the nuisance ordinances and methods of notifying violators. Michael said he could draft a notification for the councils' review.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion authorizing town counsel Michael Hotz to compose a draft letter of notification of nuisance ordinance violation(s). Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

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

- Steve said he had purchased the border beams for the flower beds at 700 and would install them as soon as weather permits.
- Steve said he is looking for shelving for the town hall garage so the parks items that are stored there can be organized.

## **VI. Continuing Business**

- Dave Fox opened the floor for discussion of and public hearing for Ordinance 2021-1 “An Ordinance Regulating Vehicular Traffic on Trails, Multi-Use Paths, and Sidewalks”. The first reading of the proposed ordinance was at the council meeting of February 25, 2021 and notice of the proposed ordinance was published in the Marion Chronicle-Tribune. There being no comments, Dave closed the floor to discussion.

Matt Stewart made a motion to pass on the second reading Ordinance 2021-1 “An Ordinance Regulating Vehicular Traffic on Trails, Multi-Use Paths, and Sidewalks”. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Matt Stewart made a motion pass on the third and final reading Ordinance 2021-1 “An Ordinance Regulating Vehicular Traffic on Trails, Multi-Use Paths, and Sidewalks”. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Regarding the Christmas Light electrification project, Kyle reported that in discussions with AEP they have yet to decide if they (AEP) would do the work or if they would have the town engage an outside contractor. Kyle reported that one of the requirements is that there must be a streetlight where we are going to put the Christmas lights, or we would have to run new lines. Kyle is waiting on cost estimates for new streetlights. Matter tabled pending additional information.
- Dave asked if the Christmas Lights and Hometown Hero Banners would be on the same poles. It was determined that there should be room on the poles for both decorations.
- Travis said there have been 10 Hometown Hero Banner applications received thus far and he will be placing the initial banner order this week.
- Town counsel Michael Hotz submitted for review a draft lease agreement between the town and Daniel Newhouse for the use of his property for the Sesquicentennial. Chuck will contact Mr. Newhouse and review with him the proposed lease agreement.
- The consideration of surplus equipment was taken-up again. Specifically, the town needs to declare the Ford Vac Truck and the Jetter Trailer surplus property so they can be disposed.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-2 "A Resolution of the Town Council of Sweetser Determining that Certain Property is Surplus", so designating as surplus the 1985 Ford Vac Truck and the 2001 Jetter and Rotator Trailer and, further, authorizing the town maintenance manager to take such steps as are necessary for their disposal. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

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

- Matt recommended we list the Vac Truck on Facebook Marketplace and in Grant County Classifieds with a minimum bid of \$2,100.
- Kyle said we were ready to donate the old jeep to Gilead Ministries.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to donate the surplus jeep to Gilead Ministries. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

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

- Kyle reported that he had received a packet from American Legal publishing requesting initial information to initiate the ordinance codification project. Michael and the clerk will work on the response.
- Matt inquired if there was any update on the Bragg Street property. Michael said we are waiting on the county to pass a resolution regarding the property.
- Michael reviewed the proposed amendments to the traffic ordinance to incorporate the new stop sign locations. Matt said he had received some complaints about excessive speeds at Osborne and Davis and wondered if we want to consider placing a stop sign on that corner. Matter tabled.
- Travis updated the council on Sesquicentennial planning and events. There will now be a 5k run honoring Rich Gamble.

## VII. New Business

- Chief Kirk Herring of the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department (PTVFD) asked the council to consider allocating a portion of the CARES Act funds the town received to the PTVFD. Kirk reviewed the budget of the department and its equipment needs. He presented to the council for their consideration a list of needs and quoted costs for each item. Among the items were:
  - Air packs
  - Protective equipment for the firefighters
  - Radio equipment
  - Washer and dryer
  - New fire truck
  - Medical equipmentCouncil will take the matter under advisement.
- Chuck Briede said the town received one bid for the residential trash collection contract. The current agreement expires April 30, 2021. The bid was from Republic Services. Chuck opened and read through the details of the bid. Craig Lutz of Republic Services was in attendance. The bid included three- and five-year options for weekly residential trash collection and three- and five-year options for every other week residential recycle collection.

	3-Year Options	
	Residential Trash Collection Per Month	Residential Recycling Collection Per Month
Year 1	\$4,790.20/month	\$2,816.50/month
Year 2	\$5,005.20/month	\$2,945.50/month

Year 3                                      \$5,233.10/month                                      \$3,074.50/month

5-Year Options

	Residential Trash Collection Per Month	Residential Recycling Collection Per Month
Year 1	\$4,764.40/month	\$2,816.50/month
Year 2	\$4,953.60/month	\$2,945.50/month
Year 3	\$5,155.70/month	\$3,074.50/month
Year 4	\$5,357.80/month	\$3,216.40/month
Year 5	\$5,572.80/month	\$3,358.30/month

In response to questions from the council, Craig detailed how the recycle process works from the time of pick-up to processing. Craig and the council explored recycling options other than curb side collection, including a possible collaboration with Swayzee that would entail the purchase of recycling drop-off trailers that would be retrieved by the county. The consensus of the council is that recycling is important and desirable, but it is a matter that requires more study before deciding on a specific course.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to approve the five-year option for residential trash collection with no curb side recycling collection at this time. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

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

- There was a discussion of when the town clean-up will take place, how it will be advertised, and the timing of ordering the containers. June 26, 2021 was selected as the date of the clean-up. Kyle indicated the Grant County Rescue Mission has offered to come out and collect metals that day.
- Eric Waltz of Suite Living submitted a written request to waive late fees for their utility bill.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to waive the late fees for Suite Living. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

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

- Chuck said the town has been approached by the Oak Hill Pot-O-Gold fund raising group with a proposal to utilize the silver painted trail bolder this summer. The idea is the group would “sell” spots on the stone to allow individuals to paint the stone in recognition of birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The group would repaint the stone silver after the project is over. After discussion, the council okayed the project.
- Chuck asked what the town mask policy should be after the state lifts the mask mandate on April 6. After discussion, the council decided to follow the State guidance.
- There was a discussion of possible and permitted uses of the CARES Act funds received by the town and of the anticipated ARS (American Recovery Act) funds. Matter tabled pending additional information.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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