

**Minutes of Sweetser Town Council**  
**May 12, 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 April 28, 2022, 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 May 12, 2022. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

**IV. Public Forum**

- No comments

**V. Department Reports**

**Maintenance Department** —Superintendent Devin Cole was not in attendance.

- Kyle reported:
  - Devin had provided a list of projects for the council's considerations
- The town rummage will be June 16-17.
- Town clean-up will be June 25.

**Police Department** – Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- Matt said that Ryan had provided the council an update via email.

**Parks Department**—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said the bicycle repair station had been ordered and was scheduled to ship on June 25.
- Steve distributed estimates from Hutchens Construction for repairs to the second train car:
  - Repairs to two doors on the train: \$3,439.79
  - Repairs to the floor of the train: \$8,937.00
- There was a wide-ranging discussion about possible funding sources for train repairs and restoration as well as other Parks Department needs. Chuck said the Lions Club was prepared to assist with the doors. Kyle said the Grant County Visitors Bureau had expressed interest in helping out, but it would require that the train be open as an attraction. Kyle has also spoken with the Community Foundation about

matching grant opportunities. There were ideas discussed as to possibilities for opening the trains as an attraction. Matter tabled.

- Steve presented a picture of a hot asphalt notification and information sign. Steve suggests placing eight signs at the various entrances to the trail. Cost of eight signs would be \$280. Matter tabled.

## **VI. Continuing Business**

- Chuck met with Nicole Bailey from the Area Plan Commission (“APC”) to discuss demolition of the 118 Bragg Street property. Nicole prepared a demolition agreement between the county and the town for the council’s consideration. The cost to the town would be nominal. The timing of the demolition will depend on the county’s schedule but could possibly happen this summer. Nicole also noted that the lot does meet the minimum size and set-back requirements that would permit new construction.

After discussion, Kyle Taylor made a motion to approve the agreement between the county and the town for the demolition of the Bragg Street property. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Stu Savka of Triad was in attendance. Stu reported that in efforts to prepare the preliminary engineering report they had:
  - Performed field verifications and determined they had to recreate the town’s sewer base map. The map they were working with was from 1973. They discovered some manholes that were not on the old map.
  - They got into the lift stations to determine sizes and conditions of the pumps.
  - They also did a walk-through the treatment plant with Devin to determine the issues that need to be addressed.
- Stu reported that they should be ready within a week or so to solicit quotes for cleaning and televising the sewer system.
- There was discussion between Stu and the council about application timelines, funding sources, and the use of ARP funds for the potential projects.
- Stu distributed some information regarding a feasibility study for a new town hall.
- Chuck asked about the most cost-effective method of sludge disposal. Stu said he would make some inquiries and report back to the council.
- Matt asked if APC had responded to the reported issue at 137 Peterson Drive. Chuck said he had not yet heard anything.

## **VII. New Business**

- Ryan Malott from the Area Plan Commission (“APC”) was in attendance to discuss an ordinance amendment in response to a request to rezone the Sweetser United Methodist Church property from Residential-4 (R4) to General Business (GB). The impetus for the change is that the church wishes to install a digital sign. The ordinance amendment would permit the church to apply for a special exception to the digital sign ordinance.

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to approve General Ordinance 2022-3, An Ordinance to Amend Grant County Code Section 153 (Areawide Zoning Ordinance) and Providing for the Effective Date of May 12, 2022, providing that the Sweetser United Methodist Church property shall be a zone map amendment from Residential (R-4) to General Business (GB). Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

There was additional discussion between the council and Ryan Malott during which the council reiterated its support for the church installing the digital sign and questioned Ryan on how that should be documented. Ryan said he would draft a letter for signature by the council president so there would be a written record of the council's intentions when the matter comes before the Board of Zoning Appeals.

- In response to questions concerning APC addressing the cat issue the town is experiencing, Ryan said there is an Areawide Animal Control Ordinance, but it does not appear that it has been adopted by the town. Therefor. The APC does not have jurisdiction at this time. Ryan said the APC would be working to get the Areawide ordinance in front of the council for adoption.
- Dave reported that the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department (PTVFD) had requested the town fund a new radio and two new pagers. The radio cost is \$3,643.50 and the cost for two pagers is \$1,551.00. Clerk expressed that ARP funds could be used for this purpose.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the purchase of a new radio and two pagers for the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Travis read an email message from a Sweetser resident asking the council to consider amending the current ordinance and allowing chickens to be raised in back yards within town limits. Travis suggested forming a committee to study the issue. Kyle said he would obtain some more information and report back to the council. After discussion matter tabled.
- Chuck reminded the council that the Lions Club is sponsoring Family Night on the trail on Thursday, May 19, from 4 pm to 8 pm. He said they need to request a utility locate for the proposed Gaga Pit.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Potter

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