

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2018

I. Call to Order/Roll Call of Council Members Present/Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00 pm on August 9, 2018 at the Sweetser Town Hall by Rich Gamble.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Rich Gamble – Aye

Vacancy

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rich Gamble. Prayer was given by Matt Stewart.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes / Review and Approval of Bills

Dave Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2018 meeting and Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Aye

Vacancy

Chuck Briede made a motion to accept the bills as written. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Aye

Vacancy

III. Review of Applicants for Open Seat on Town Council

- There were two applicants for the open seat: Ted Abdon and Travis LeMaster. The council ask both candidates about their reasons for seeking the seat and what their agenda would be if selected. Ted expressed his opinion that future tax revenue may be insufficient to maintain all of the infrastructure that has been developed and that he would be willing to take the lead on seeking grant funds for the town. Ted also indicated that as of September 1, 2018 he would be certified to operate the wastewater plant. In addition, Ted cited his work for the town as a member of the Parks Department. Travis's response noted his prior experience on the council, his willingness to serve, and his familiarity with the budgeting and political processes.
- The council discussed the candidates' responses. It was noted that Ted is a current employee of the town and that the Indiana Code proscribes a council member from simultaneously being an employee of the town. Ted said he could volunteer some time to the town in lieu of being a paid employee. It was noted that Travis had stepped down as a council member a few years ago. Travis said that at that time, he was starting a new job and the time commitment of both was too much, but his situation is now more stable.
- Council members discussed the difficulty of the decision as both candidates were well qualified and either would be a good fit for the position. Clerk was asked to call the roll for the vote.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Travis LeMaster

Matt Stewart-Ted Abdon

Chuck Briede- Travis LeMaster

Rich Gamble- Travis LeMaster

Vacancy

- Travis LeMaster was selected to fulfill the council term of Steve Kelley. Travis accepted the position. Town attorney Kim Rogers administered the oath of office.

IV. Public Forum

- Howard Schick reported that the weeds near the tracks south of downtown need to be cut.
- Lee Counterman asked if the council had reached a decision regarding the golf cart fee issue. The issue was addressed later in the meeting.

V. Departmental Reports

- Police – Town counsel Kim Rogers brought the employment agreement for the new crossing guard, Victoria Rumble. Marshall Bill will have her sign it.
- Wastewater Plant & Street Department
 - Devin said that we should have the hard copy of the 2018 drainage & resurface contract in about two weeks.
 - Devin reported that the Short Street lift pump is irreparable. A new pump has been ordered. Cost is approximately \$5,000.
 - Devin described issues at the plant which have not been addressed by Triad:
 - The need for high bay lights
 - No progress on the heat track
 - No progress on burying the water lines
 - Overspray and black spots have not been remediated
 - Louvres installed in side wall do not work

VI. Continuing Business

- GASI Accounting Software – Clerk will coordinate with GASI to schedule install.
- The 2019 Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department fire protection agreement was submitted for consideration. Rich Gamble averred that the agreement has been and continues to be a bargain for the Town.

Chuck Briede made a motion that we accept the proposed fire protection agreement for 2019 from the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Travis LeMaster

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Abstain (member of Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department)

Matt Stewart-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

- The town's copier/printer lease and maintenance agreement with Office Concepts expires in August of this year. Clerk submitted a new proposal from Office Concepts. Proposal includes a new machine, same lease rate as current one, and no minimum base charge for copies and prints.

Chuck Briede made a motion that we accept the proposed printer/copier lease & maintenance agreement from Office Concepts. The motion was seconded by Matt Stewart.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

- The discussion continued regarding General Ordinance 2010-5 which establishes rules, regulations, and registration fees for golf carts operated on the town streets by residents. At previous meeting residents had objected to the \$30 registration fee on the grounds that it is higher than other communities in the area, had suggested that at \$30 it may be acting as a deterrent to people registering their golf carts, and complained that enforcement of the registrations was uneven. The choices before the council are 1) leave the ordinance as is, or 2) amend the ordinance, or 3) repeal the ordinance. Travis LeMaster stated that he did not know what the council's thought process was when the ordinance was adopted, but he questions the need for the town to be in the business of regulating the use of golf courts on public thoroughfares. Further, he declared he thought state law already addressed the relevant operational and safety issues and thus would be in favor of repeal. Dave Fox agreed with Travis on repealing the ordinance and further held that the

fees collected thus far in 2018 should be refunded. Kim Rogers said that one of the county judges, when reviewing ordinances, attempts to ascertain if they are unnecessarily duplicating state law.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to repeal, effective August 9, 2018, General Ordinance 2010-5 "An Ordinance of the Town of Sweetser, Indiana, for Purposes of Providing for the Operation of Golf Carts on Streets, Roadways, Intersections, and Alleys". The motion was seconded by Dave Fox.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Chuck Briede-No

Rich Gamble-No

Travis LeMaster-Aye

- Ordinance 2010-5 is repealed. Clerk will inquire of SBOA of permissibility of issuing refunds for registrations paid in 2018.

VII. New Business

- Rich Gamble asked members of the council and residents in attendance to spread the word about the town Sesquicentennial. We hope to attract former residents back to town for the celebration. There is information regarding the event on the town's Facebook page.
- Town counsel Kim Rogers submitted an updated "Scope of Legal Services" agreement for the council's consideration. The current agreement was last amended in March of 2003. Billing rates will remain the same but some of the provisions have been updated to reflect changes in state law since the last agreement.

Dave Fox made a motion that we accept the updated "Scope of Legal Services under Annual Retainer and Additional Billing for Non-Retainer Items" agreement dated August 8, 2018. The motion was seconded by Matt Stewart.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

- The terms of the accepted agreement will need to be referenced in the next salary ordinance
- Chuck reported that the town had received via mail a \$100 donation for the Switch Trail.
- The Grant County Economic Growth Council has a quarterly dinner meeting. Next one is scheduled for August 30 at the Sweetser Café. Reservations are due by August 27. Some council members will try to attend.
- Monday, August 13, is the first planning meeting for the Sweetser Switch Trail Pumpkin Walk. The committee will be looking for volunteers to help with the event.
- Chuck reported that work had begun on the 2019 budget.

VIII. Next Meeting

- Next Council Meeting is August 23 2018, 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Meeting Minutes taken by:

John Potter / Clerk Treasurer
