

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council  
July 13, 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-Absent  
Travis LeMaster-Present  
Kyle Taylor-Present  
Chuck Briede-Absent

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

II. **Minutes**

After discussion, Charles Myers made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023, meeting as written. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.  
Charles Myers-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Absent  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Chuck Briede-Absent

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of July 13, 2023, as submitted. Charles Myers seconded the motion.  
Charles Myers-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Absent  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Chuck Briede-Absent

IV. **Public Forum**

- Resident Maria Stewart inquired if there had been further consideration of converting the vacant area on Main Street, where the grocery store once stood, into a community park. Kyle related that the councils' time has recently been taken up with the proposed wastewater and storm water project. He suggested Maria talk to Dave Fox and Scott Winger about the initiative.  
Maria also wondered if some of the town-owned land near the dog park could be used for a small splash pad or some other family friendly recreational use.  
Maria posed some questions regarding the animal ordinance and specifically the section relating to chickens.

V. **Department Reports**

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

- Ryan:
  - Reported 225 calls in the three-week period. He said there have been 2,053 calls year-to-date compared to 1,848 last year-to-date.
  - The 2012 Tahoe requires new front shocks and tires.
  - Attended an EMA meeting and reported that the county is working on an ordinance that would give them the authority to institute emergency curfews in specific areas. Currently any emergency curfew must cover the entire county.
  - Ryan reported that EMA is concerned about possible traffic congestion due to a full eclipse on April 8, 2024. Grant county is on the northern edge of the prime viewing area.

- Ryan and town counsel Michael Hotz recommended to the council consideration of an ordinance regulating rentals by requiring landlords to maintain documentation of who is leasing a property and limiting who may live in the residence or apartment.

**Maintenance Department** – Operations Manager Patrick Kendall was not in attendance.

- Kyle reported:
  - The vac truck needs repaired
  - The bucket truck needs an air compressor
  - The crew has identified some trees in town that need trimming

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

- Steve submitted a quote of \$5,100 from Beachy Tree Service for removing ten dead trees from the first mile of the trail.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the quote from Beachy Tree Service of \$5,100 to remove ten dead trees from the first mile of the trail. Charles Myers seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Absent

## VI. Continuing Business

- Chad Salzbrenner of Fleis & Vandenbrink was in attendance to provide an update on the Sweetser Sidewalk Improvement Project. They are currently working on Stage 3 plans with the bid likely in December of 2024 with construction sometime in 2025.
- No update on the proposed town credit card ordinance.
- Beth Johnson and Mitch Hansel of USI Consultants were in attendance to present two application letters to INDOT:
  - 2023-02 CCMG Call for Mill and Fill Projects: Estimated total project cost of \$203,500, town match of \$50,875
  - 2023-02 Call for Material costs for chip sealing & crack filling operations: Estimated total project cost of \$10,000, town match of \$2,500

After discussion, the council signed both applications.

- Michael reported that Dollar General had responded and indicated they would be correcting the storm water issue at their property.
- No update on the potential SRF and OCRA project.
- Kyle reported we have received the first appraisal report for the Church Street property and a second one is pending. There was discussion of the current zoning and potential future uses of the space. Matter tabled.
- The clerk provided an update on the transactions, balance, and performance of the Federated Government Money Market Fund.
- Discussion resumed of Ordinance 2023-4, and Ordinance amending the 2023 Salary Ordinance.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to pass on second reading Ordinance 2023-4, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2022-6, the 2023 Salary Ordinance for the Town of Sweetser, Indiana, as follows:

Maintenance Assistant \$21.50 per hour cap

Part-time mower position \$10 per hour

Temporary Maintenance Assistant \$15 per hour

Charles Myers seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

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

**VII. New Business**

- None

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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