

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
September 22, 2022

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, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022, meeting as written. Mat Stewart 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 September 22, 2022, as submitted pending the resolution of the question about the Hubler invoices for the GMC pick-up. 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**

Police Department – Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance

- Ryan said the department had responded to 165 calls the two weeks past.
- Ryan attended a mandatory IDACS (Indiana Data and Communications System) meeting.
- According to the Academy, Corey is current on his training, and he can return to active duty.
- Ryan and Steve are working on discovering who is taking money from the park donations fund box.
- Ryan gave an update on the ResCare residential situation. After discussion, the matter was tabled.
- Ryan raised the possibility of increasing the Marshal's compensation so that he could quit his second job. Matter tabled.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said the burn pile gate is now locked.
- Steve said the bicycle repair station arrived but one of the parts was broken. He is waiting for the replacement part. He discussed the size requirement for the concrete pad. We may have to purchase cement and mix the concrete ourselves. Kyle suggested getting a quote from Andrew King.
- Steve said he and Ronnie Achor had repaired the area of the trail where a tree root had caused the pavement to rise.

- Steve reported the Brinkman's were going to retire from taking care of the flower beds. He asked if we could post something on Facebook about needing volunteers. Chuck suggested contacting the Marion Garden Club.
- Bill Mont is installing an LED light with a timer under the shelter.
- Steve recommended building a box around the shelter drinking fountain so that it does not have to be taken down and reinstalled each year.
- Steve said 9 flags have been repaired. He still needs to obtain the rings that attach the flags to the pole.
- Steve recommended purchasing a chain saw attachment for the tractor that will enable a person to trim, from the tractor, the trees that overhang the trail. He said the cost including shipping is about \$2,500 and installation would be approximately \$1,000. He said Converse had agreed to let us use their chipper.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the purchase of the chain saw attachment for the tractor for up to \$3,500 including installation. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Maintenance Department - Michael McKinstry and Patrick Alvord were not in attendance

- The cooling fins on the AC at the treatment plant need to be cleaned.
- Miller needs a street sign.
- The trees at Meridian and Sherron are obscuring the street sign and need trimmed.
- Steve said he had a quote of \$5,850 for remediating the water drainage and erosion issue between town hall and the shelter. The council decided to get other quotes. Matter tabled.
- Kyle provided a progress report on the cleaning and televising of the sewer lines by Innovative Pipeline Systems. He said they have encountered a couple of lines that were not on the project list. This may result in additional costs. There are also 3 buried manholes that need to be uncovered. Our employees will try to locate them.
- Innovative Pipeline Systems may be interested in purchasing our sewer camera.
- Kyle resumed the discussion of appropriate staffing levels for the plant and the street department.
- Kyle said we may need to invest in repairing the dump truck.
- Kyle said he is working on purchasing road salt for the season. He said we have enough for now if we have an early snow.
- American Pump repair has estimated \$5,000 to repair the lift stations and \$10,000 for two back-up pumps.
- Kyle said we should be getting some pavement millings from the work on State Road 26 that will be placed on the drive to the burn pile.
- Andrew King quoted around \$1,000 each to repair three catch basins: Church Street, Washington Street, and Greenberry & Hubert.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor a motion to approve hiring Andrew King to repair three catch basins (Church Street, Washington Street, and Greenberry & Hubert) for approximately \$3,000. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

VI. Continuing Business

- Kyle demonstrated a free "Task Board" system for tracking projects, jobs, and to-do lists.
- Kyle gave a progress report on the possibility of the school connecting to the town sanitary sewer system.

- Matt said the property at 133 Peterson had been sold in a tax sale. The neighbor who was maintaining the yard will not be doing so going forward and the town may need to assume responsibility for doing so. The dwelling may need to be condemned. Chuck will contact Area Plan Code Enforcement to ascertain the town's options.
- Chuck opened the public hearing of General Ordinance 2022-4, an Ordinance Amending the Animal Control Ordinance previously adopted in General Ordinance 2009-5, as amending and replacing General Ordinance 2000-8, as amending and replacing General Ordinance 1958-11, and as amended by General Ordinance 1975-3. There were no public comments.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to pass on second reading General Ordinance 2022-4, an Ordinance Amending the Animal Control Ordinance previously adopted in General Ordinance 2009-5, as amending and replacing General Ordinance 2000-8, as amending and replacing General Ordinance 1958-11, and as amended by General Ordinance 1975-3. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-No
 Dave Fox-Absent
 Chuck Briede-Aye

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to pass on third and final reading General Ordinance 2022-4, an Ordinance Amending the Animal Control Ordinance previously adopted in General Ordinance 2009-5, as amending and replacing General Ordinance 2000-8, as amending and replacing General Ordinance 1958-11, and as amended by General Ordinance 1975-3. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-No
 Dave Fox-Absent
 Chuck Briede-Aye

VII. New Business

- Chuck opened discussion of the proposed 2023 budget. The clerk reviewed the assumptions incorporated in the proposed budget for each fund. Some of the tax levy was reallocated from the General Fund to the MVH Fund.
 The council amended the proposed General Fund Budget from \$283,046 to \$293,000.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to pass on first reading the proposed 2023 budget as amended to increase the General fund budget to \$293,000. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

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

- Travis reported the local elected officials dinner meeting is next Wednesday at The Bliss Barn.
- Chuck reported that there had been a complaint about the police flag.
- Trick or treat hours were set from 6 pm to 9pm on October 31.
- Colonial Crest has appealed their sewer bill late fee.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to reduce the Colonial Crest late fee by 50%. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-No

Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
