

## Minutes of Sweetser Town Council

July 23, 2020

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
- Rich Gamble—Absent
  - Matt Stewart—Present
  - Travis LeMaster—Present
  - Dave Fox—Present
  - Chuck Briede—Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Matt Stewart

II. **Minutes**

Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 09, 2020 meeting. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

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

IV. **Public Forum**

- Craig Lutz of Republic Services was present to address the service issues the town continues to experience. Chuck recapped the issues: missed pickups, missing containers, too long to replace missing containers, unsatisfactory response to complaints, and how yard waste is handled. Mr. Lutz assured the council of Republic's commitment to provide excellent service to the town. He took a few minutes to relay trends in waste management and how the industry has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Lutz said there is an "800" number that the citizens can use to report missed pickups and other issues and that he would make sure that the town would have better back channels to communicate issues to Republic. He said that yard waste regulations are governed by Indiana Landfill Code. He said very small amounts of yard waste are not an issue, but concentrated amounts cannot be taken directly to the landfill by their residential service trucks.
- Town resident Dennis Franklin spoke about his recent experiences with yard waste disposal and expressed his opinion that the current options for yard waste disposal aren't adequate for all the residents of the town and suggested that another option and/or some compromise between no yard waste and some yard waste is needed.
- Steve Kelley said that on the last pickup his trash can was not emptied completely.
- Matt Stewart asked about landfill capacity and the state of recycling in Indiana. Mr. Lutz said curbside recycling is available but is expensive. He said there is ample amount of landfill capacity in Indiana.
- Chuck Briede asked if local businesses could be part of our contract with Republic. Mr. Lutz said it is possible but there tends to be differences in the nature of the waste generated by a business compared to a residence and we would need to be able to adjust our charges accordingly.

- Chuck asked Devin Cole if our yard waste dump site was adequate. Steve Kelley and Devin said the approach to the area is low lying and people are using the trail to avoid the low-lying area which is resulting in the edge of the trail breaking down. They suggested that some gravel was needed to fill in the low area and to ask people who are using the site to stay off the trail if possible.

## V. Department Reports

**Maintenance Dept.**—Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin said the two town trash cans at the shelter are filling up every other day. It is probably from the ice cream shop and the café. He suggested they should have their own trash cans or dumpster.
- Devin asked if we were going to be putting up holiday flags. A discussion ensued of the relative merits and shortfalls of the flag holders and support brackets that we have been using. Devin suggested we may be able to find a less expensive supplier of flags. Matter was tabled.
- Devin said the drum screen at the plant had been rehabilitated as the bearings, brushes, and wheels were replaced. Chuck asked how often this needed to be done and Devin replied it was the first time for the bearings and bushes since the initial installation (about six years).
- Devin said the paving work had been done on Meridian, Craven, and Broadway and Mitch had and would present the INDOT version of the invoice.
- Devin said they had been putting in and street signs where they were missing and straightening others.
- Devin asked if Marshal Ryan Hornback had mentioned that some residents have requested a stop sign at Jackson Street. Travis said we would have to amend and then rewrite the relevant ordinance.
- Devin said the town portion of the work on the Gray property drainage issue had been completed and they were waiting on Mitch Cook to complete his portion of the job.
- Devin said if the stormwater budget allowed, he would like to install a catch basin in between Meridian and Osborne on Davis Street which is just east of the new section recently installed.
- Chuck asked if Devin was aware of a storm drain issue at the Westphal residence at 521 Nancy Drive. Devin said he was aware of it.
- Mitch presented the invoice for the paving and stormwater work completed by Brooks Brothers and Sullivan Excavating, respectively. The total of the invoice is \$145,469.99. We had a \$4,000 change order for the storm drain work on Davis Street. Total project was \$2,520 over original estimate. A discussion ensued about the breakdown of the invoice between paving work and storm water work.

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the paying of the paving and stormwater work invoice as presented. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Rich Gamble-Absent

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Mitch said he is working on the sidewalks contract and would present it for consideration in three weeks.
- Mitch said he will attempt to submit the CCMG application in September the proposed Main Street and Davis Street project.
- Chuck asked if we had been able to address the street signs that were being obscured or blocked by tree limbs. Devin said they had taken care of some of them and would continue to work on the issue. Devin asked if there was a plan for sculpting the trees on Main Street. He said they are beginning to interfere with bike riders and are getting too tall for the town to work on them. We received one quote for doing so but it seemed expensive (\$2,500). Matter tabled.
- Chuck asked if we were done with the storm damage clean-up. Devin replied we were.
- Chuck asked who is cleaning the shelter restroom. Devin said he did not know. Chuck suggested that perhaps Patrick could do so as he made his trash pickups. Devin thought that was doable.
- Chuck asked who is dumping the tote under the shelter. Steve said he had emptied it into the dumpster.
- Chuck asked about the status of the sewer line repair work on Allen and Devin said there was just some work yet to be done by Mitch Cook.

- Chuck asked if the house being constructed along the trail had tapped into the system. Devin said they have tapped in but are not living there yet and are not using any services yet.

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

- Steve said Dennis Franklin had brought to his attention that we needed to build up a couple of the trail flower beds with additional boards and soil. Materials to do so will be about \$120.
- Steve said Devin had installed the posts for the new town sign near the school and Steve presented some of the headers that will be going on the sign.
- Steve said we need to be thinking about painting the trains next year.
- Steve said he had spoken with the superintendent about the possibility of having some of the students help on the trail and train next spring as well as having the school involved in the Sesquicentennial celebration in August of next year.

**Police Department Dept.**—Marshal Ryan Hornback was not present at the meeting.

- Matt said the new Tahoe is in and is \$200-300 under budget. It just needs to have the decals installed and it will be ready to be placed in service.

**VI. Continuing Business** – town counsel Michael Hotz was not present at the meeting

- With regards to a new pole at Pawadise Dog Park, Dave said it would be much less expensive to utilize the existing pole and run a conduit up that pole and have a meter installed rather than have a new pole installed. Matt said he would get it scheduled.
- Travis said the next 150<sup>th</sup> meeting was coming up on Monday. Travis provided an update of the status of preparations for the celebration.
- Travis reported there will be a fund-raising breakfast for the 150<sup>th</sup> on Saturday, August 22, at the fire station.
- Matt reported that the Harmony Music Festival for 2021 is planned to be on the same day and time as the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration.
- Matt reported that he had done some more research on the possibility of curb side recycling, the state of recycling, as well as constructing and operating our own recycle facility. He presented a summary of his findings and a discussion ensued on the same. Travis asked if Matt could develop a white paper on the proposed project and present it to the council. Matter was tabled pending further information.
- Clerk inquired about the status of Patrick Alvord. Dave said he would get a clarification.

**VII. New Business**

- Travis said Derek Middlesworth wishes to meet and discuss why he is getting two different bills for two different properties.
- Clerk presented request from Bailey Henderson-Owensby to refund credit balance of \$44.60 on her property at 518 Nancy Drive as she is selling the property to her mother. The credit balance is as of July 1. The closing is scheduled for July 27. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the town policy is to switch the accounts as of the day of closing and for the buyer and seller to work these things out between them. Thus, no refund is authorized.
- Clerk presented a tentative budget presentation and adoption schedule.
- Next meeting is 7pm, August 13, 2020.

**VIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Matt Stewart to adjourn the meeting and passed by voice acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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