

**Minutes of Sweetser Town Council**  
**December 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-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Present

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 8, 2022, meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of December 22, 2022, as submitted. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Matt Stewart arrived at the meeting.

IV. **Public Forum**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

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

- 296 calls in November
- 243 calls in December through December 21
- Ryan reported the toy drive was a success
- Purchased new tires for the new Tahoe
- Ryan would like to attend Chief school
- Ryan asked if the council would consider instituting a shift premium for working holidays
- The door lock to the Marshal's office has been changed to a key coded entry system

**Parks Department**—President Steve Kelley was not in attendance.

- The council discussed submitting an insurance claim for the damage to the covered bridge. Deductible is \$1,000 and repairs were \$1,200. The council decided not to submit the claim because the potential effect on rates may be more than the \$200 we would receive.

**Maintenance Department** - Patrick Alvord was not in attendance

- Patrick is salting the streets tonight and will be plowing periodically
- Kyle and Matt interviewed two candidates for the Operations Manager position: Jeremy Waite and Patrick Kendall. Matt and Kyle recommend Patrick Kendall for the position.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to hire Patrick Kendall for the Operations Manager position at \$48,000 per year. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- ZZ Diesel of Kokomo has provided a quote of \$3,958.58 to repair the emissions issue of the silver GMC truck.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to accept the offer from ZZ Diesel to repair the emissions issue of the silver GMC truck for up to \$4,000. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Kyle provided a status update on Innovative Pipeline Systems (“IPS”) progress on the cleaning and televising of the sanitary system. Tracy of IPS has indicated that they will remediate the driveways at the treatment plant that have been damaged by his trucks.
- At the treatment plant the dumpster that receives the screening trash failed a paint test. Jeff will rerun the test before further action is taken.

#### VI. Continuing Business

- Discussion of the 2023 Salary ordinance was continued.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve on first reading General Ordinance 2022-6, the 2023 Salary Ordinance for the Town of Sweetser, as amended by removing Section 2, Part D., comp time, changing the date in Section 6 to January 1, 2023, and increasing the maximum rate to \$20 for the Public Utility Assistant and Maintenance Assistant positions. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

The 2023 Salary Schedule for the Town of Sweetser is:

Town Council Member	\$ 3,000	per year
Clerk-Treasurer	\$26,000	per year
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer	\$13.75	per hour
Billing Clerk	\$ 9.10	per hour
Town Attorney	\$ 9,555	per year
Operations Manager	\$50,000	per year maximum
Public Utility Assistant	\$20.00	per hour maximum
Maintenance Assistant	\$20.00	per hour maximum
Town Marshall	\$50,000	per year maximum
Deputy Town Marshall first 6 months	\$20.00	per hour
Deputy Town Marshal 6-12 months	\$21.00	per hour
Deputy Town Marshal > 1 year	\$22.00	per hour
Crossing Guard	\$25.00	per day

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve on the second reading General Ordinance 2022-6, the 2023 Salary Ordinance for the Town of Sweetser, as amended by removing Section 2, Part D., comp time,

changing the date in Section 6 to January 1, 2023, and increasing the maximum rate to \$20 for the Public Utility Assistant and Maintenance Assistant positions. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve to suspend the rules and approve a third reading of General Ordinance 2022-6, the 2023 Salary Ordinance for the Town of Sweetser, as amended by removing Section 2, Part D., comp time, changing the date in Section 6 to January 1, 2023, and increasing the maximum rate to \$20 for the Public Utility Assistant and Maintenance Assistant positions. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve on the third and final reading General Ordinance 2022-6, the 2023 Salary Ordinance for the Town of Sweetser, as amended by removing Section 2, Part D., comp time, changing the date in Section 6 to January 1, 2023, and increasing the maximum rate to \$20 for the Public Utility Assistant and Maintenance Assistant positions. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- The council vacancy was discussed. Town counsel Michael Hotz has notified the clerk of the court of the vacancy. Sweetser clerk will send out certified letters to council members announcing that the vacancy will be filled at the January 26, 2023, council meeting.
- At the previous meeting the town had received and reviewed quotes to install security camera systems at town hall and at the treatment plant. Matter was tabled.
- The clerk did not have an update on the codification project.
- There has been no further movement on resolving the 113 Peterson issue.
- The clerk will have the capstone for the time capsule delivered next week.

## **VII. New Business**

- The Council meeting schedule for 2023 was decided.
  - January 12
  - January 26
  - February 9
  - February 23
  - March 9
  - March 23
  - April 13
  - April 27
  - May 11
  - May 25
  - June 8
  - June 22
  - July 13
  - July 27
  - August 10
  - August 24
  - September 14
  - September 28

October 12  
October 26  
November 9  
November 30  
December 14  
December 21

- Kyle suggested that the town consider implementing a fee of \$1 per month per residence so that leaf pickup could be outsourced. The Council decided not to implement a fee at this time but to consider outsourcing in any case.
- Kyle has researched replacement chairs for the council. The council decided to wait until after the first of the year to act on this.
- The clerk reported that the council needs a resolution designating the positions that qualify for the Public Employee Retirement Fund contributions.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-8, designating the following positions as eligible for participation in the Public Employee Retirement Fund effective January 1, 2023: Operations Manager, Public Utility Assistant, Maintenance Assistant, and Town Marshal. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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