

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
December 16, 2021

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

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Present

Matt Stewart—Present

Travis LeMaster—Present

Dave Fox—Absent

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 December 9, 2021, meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

III. Bills

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of 12-16-21 as submitted. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. Public Forum

- No comments

V. Department Reports

Maintenance Department —Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin reported:
 - He engaged Sweetser Lawn Care to bag the leaves on the town owned Church St. property, as the town's equipment is not capable of managing that lot. The town picked-up the bags.
 - Some of the Christmas lights blew down and were damaged. Devin will contact GP Design and request repairs.
 - Travis reported there was a Hometown Hero Banner that was damaged as well. Chuck said Jeff had made the repair.
- Clerk asked if the town would be interested in a short-term rental of the dump truck to Grant Memorial Park Cemetery. After discussion:

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion approve renting the town dump truck to Grant Memorial Park Cemetery for \$200 per day on condition of verified insurance coverage and a signed agreement. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Devin reported that he and Jeff had about 90 hours each of comp time that they would not be able to use by year-end. Their inability to do so is due to COVID related issues and a small staff.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the carry-over of the unused comp hours until March 31, 2022. If the comp hours cannot be used by then, the town would pay equivalent compensation. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-No

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Chuck told Devin the trailer at the fire station is ready to be garaged.

Police Department – Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- No report
 - Chuck reported the traffic light is not recycling properly. Travis said he has contacted INDO to report the issue and get it remedied.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Nothing to report

VI. Continuing Business

- Chuck resumed discussion of the proposed lease agreement between the town and Deputy John Gavin for John’s Dodge Durango Interceptor. Town counsel Michael Hotz reported that he was still working with the town’s insurance carrier to verify that the town has or can obtain coverage for the vehicle.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the town entering into a lease agreement with John Gavin for the use of his Dodge Durango Interceptor by the Sweetser Police Department, pending approval of the lease terms by our insurance carrier. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

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

- Discussion resumed on the modification of the current town Marshal contract. The current contract is a month-to-month agreement. The contemplated changes and clarifications are:
 - Make the contract a term contract that runs from January 1 through December 31, at which time if the Marshal is retained a new contract would be proffered.
 - Update the salary amount to the current salary ordinance
 - Correct the pay period to every two weeks instead of twice a month.
- Discussion resumed of Ordinance 2021-7, the 2022 Salary Ordinance for the Town of Sweetser. It was recommended to provide 5% increases for all positions except for the Deputy Clerk, Street and Wastewater Plant Assistant, Deputy Town Marshal, and Crossing Guard positions, which will receive increases greater than 5%.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve General Ordinance 2021-7, the 2022 Salary Ordinance for the Town of Sweetser. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

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

The 2022 Salary Schedule the Town of Sweetser is:

Town Council Member	\$ 2,520.00	per year	5.00% increase
Clerk-Treasurer	\$24,990.00	per year	5.00% increase
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer	\$13.00	per hour	15.86% increase
Billing Clerk	\$ 9.10	per hour	5.00% increase
Town Attorney	\$ 9,555.00	per year	5.00% increase
Town Maintenance Manager	\$45,503.58	per year	5.00% increase
Deputy Town Maintenance Manager	\$34,944.00	per year	5.00% increase
Street and Wastewater Plant Asst	\$13.00	per hour	10.83% increase
Town Marshall	\$41,655.05	per year	5.00% increase
Deputy Town Marshall first 6 months	\$20.00	per hour	8.93% increase
Deputy Town Marshal 6-12 months	\$21.00	per hour	8.36% increase
Deputy Town Marshal > 1 year	\$22.00	per hour	7.84% increase
Crossing Guard	\$22.00	per day	7.84% increase

- Matt asked if we had an answer as to if and when the town would be able to provide funds to the Pleasant Township Fire Department for the purchase of new radios. Clerk said we should have the answer by the first meeting in 2022.
- Regarding the Bragg Street Property, Matt asked if we could plan the clean-up of the property. Michael said we have a signed order from the court that has been sent to the Auditor’s office. The Auditor will issue a tax deed to the town. However, Michael advised that the town does not have “marketable title.” To obtain marketable title, the town would need to initiate and successfully conclude the “quiet title” process.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to authorize initiating the Quiet Tile process for the Bragg Street Property. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

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

- Clerk will advertise proposed General Ordinance 2021-6, An Ordinance Establishing an Ordinance Violation Bureau for the Town of Sweetser. Second reading and public hearing are scheduled for the January 13, 2022, council meeting. Yet to be determined is to which fund, or funds, any fines collected under the Ordinance would be allocated. Clerk will research and report back to the council.

VII. New Business

- Council decided the council meeting dates for 2022:

January	13 & 27
February	10 & 24
March	10 & 24
April	14 & 28
May	12 & 26
June	9 & 23
July	14 & 28
August	11 & 25
September	8 & 22
October	13 & 27
November	10 & 17
December	8 & 22

Clerk will advertise the dates.

- Chuck reported that the Sweetser Redevelopment Commission met and made a recommendation to the Town Council to spend up to \$50,000 of Sweetser TIF funds for road and street project overruns from 2021.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Sweetser Redevelopment Committee to spend up to \$50,000 of Sweetser TIF funds for overruns on 2021 road and street projects. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
