

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
May 25, 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-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 May 11, 2023, meeting as written.

Charlie Myers seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of May 25, 2023, as submitted. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Resident Maria Stewart proposed converting the vacant area on Main Street, where the grocery store once stood, into a community park. She submitted a diagram with a possible layout.
- Resident Mike Williams expressed concern about a neighbor's security light that is infringing on the enjoyment of his property in the evenings.

V. **Department Reports**

Police Department – Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan:
 - Reported 139 calls in the period.
 - Reported that Axon has been in frequent communication with him about body cams and tasers.
 - Is continuing to investigate a bullet-proof replacement windshield for the 2020 Tahoe.
 - Said his department has been conducting public relations efforts at the ballpark.
- Chuck reported a possible nuisance ordinance violation (overgrown back yard) at 104 Peterson.
- Chuck reported that there had been a small fire in the Gaga Pit.

Maintenance Department – Operations Manager Patrick Kendall was in attendance.

- Patrick reported:
 - He had attended the Alliance of Rural Water Expo, made some good contacts, and gathered a lot of good information.

- The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal application has been submitted.
- Thomas Lane has resigned.
- Tomorrow he is meeting with a candidate for a part-time mowing position.
- He is in talks with a possible full-time candidate from Swayzee.
- Chuck reported that at 520 Catherine there was a large root ball at the connection to the sanitary system. Dick Bragg performed the excavation.
- Regarding the convenience store tank replacement project, Kyle initiated a discussion of the storm water connection from the convenience store. Patrick reported he is trying to narrow down precisely where that connection is as well as the location of the sanitary connection before approving completion of the project.
- Patrick recommended we perform more smoke testing of the sanitary system prior to committing to relining all the lines to combat the inflow and infiltration issues.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Chuck inquired if the town needed a push mower for some of the areas. During discussion, it was decided it was not necessary.
- Patrick suggested placing large flowerpot displays at the entrance to the trail. The concern is who would maintain them. Matter was tabled.
- Steve reported he is in conversations with two individuals to remove and replace the four dead trees on Main Street. The trees, if available, are around \$350-375 each.
- Steve attended an ECI planning meeting in Muncie. They are working on a grant for installing EV charging stations.
- Steve said we need to come up with a 5-year Parks Plan for a grant application. Charlie said he could get us connected with someone who has worked on one for Gas City. Steve said ECI has someone who can assist with the grant application.
- Steve resumed discussion of a topic Matt had initiated: permitting overnight camper parking near the dog park. Matter was tabled.
- Dennis Brinkman sent pictures of all the flower boxes and beds along the trail.
- Steve reported on the trail clean-up by the Oak Hill students on May 23. He said they got everything accomplished and did a great job.

VI. Continuing Business

- Discussion of obtaining a credit and/or debit card for the town resumed. Next step is to develop polices and draft an ordinance. Matter was tabled.
- Kyle said we are waiting to hear from Steve Brock on the next steps in the OCRA grant process.
- Town counsel Michael Hotz has made calls to Dollar General about the storm water issue but has not yet received a response.
- Michael reported he filed an ordinance violation for an abandoned vehicle.
- Michael provided an update on the procedures the town should follow when selling town owned real estate.

VII. New Business

- Chuck said the town rummage will be June 16th and 17th.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
