

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2014

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on October 9, 2014, immediately following the Economic Redevelopment Commission Public Hearing, at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council President Travis LeMaster.

II. Roll Call of Board Members Present:

Rich Gamble, Chuck Draine, Chuck Briede, Travis LeMaster, Steve Kelley

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Travis LeMaster. Prayer was given by Rich Gamble.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Steve Kelley made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2014, regular session. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

IV. Review and Approval of Bills

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

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

V. Public Hearing: 2015 Budget, Town of Sweetser

Travis LeMaster presented a power point regarding the budget and explained how the budget is structured and prepared. Travis explained each of the budgeted accounts. No questions were forthcoming from the public. Travis closed the public hearing and stated that the adoption of the budget for 2015 will take place at the October 23, 2014, meeting.

Introduction of the 2015 Salary Ordinance

Chuck Briede presented the Salary Ordinance for the Board to review and vote on at a future meeting. Chuck stated that the Crossing Guard pay will remain at \$20.00 per day, part time maintenance assistant position will have a range from \$10.00 to \$11.50 per hour, the town marshal pay will be \$36,500.00 per year, the deputy marshal salary will be \$26,250.00 per year, the clerk/treasurer pay will be \$22,600.00 per year, the deputy clerk and billing clerk will each receive an increase of \$.25 cents per hour, the town street superintendent's salary will increase 6% and the assistant street superintendent salary will increase 3%. Also, the town attorney's annual pay will increase to \$9,100.00. Travis LeMaster presented informational packets to the Board to review regarding average wages for various town positions. Chuck Briede explained the thought process for the increases for each category. Chuck also

stated that the salaries may actually be less than the amounts budgeted to allow for possible adjustments. Travis LeMaster explained the rest of the salary ordinance and stated that it will take effect January 1, 2015. It was noted that Chuck Draine's middle initial was omitted on the draft of the salary ordinance. Chuck Briede also remarked about the cost of health insurance and asked the Board to consider the possibility of the employees sharing part of the cost of the insurance. Rich Gamble made a motion to pass on first reading the 2015 Salary Ordinance. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll call:

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

VI. Other Business

a. Continuing Business

Resolution 2014-12 Regarding the Establishment of the Sweetser Economic Development Area – Kim Rogers presented the resolution to the Board to sign approving the Economic Development Commission Plan and read the resolution aloud. Chuck Briede made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-12. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll call:

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

Adoption of Fiscal Plan – Sweetser Annexation Area – Steve Brock explained that he is still waiting on a zoning map from Grant County Area Plan and presented the fiscal plan as near final. Steve pointed out Appendix A and C for the Board to review the maps for accuracy. Discussion was held regarding the boundaries and the time frame when Suite Living was annexed. It was determined that the county map does not reflect accurate boundaries. Chuck Draine will go to the Area Plan office to check their map. Kim Rogers will send Jim Frazell the documents that he has relating to the annexation of the property where Suite Living sits. Discussion was held regarding the town's proximity to the City of Marion and the statute regarding annexation within 1 – 3 miles of Marion.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Update – Travis received an email from Duane Anderson of Triad Associates and read the email to the Board. Steve Kelley stated that the maintenance building is under roof. Jim Frazell spoke regarding the delay in the delivery schedule for the equipment. Jim explained that the plant can run without some things. Discussion was held regarding motivating the contractor to move more quickly and Jim Frazell explained that the manufacturers of the equipment are holding the schedule up. Travis LeMaster made a second request for an evening meeting with the contractor and Jim said he would request it again. Steve Kelley stated that the project supervisor at the building site asked for Bob King's contact information to discuss putting in the discharge line to the creek. It was explained that the farmer has planted into the right of way and putting in the line would take out approximately four rows of corn.

Police Department SOP – Chuck Briede stated that it is not ready yet.

It was noted that a legal notice was published in the newspaper by Green 3 regarding the trail expansion. Chuck Briede stated that someone came in to look at the maps of the proposed expansion.

b. New Business

IACT Roundtable – The roundtable will be held in Sweetser on October 16th at Sweetser Wesleyan Church.

Pumpkin Walk – Travis LeMaster asked if the Parks Board will be serving hot dogs at the shelter for the pumpkin walk on the 25th. Steve Kelley will ask Terry Renbarger, Parks Board President.

Travis LeMaster was presented with one bid for the sidewalk work at the elementary school. The bid was from CCI for \$2,800.00. This amount would be divided between the town and the school. It was noted that the gas company has repaired the sidewalk at the school and the sidewalk near the telephone office that were dug up earlier in the year.

The Board received a letter from Lori Baxter regarding her waste water bill. Travis read the letter out loud and discussion was held regarding waiving the late fee. Chuck Briede recommended waiving the fee. The motion was seconded by Chuck Draine.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

The Clerk informed the Board of two certificates of deposit that have reached maturity at Grant County Stated Bank. One is for \$8,600.00 and the other is for \$4,900.00. These certificates are security for the agreement with the City of Marion to treat Sweetser's waste water and must be kept as long as the City of Marion is treating Sweetser's waste water. Chuck Briede made a motion to renew both certificates of deposit for another year. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

Steve Kelley explained that the skid loader was not fully repaired when it was initially recovered and that the door was recently repaired. The insurance company has reimbursed the town for the cost of repairing the door. Travis LeMaster stated that he has filed the paperwork with the prosecuting attorney for restitution.

Bill Freet spoke to the Board regarding the surplus equipment being stored upstairs at town hall. Bill showed the Board pictures of all the equipment (attached to these minutes). Bill stated that he has arranged for an inmate work crew to come on October 17th to move the equipment out of the upstairs. Bill stated that he and Devin Cole will salvage whatever they can. Travis made a motion to declare surplus property in the upstairs consisting of old computers, speakers, wires, lighting, exercise mat and to allow Bill Freet and Devin Cole to determine what to salvage and what to dispose of. Chuck Briede seconds the motion. Chuck Draine asked about supervision of the inmates when they are in town hall. Bill stated that he and Ryan will be working and that there will be jailers from the jail.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

Bill Freet also stated that the new street light at State Road 18 is a great help in the mornings before school.

VII. Open Public Forum

Chuck Briede made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:39 pm.

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

Eileen D. LeMaster

Charles V. Briede

Steve Kelley

Charles K. Sherris

Richard P. Sauble