

# **SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 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 October 25, 2018 at the Sweetser Town Hall by Rich Gamble.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Chuck Briede – Aye

Rich Gamble – Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rich Gamble. Prayer was given by Chuck Briede.

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

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11 27, 2018 meeting as amended to reflect as Ordinance 2018-6 the first and second reading of the 2019 Sweetser Town Budget. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede made a motion to accept the bills as written pending the correction of the fund allocation of the Gator payment from Parks Non-Reverting to Parks. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

### **III. Open Public Forum**

- Roy Druck reported that the resident of 520 Laura Lane was dumping trash into Roy's field, which field shares a boundary with the Laura Lane property. Roy asked that the town notify the resident owner of his displeasure with the situation; Roy offered to contact the owner if the town declined to do so. Council will ask town Marshall Bill Freet to ask the owner to desist the dumping.

### **IV. Department Reports**

- Police Department

- Deputy Ryan reported that there may be a fuel line issue with his vehicle; possibly the sending unit is malfunctioning.
- Check reported that Marshall Bill will be on vacation during the Pumpkin Walk; he said the county EMA would be there.
- Waste Water plant and town maintenance
  - Regarding the Ignite Fuel issue, Devin reported that owner Jay Berry had called him and acknowledged that Byron Cook is going to perform the required repairs at Jay's expense; should be done sometime in the next two weeks
  - Devin said the shelter roof repair would be completed tomorrow.
  - Devin reported that the new lights have been installed at the wastewater plant and that the water lines are to be installed in the ground next week.
  - Devin indicated he wishes to run the downspouts of the plant into the ground and trench the runoff to the retention pond.

V. Vote on 2019 Budget for Town of Sweetser

- Public hearing, first, and second reading of Ordinance 2018-6, the proposed 2019 Budget for the Town of Sweetser were conducted on October 11, 2018.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to accept and pass on the third and final reading Ordinance 2018-6, the 2019 Budget for the Town of Sweetser. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

VI. Continuing Business

- MVH Missing Funding from Roads not being recognized by INDOT
  - Town counsel Kim Rogers is of the opinion that this will require an engineer's assistance to correct. The affected areas are parts of Eagle Estates, Winger Estates, and the edition north of Wes Way. All of the areas are within the current town corporation boundaries but Kim said the county cannot locate annexation ordinances for the Winger or Wes Way areas; older corporation maps do not show the areas within the town boundary. Mitch of Fleis & Vandenbrink quoted \$1,240 to prepare a CAD drawing and other documents to submit to INDOT. Mitch suggested that the town can submit a certification with the materials in lieu of an Ordinance.
- Opening of Bids for Community Crossing Grant project
  - The Following bids were received:
 

▪ Keith Sullivan Excavating	\$182,200.80
▪ Dave's Excavating	\$194,712.90
▪ Bragg Excavating	\$182,931.00

Mitch will evaluate the bids and return a recommendation to the council.

- Sweetser Sesquicentennial Committee

- The next meeting will be November 14, 2018. The email address for the committee is sweetser150.com. It was mentioned that local Brittany Riner does good work with Swayzee's Facebook site; perhaps the council might consider seeking her assistance with the Sesquicentennial site's.
- Rich and Mitch have been collaborating on the development of a tracking spreadsheet of all the town's existing, planned, and proposed projects. Rich presented a video demonstration to the spreadsheet to the council

VII. New Business

- Oak Hill has requested a waiver of the late fee imposed on their September bill payable in October. There was a mix-up in their offices that resulted in the late payment.

Chuck Briede made a motion to grant a waiver of the late fee imposed on the Oak Hill school system  
Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-No

Matt Stewart-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

- The town's contract with Republic Services for trash pick-up contains an annual increase in the fees the town pays. The increase occurs in May and the town adjusts the rates charged to residents at the same time. In 2018, the rate increase to the town occurred in May, but the town was not able to increase fees to residents due to a billing software issue. That issue has been resolved. Discussion took place about the options the council has regarding the fees charged to the residents. Options discussed were:
  - Calculate a new fee to residents incorporating the months that were missed since the increase in fees to the town and bill that rate through the next contractual increase in May of 2019, or
  - Calculate a new fee to residents that incorporates the known increase of May 2019 (+\$.20) plus the increase from May 2018 (+\$.20) so that fees would only be raised now and then not again until May 2020, or
  - Calculate new rate to residents (+\$.20) and implement now and until May of 2019 when another increase would be passed on, and forgo making the increase retroactive to May 2018.

Chuck Briede made a motion to increase the trash fee to residents by \$.20 effective with the next billing cycle and forgo making the increase retroactive to May 2018. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Yes

Matt Stewart-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

- For wastewater rate purposes the town is classifying Mt. Olive Pre-School and Sweetser Wesleyan Pre-School as elementary schools rather than preschools. The consensus of the council was to maintain those classifications.
- Town counsel Kim Rogers announced his retirement effective the end of 2018.

VIII. Next Meeting

- Next Council Meeting is November 8, 2018, 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Meeting Minutes taken by:  
John Potter / Clerk Treasurer

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