

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2016

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

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 12, , 2016, at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council President Chuck Briede.

Roll Call:

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

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

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

Chuck Briede asked that the minutes reflect how many votes each applicant received in the hiring of the new town council member at the April 28,2016 meeting, the correction was made.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the April 28, 2016, Regular Meeting. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll call:

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

Upon reviewing the bills Travis LeMaster made a suggestion that the town should consider erecting a flag pole at the sewage plant.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the bills as written, Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

Chuck Briede read a letter from Jill Johnson/Treasurer at Mt.Olive United Methodist Church asking for reprieve from a late fee imposed on the church's sewage bill. Since the church has never been late on payment their request was granted. Rich Gamble made a motion to waive the late fee and Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-Aye
Rich Gamble-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye
Steve Kelley-Absent

III. Open Public Forum - No one came forward.

IV. Continuing Business

Steve Gill with Republic Services was in attendance to sign the garbage contract/agreement that shall be for the next 5 years commencing on May 1, 2016 until April 30,2021. Our current garbage rate will remain the same for this year up until May 1,2017. After this date the rates will increase by 2 percent each year for the next 4 years. Rates were the only thing that changed.

Travis LeMaster made a motion that we accept and approved the Republic Garbage Contract/Agreement and Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-Aye
Rich Gamble-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye
Steve Kelley-Absent

Chuck Briede received some preliminary pricing of insurance from Kirk Hornocker, but Kirk is still obtaining quotes from other companies for the board to consider.

Mitch Hansel came to talk about INDOT , Sidewalk project and to obtain the signed letters the town received from businesses, residents etc., for the Main Street Sidewalks/Ada Ramps along with Sweetser North Trail project from Sweetser Elementary School on Main Street to Christopher Drive on the North side of Sweetser. There was discussion on the 50/50 program, SB67 funds and Rainy Day Fund with these projects.

Kim Rogers gave a update on the bid project for the Blight Elimination Program, he spoke with Steve Brock and Steve referred him to a lady Tina Henderson with Mendenhall and Associates. She has several months of experience with the BEP 29 projects and everything associated with bidding etc., her fees will come out of the money we get from this project. Bacon/Davis wages do not apply to this. She sent info to Kim Rogers as she's doing this for the town of Arcadia. She would follow through with everything the town needs to do, with bids and paperwork. Her cost is \$1500 per property. Kim Rogers said we need to be done with everything by July 29th. We need to have insurable title May 22nd Kim will enter the decree for a quiet title on the Shane property. Kim thought whoever sends bids in that it might be a good idea for Devin to accompany them to the blight properties . Bob Highley from the Grant County Area Plan furnished eight contacts the town could use for obtaining bids to demolish the properties.

Kim Rogers indicated we must publish in the local newspaper 2 weeks prior before the town can accept bids. Chuck Briede indicated the Redevelopment Commission might need to hold a special

meeting on June 2nd for the bids on the BEP project , then present that to the town board at the next scheduled town board meeting.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to hire Tina Henderson from Mendenhall & Associates to help with the BEP grant and Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-Aye

Rich Gamble-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Steve Kelley-Absent

V: New Business

Storm water Board update, discussed the potential of initiating a stormwater fee for structure maintenance and repair, they drafted language for a resolution to present to the Town Council to obtain an Ordinance on the rates that will be reviewed by a rate consultant and then modified and looked at by our attorney.

About 6 years ago the town approved a 6 year abatement on the Weaver's Cove property, which was part of the improvements on their building. They did not succeed in their business which closed last summer, there is still one year left on the abatement. We can accept to approve the continuation on the abatement which is what the town should do. It may help in selling the property with the 1 year abatement left on it.

Travis spoke with Marshall Bill Freet over all the break-ins, the one at the cementary on County Road 500, this apparently is a multi-jurisdiction national ring prying on people. Please be aware and keep all your valuables locked up, including your cars and home.

Chuck asked if anyone had made contact with Danny Newhouse over the dumpsters for clean-up day on May 21st, Devin Cole said he would make contact with him.

Chuck mentioned the Lion's Club Breakfast on May 14th to support the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department. Devin Cole said to purchase all your bottled or plastic soft drinks at the Sweetser Mini-Mart , they will donate .10cents for every bottled or plastic soda purchased to the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department.

VI: Departments:

Devin mentioned they're working at fixing the stormwater basin on Main Street. He said since the town is picking up another mile of trail he's been in talks with Steve Kelley and Terry Renbarger about new mowers. He has been obtaining quotes on trading in the Case Tractor with accessories for two new riding lawn mowers. Devin said he believes the tractor has less than 20 hours on it from the time it was purchased and it is never used. The town's mowers are 2004 and 2011 and Devin thinks it's best to trade them in now while they're still worth something. Rich Gamble asked if Devin has looked at purchasing attachments for the tractor to be used for mowing and Devin said a mowing attachment would cost \$17,000.

The best quote was from Tri-Green Tractor in Swayzee on two John Deere zero turn mowers with a 72 inch deck. With the John Deere mowers the town would be looking at financing \$5836.16, this is a \$1600 difference and the payoff of the Case IH Tractor. Payments would be around \$163.00 a month, it would be a 3 year lease with .75 percent interest and \$1 Buy Out at the end of the Lease. The board wants to review this and decided to table it for the next town council meeting.

Rich Gamble made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm, all was in favor
Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Tina J.Cole, Clerk/Treasurer

