

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
January 13, 2022

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

Roll Call:

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.

II. Minutes

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2021, meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

III. Bills

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of January 13, 2022, as submitted.

Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. Public Forum

- Dave opened the floor the election of Sweetser Town Council officers for calendar year 2022.
 - Dave opened the floor for nominations for Council President for 2022. Chuck Briede nominated Dave Fox. There being no other nominations Dave closed the floor for nominations for President.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to elect Dave Fox as Sweetser Town Council President for calendar year 2022. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Dave opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice President for 2022. Dave nominated Chuck Briede. There being no other nominations Dave closed the floor for nominations for Vice President.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to elect Chuck Briede as Sweetser Town Council Vice President for calendar year 2022. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Dave closed the floor for elections.

- In attendance was Larry McDermott representing the Sweetser United Methodist Church. The church is seeking the town's written favorable recommendation to proceed with submitting to the Board of Zoning Appeals a proposal to purchase and install a digital sign for the church to replace the existing sign.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion for the town to provide a favorable recommendation in support of the application from the Sweetser United Methodist Church to the Board of Zoning Appeals to purchase and install a digital sign to replace the existing sign. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-No

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

V. Department Reports

Maintenance Department — Superintendent Devin Cole was not in attendance.

- No report

Police Department — Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan reported:
 - The 2012 Tahoe driver side front light issue has been repaired
 - The new radar system came in. The department will also be receiving a new camera system in the near future. The plan is to have Shroyers install both units at the same time.
 - Deputy John Gavin received a laptop, scanner, and printer through a grant. The new equipment will allow the department to utilize the ECWS (Electronic Citation and Warning System).
 - Mid-winter training is coming up; it will take place in Marion and probably be in mid-February.
 - Radar certifications will be performed on February 3.
 - The department had 345 calls since the last report.
- Kyle asked if we had received the notice form the Auditor's office for accessing the 3% City & Town Courts Cost Distribution. Clerk confirmed we had received the notice.
- There was a discussion of department staffing levels. Ryan said it was adequate at this time.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said he needs to purchase some lumber for picnic table repairs.
- Chuck said the Sweetser Lions Club was considering installing some outdoor games somewhere on town property. The plan is contingent upon Town approval of game(s) and location(s). Chuck suggested the Lions Club and the town could work together on a master plan. Matter tabled.

VI. Continuing Business

- Kyle resumed discussion of the conditionally approved lease agreement between the town and Deputy John Gavin for John's Dodge Durango Interceptor. He said the outstanding issue is if the town is going to enter into a lease for the use of the vehicle, or if the town should not lease the vehicle but enact a resolution to allow John to use the vehicle for department business, said resolution specifying the responsibilities of the town and Deputy Gavin respectively for vehicle related expenses.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to rescind the previously approved conditional lease agreement with John Gavin for the use of his Dodge Durango Interceptor by the Sweetser Police Department. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

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

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to approve John Gavin utilizing his Dodge Durango Interceptor for Sweetser Police Department duty pending the drafting and approval of a resolution specifying the responsibilities of the town and Deputy Gavin respectively for vehicle related expenses. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

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

- Regarding the Bragg Street Property, Matt asked if the Quiet Title process had been initiated. Town Council Michael Hotz responded that we had not yet received the tax deed from the Auditor's office, and he wanted to have that before proceeding. Matt asked if we could go ahead with clean-up in the interim and Michael thought we could. Discussion turned to whom to engage to haul away the trailer. Matter tabled.
- Ordinance 2021-6, An Ordinance Establishing an Ordinance Violation Bureau for the Town of Sweetser was previously passed on the first reading and advertised for a second reading and a public hearing. Subsequently it was discovered that per Indiana Code a Town Ordinance Violation Bureau cannot collect fines for moving violations. The public hearing of the proposed ordinance was opened. There were no public comments, and the hearing was closed. After additional discussion, matter was tabled pending additional research.
- Kyle asked if we had received an invoice from the electrician for installing electricity access to the polls for the Christmas lights. Clerk said he the town has not received an invoice.

- Discussion resumed on the modification of the current town Marshal contract. Michael said the modifications considered at the December 16, 2021; meeting had been incorporated into the new contract. The proposed contract will be presented to Marshal Ryan.
- Travis reported that the town was looking into updating, for the town Bicentennial in 2071, the monument used for the Sesquicentennial time capsule. Clerk reported a bronze overlay for the current stone is approximately \$1,600 and a new stone would be about \$700.

After discussion, Travis Lemaster authorizing up to \$1,000 for the purchase of a new stone for the town Bicentennial. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Chuck gave an update on the work of the Area Plan Commission on the county-wide Solar Farm Ordinance.
- Clerk provided an update on the ordinance codification process.
- Clerk presented a populated copy of the previously approved salary ordinance for 2022, General Ordinance 2021-7, for signatures.
- Clerk reported that Jay Berry has requested a letter from the council confirming the Ignite Fuel infiltration issue is closed. Clerk will draft letter.

VII. New Business

- Kyle asked if the town wanted to consider annexation of some of the surrounding areas to “square-up” the town boundaries. Chuck and Kyle responded that recent legislation made it difficult for municipal initiated annexation to succeed.
- Travis suggested the town council consider putting on an event on July 4, 2026, in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of America’s independence.
- Travis introduced a proposed weapons ordinance to protect the safety and welfare of the citizens of Sweetser. After discussion matter was tabled pending further research.
- Dave said we needed to renew the Nepotism and Conflict of Interest affirmations for 2022. Matter was tabled until the next meeting.
- Travis introduced an ordinance to repeal the comp time provision of General Ordinance 2021-7. After discussion matter was tabled pending further research.
- Tamra Johnson submitted a written request to waive the late fee of \$8.74 on her recent utility bill. Clerk reported she had not been late in over 2 years.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to authorize the clerk to waive the Tamra Johnson late fee of \$8.74. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Chuck reported that a resident of Wes Way has asked the town to consider installing a streetlight at the south end of Wes Way. Chuck said there is an area of Devoe that is dark as well. After discussion, matter tabled.
- There was a house fire at 515 Allen Drive. The residence will be uninhabitable for 3 or 4 months. The council discussed a suspension of the utility bill until June.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to approve the suspension of the utility bill on the residence on Allen Drive from Feb. 1, 2022, until May 31, 2022, at which time the suspension will be reassessed. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Chuck reported that there have been issues with obtaining trash cans. Clerk reported the Republic Service said they would be delivering extra cans on January 14, 2022.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
