

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
November 12, 2020

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

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Dave Fox

II. **Minutes**

Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

- Kyle Taylor-Absent
- Matt Stewart-Absent
- Travis LeMaster-Aye
- Dave Fox-Aye
- Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

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

- Kyle Taylor-Absent
- Matt Stewart-Absent
- Travis LeMaster-Aye
- Dave Fox-Aye
- Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Resident Kathy Timmons of 209 N. Craven St. informed the council that when searching for the Sweetser dog park, some GIS mapping and directions systems are directing people to her driveway and property. She is requesting the town place signage at the corner of Hubert and Craven Streets directing people east to Greenberry Street and then south and west to the dog park. Council will review the situation and see about acquiring directions signs to help correct the situation.
- Ms. Timmons also informed the council that a new resident of Hubert Street is blind. She requests the council considered installing Blind Person signage on Hubert Street and/or stop signs at Hubert and Craven. The council will order the Blind Person signs and will review the current traffic control ordinance.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to form a committee of the council to review the Sweetser traffic control ordinance and return recommendations for updates to the full council. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

- Kyle Taylor-Absent
- Matt Stewart-Absent
- Travis LeMaster-Aye
- Dave Fox-Aye
- Chuck Briede-Aye

- Ms. Timmons asked when the last block of Craven would be repaved. Superintendent Devin Cole responded it would probably be in the 2022 paving projects.
- Travis LeMaster presented to Rita Gamble and family a framed copy of Resolution 2020-1, which Resolution recognizes and honors the contributions of Rich Gamble to the town of Sweetser and the surrounding community. A second framed copy of the Resolution will hang at town hall.

V. **Department Reports**

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin said they would probably finish leaf pick-up next week. He reported that they had to repair the unit tail lights but mechanically it was functioning well. Devin said he would probably have the unit serviced after leaf pick-up.
- Devin said that he had spoken with the farmer about his interest in the town's leaf mulch but was unclear on the direction the farmer was thinking. Devin said he will follow-up with the farmer.
- Devin reported that they repaired the potholes on Laura Lane. He will need to obtain some more materials to address the pothole issue by the post office.
- Devin said he had decided to utilize town resources to address moving topsoil to the dog park area instead of contracting it out. The topsoil is to be used to level some of the low spots in the area.

- Devin said he would take care of ordering the blind signs and the stop signs. He said he will also reinstall the street sign and the corner at Ryan and Winger Way (the sign was removed during the paving project).
- Regarding the wastewater plant, Devin reported that the seals failed on the drum screen gear drive allowing water to get into the gear drive electric motor. He ordered two new gear drives (one for install and one for backup) and two new electric motors (both for backup; he used the last one they had for this repair, it takes 4-5 weeks from order to receive a new one, and we cannot afford that delay).
- Devin reported that some blower belts had failed, and he has replacements on order. Overall, though, he said the plant is operating well and the flows have been good.
- Devin said they had some pipe surveying work to do for the Spring 2021 stormwater project.
- Chuck reported that the resident at the corner of Main and Sherron is currently receiving two utility invoices: one for the main residence and one for a garage converted into an apartment. The resident claims there is a common tap being used for both units and questions the why they are receiving two bills. Devin said he would investigate to try and determine how many taps there are on the property. A discussion ensued regarding the proper billing for each property as per the wastewater ordinance. Travis recommended we conduct an audit of all residential customers to ensure we are billing for all properties, billing the proper party (the owner), and billing the correct amount.
- In response to a question from Chuck Devin reported that our street salt supply inventory is adequate.

Police Department Dept.—Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- Dave said that Ryan reported that deputy Roger Bowland will be retiring. Ryan wants to hire a person to replace Roger and another person as a back-up.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve reported that it would cost \$600-\$1,000 to replace the vandalized and stolen trail signs at county road 700 west.

Travis LeMaster made a motion approve the purchase of new trail signs at county road 700 west to replace the vandalized and stolen signs. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Absent

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Steve reported that the Atlanta Water Conservation Fund grant window will be open as of January 15, 2021. These are 50/50 grants that range from \$100,000 to \$300,000. Steve said one idea for the use of such a grant to install a splash pad in Sweetser
- Steve displayed the “area under surveillance” sign for the trail that was produced by All Things Custom. The sign is \$25. Replicas can be produced in sticker form and be affixed to existing signs along the trail.

Travis LeMaster made a motion approve the purchase of new trail signs for county road 700 west to replace the vandalized and stolen signs, and to authorize the production, purchase, and installation of the “area under surveillance” signs. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Absent

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

VI. Continuing Business

- Town counsel Michael Hotz distributed a draft ordinance for consideration. The draft is intended to amend or replace the existing ordinance concerning allowable vehicles and activities along the trail. Council will review the draft document.
- The council had an executive session on October 28, 2020, to discuss job performance and employee evaluations.

Chuck Briede made a motion approve the minutes of the October 28, 2021 council executive session as written. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Absent

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Steve inquired if there was any update on an effort to annex into the town the portion of the trail between county roads 700 and 800 west (the town owns the property but is has not been annexed into the town limits). Michael said he would research the law and report back to the council.

VII. New Business

- No new business.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
