

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2015

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 8, 2015, at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council President Travis LeMaster.

II. Roll Call of Board Members Present:

Rich Gamble – arrived at 7:06pm, Chuck Draine, Chuck Briede, Travis LeMaster, Steve Kelley- absent

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Travis LeMaster. Prayer was given by Chuck Draine.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2014, regular session. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble - Absent

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Absent

IV. Review and Approval of Bills

Chuck Draine made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Absent

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Absent

V. Department Reports

Sweetser Police Department – Marshal Bill Freet

Bill Freet informed the Council that the town's crossing guard has resigned. There has been no communication from her for several days. Bill will need to take applications for a new crossing guard. Bill reported that the Police Department accomplished a great deal last year including cleaning out the evidence room. Bill also stated that the police department equipment is in good shape and they are keeping up with maintenance on the vehicles. Several minors caused mischief during Christmas break including egging some vehicles and shooting a paintball gun at a parked car knocking out the rear window. Bill also stated that Devin Cole and the maintenance department are doing a very good job keeping the streets cleaned of snow.

VI. Special Town Business

Travis LeMaster stated that the selection of officers to serve on the town council need to be chosen and opened the floor for nominations.

Council President for the 2015 term – Discussion was held and Chuck Briede asked Travis LeMaster if he wants to continue to serve as President. Travis LeMaster indicated that he is willing to continue to serve. Rich Gamble nominated Travis LeMaster for President of the town council. Chuck Draine seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

Council Vice-President for the 2015 term – Discussion was held and Steve Kelley (present via Skype call) indicated a willingness to continue to serve as Vice-President. Rich Gamble nominated Steve Kelley for Vice-President and Chuck Draine seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

Stormwater Board for the 2015 term – Travis LeMaster, as Town Council President, appointed Rich Gamble, Chuck Draine and Chuck Briede to serve on the Stormwater Board for 2015. The appointments were accepted by all.

Redevelopment Commission for the 2015 term – Travis LeMaster, as Town Council President, appointed Rich Gamble, Chuck Draine and Chuck Briede to fill three positions on the Redevelopment Commission. All three accepted. Chuck Briede nominated Travis LeMaster and Steve Kelley as the last two members of the Redevelopment Commission, appointed by the Town Council. Rich Gamble seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous. The non-voting member of the Commission is appointed by the Oak Hill School Board which has not met yet in 2015.

VII. Open Forum

Howard Schick asked to see a map of the properties in the proposed annexation. Travis LeMaster showed Howard the map in the fiscal plan and explained how the parcels are to be annexed.

VIII. Other Business

a. Continuing Business

Waste Water Treatment Plant – Jim Frazell of Triad Associates reviewed change order #3 with the council in the amount of \$253,640. The changes were approved by the council at the previous meeting. Chuck Briede made a motion to accept change order #3. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Draine - Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Travis LeMaster – Aye
Steve Kelley – Absent

Pay application #10 from Zachrich in the amount of \$496,754.72 was presented by Jim Frazell and reviewed by the council. Jim stated that the application indicates that work on the treatment plant is 80% complete. Chuck Briede made a motion to accept pay application #10. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Draine - Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Travis LeMaster – Aye
Steve Kelley – Absent

Jim Frazell reviewed the progress report with the council and pointed out the start-up date of the first week of March. Discussion was held.

Devin Cole explained that he is eligible for his operator's license in May of 2015. Jim Frazell stated that Don Soper will oversee the running of the treatment plant until Devin's license is issued.

The council discussed with Jim Frazell and Kim Rogers the damages that are allowed by contract due to the delay of the start-up of the treatment plant. The contract allows for a fine to be paid by the

contractor in the amount of \$500.00 per day. Jim advised the council to expect the contractor to fight paying the fine.

Kim Rogers stated that he still needs to review the Police Department SOP.

Travis LeMaster stated that a security light at the treatment plant will cost \$16.25 per month per Indiana Michigan Power. Chuck Briede made a motion to have Indiana Michigan install the dusk to dawn light at the treatment plant. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Draine - Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Travis LeMaster – Aye
Steve Kelley – Absent

Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink advised the Council that the LPA contract had to be amended because of INDOT not allowing the reflectometer to be included in the contract. The amendment changes the contract to state that the reflectometer will be leased to the town and then given to the town at the end of the contract which provides a reduction in the contract price of \$3,335.00. Rich Gamble made a motion to accept the modified LPA contract and Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Draine - Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Travis LeMaster – Aye
Steve Kelley – Absent

The amended contract was signed by the council.

Travis LeMaster stated that the Clerk is seeking direction from the Council regarding the Waste Water Sinking checking account. The account has become dormant and the bank has warned that they will begin charging a fee if the account remains inactive. The Clerk has asked if the account can be closed and the remaining funds moved to the Waste Water Operating account. Kim Rogers stated that the sinking account is no longer needed. Steve Brock advised that the money can be moved into the Waste Water Operating fund. Chuck Briede made a motion to close the Waste Water Sinking checking account and to move the remaining funds of \$16,050.17 (as of the last statement) into the Waste Water Operating fund. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Draine - Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Travis LeMaster – Aye
Steve Kelley – Absent

Travis LeMaster shared a poem written by Mr. Oren who lives on Elm Street. The poem is about how nice it is to live in Sweetser.

b. New Business

Travis LeMaster reviewed the affidavit received from Weaver's Main Street Grill, specifically, the reduction in seating from 60 to 48. Travis asked the council members to notice the seating the next time they are in the restaurant.

Travis LeMaster announced Annexation Ordinance 2015-1, Oak Hill, 2015-2, Eagle Estates, 2015-3, Cates, 2015-4, Miller-Newhouse and 2015-5, Suite Living. Steve Brock stated that the hearings on the ordinances have to be held within so many days of the introduction and must be advertised prior to the hearing. The ordinances also must be adopted within 30 days of the public hearing. Discussion was held regarding the benefits and tax effects of annexation. Chuck Briede made a motion to introduce Annexation Ordinance 2015-1, Oak Hill, 2015-2, Eagle Estates, 2015-3, Cates, 2015-4, Miller-Newhouse and 2015-5, Suite Living. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Draine - Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Travis LeMaster – Aye
Steve Kelley – Absent

Kim Rogers will publish the Ordinances and place the notice of the hearing.

Rich Gamble made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:58 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Eileen D. LeMaster, Clerk/Treasurer

Travis LeMaster Charles V. Brock
Steve Kelley Chuck F. Draine
Richard P. Small