

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
January 23, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order by Chuck Briede at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
Rich Gamble—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 offered by Matt Stewart

II. Minutes

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting as written.

Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-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 paying of the bills as written. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Rich Gamble-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. Public Forum

Habitat for Humanity of Grant County plans to build a Habitat home this year at 214 N. Meridian, Sweetser. Jason Haney, Brittany Howey, Andrea Rademaker, and Nolan Rademaker are members of the local Habitat chapter and were present to discuss Habitats' mission, its philosophy and methods, and some specifics of the 2020 Sweetser project.

V. Department Reports

Police Dept.—Marshall Hornback not present at the meeting.

- Matt reported that Ryan will be ordering 4 new lights for the Tahoe and 2 new lights for the Charger.
- The clerk reported that Ryan had requested his deputies pay be raised from \$18 per hour to \$19 per hour after they had reached 6 months of service. A brief discussion ensued and it was noted that the requested rates were within the range for this position as set-out in the most recent salary ordinance.

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve an increase in the deputy wage to \$19 per hour after six months of service. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

Maintenance Dept.—Devin Cole was present at the meeting and the following was reported or discussed:

- The repaired leaf-vac truck will be retrieved on January 27.
- A town equipment inventory has been forwarded to the clerk. This is in response to the SBOA requirement that the town maintain a current asset inventory.
- After the last large rainfall, there seemed to be no infiltration from the Ignite Fuel source. There is an old offset line that will be capped and that should stop any remaining infiltration at that location.
- There is an undiagnosed problem with the Eagle Drive lift station pumps. American Pump Repair is investigating. Best case is it is just clogged. The control panel at the location is not adequate to handle both pumps and will need to be replaced.
- The Short Street lift station electrical bill shot-up last month. Devin is not aware of any changes or conditions that would have caused it to do so. Clerk's office will continue to monitor bills and seek an explanation for the spike.
- Devin continues to work on upgrading to IDEM's required forms and logs.
- Travis reported The Grays have inquired as to when the catch basin will be installed on Gayle Drive.
- Devin gave a presentation to INDOT for the 2024 Sidewalk Project and is optimistic that we will be awarded a contract.
- Devin suggested a covered trailer for the camera would be helpful.
- Travis mentioned the stop sign at Eagle Drive was leaning over. Devin said he is aware of it and some others that need reset.
- There is a sink hole at Elm and Main. Devin thinks he and Patrick can take care of it without involving an outside contractor.
- Patrick is going in the military later this year and will not be working full-time in the interim; thus the search for a full-time replacement continues.
- Devin said he now the Sweetser Fire Chief and that he is no longer assisting Windfall with their plant operation.

Parks Dept.—Steve Kelley was present the meeting.

- Steve distributed copies of the Switch Trail Folders that were produced by Hoosier Jiffy Print. The cost was \$500 for 800 folders. The Indy Boat & Travel Show has requested 400 copies and will reimburse the town a portion of the printing bill
- Steve is building a new bed for the train baggage cart.
- He is also making repairs on two of the parking meter donation receptacles.

VI. Continuing Business

- Town counsel Michael Hotz provided an update on the Church St. property:
 - the area was subdivided in 1960
 - the undeveloped area was dedicated to the public as a park and recreation area and would probably still be considered a park
 - The Church of the Brethren owned the property
 - the parcel is not taxed

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion authorizing Michael to do further research and, barring the discovery of any legal obstacles, initiate a quiet title process to effect the acquisition by the town of title to the property. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Clerk indicated Feb. 15 is the estimated completion date of the town asset inventory.
- Michael reported that the Knight property will be available at a Sheriff's sale.
- Travis initiated a discussion of the town billing and lien policy.

VII. New Business

- Next Sesquicentennial Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7 pm, at Town Hall.
- Steve Kelley recommended that the town hire an outside expert to install the town's camera security system.
- Devin initiated discussion of the plans for fireworks at the 150th celebration.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chuck Briede to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Matt Stewart and passed by voice acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter