

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2015

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 14, 2015, at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council President Travis LeMaster.

II. Roll Call of Board Members Present:

Rich Gamble (late), Chuck Draine, Chuck Briede - Absent, Travis LeMaster, Steve Kelley

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

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Steve Kelley made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2015, Regular Meeting. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble - Absent

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Absent

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

IV. Review and Approval of Bills

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

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Absent

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Absent

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

The Clerk requested the Council approve for submission to the SRF for payment the following invoices: Zachrich for \$134,074.00 and Hach for \$4,549.00. Steve Kelley made a motion to approve for submission to the SRF for payment the invoices for Zachrich for \$134,074.00 and Hach for \$4,549.00. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Absent

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Absent

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

V. Department Reports – Sweetser Police Department, Marshal Bill Freet

Bill Freet provided the Council with a copy of the statistics for the police department since January, 2015.

Bill requested that the Council approve purchasing a new laptop for Deputy Ryan Hornback for use in the Charger. Bill stated that the cost of a backlit laptop is \$927.00. Steve Kelley made a motion to approve the purchase of a new laptop for Deputy Hornback's use in the Charger for \$927.34. Chuck Draine seconded the motion. The laptop is to be purchased out of the continuing education fund.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Absent

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Absent

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

Bill stated that Ryan had to purchase gas for the Charger because he was unable to reach the gas pumps at the treatment plant due to paving. Bill provided the Clerk with a receipt for the gas. The Clerk will reimburse Ryan.

Bill discussed the new traffic plan at the elementary school when the parking area is changed this summer and recommended to the Council that stop signs be installed on Main Street. The stop signs would then make a four way stop with the exit from the school on the east side, Peterson Drive on the west side and Main Street on the north and south. Bill would like to see the signs installed when the construction at the school is completed. Bill stated that he would also like the Council to consider a stop sign on the south side of town at Eagle Drive and Main Street to slow down the traffic coming in from the south on 500. Discussion was held and it was noted that the stop sign on Meridian needs to be added to the Ordinance.

Steve Kelley asked Bill if the police department would like to have body cameras and if it is something that the town should budget for in the years to come. Discussion was held and Steve asked Bill and Ryan to look into the costs.

Bill stated that he has the EMA lined up to help with the town-wide rummage and the 5K for Vada Hornocker.

VI. Open Forum

No comments were forthcoming.

VII. Other Business

a. Continuing Business

Waste Water Treatment Plant – Travis LeMaster stated that the town received a certificate of substantial completion from Zachrich. Zachrich is asking for a substantial completion date of April 8, 2015. Travis read the certificate to the Board. Travis asked Devin Cole if he is satisfied with the work that has been completed on the punch list and Devin stated yes. Chuck Draine asked if signing the certificate would waive the town's right to damages. Discussion was held. Kim Rogers stated that he would like to study the certificate and discuss it with engineer Jim Frazell from Triad. Discussion was held. Kim Rogers will check with Jim Frazell and Duane Anderson and advise the Council.

Change Orders – Devin Cole explained that the RAS return needs another pipe and meter. He does not have any information regarding the pricing yet. The other change needed is that a dumpster pad be added on the southeast corner of the treatment plan to accommodate a dumpster for the sludge. The other alternative to having a dumpster for the sludge is to contract with Merrell Brothers. Devin provided the Council with a copy of the proposal from Merrell Brothers for removal of the biosolids. The dumpster pad would be 20'x25' with a drain in the middle. The town would contract with Republic to empty the dumpster. The waste from the digesters would be pumped into the dumpster. Devin also explained that one of the 15 hp pumps that the town already has would be used to pump the waste out of the digester. Devin anticipated the cost to complete the dumpster setup at \$12,000.00.

Devin Cole informed the Council that he was told Zachrich will not do any more work until the contract issue is resolved.

Chuck Draine asked Devin if sludge removal was something that should have been in the plant's original design. Devin Cole stated that Triad did not provide a way to remove or dispose of the sludge. He added that a fence will need to be installed around the dumpster for the sludge. Discussion was held. Devin stated that he will advise the Council when he has exact costs.

Steve Kelley asked about putting up a sign for the waste water treatment plant. Discussion was held and Travis asked Steve to get pricing information.

Blight Elimination Project – Kim Rogers stated he has started the title work and is working on getting the notices out. The 120 day limit began when the County Commissioners signed the Resolution. Kim stated that it is still possible that someone could redeem the properties. The public meeting needs to be set up with the BEP representative.

Trail Expansion – Kim Rogers received a copy of the letter and loan documents from the President of Grant County State Bank. There must be a public hearing and notices published regarding the loan. Steve Kelley stated that he went to the DNR in Indianapolis and met with the sponsors of the grant. Everything regarding the grant is completed. The Parks Board will meet with Mr. Drook and Kokomo Grain to make offers on the property. The offers will then be sent to Indianapolis. While in Indianapolis Steve also went to Green 3 and they are drawing up a construction plan to hand out to the contractors for bids. Steve explained that the line of credit needs to be \$200,000.00, however, that amount should never have to be borrowed.

Kim Rogers revisited the proposal regarding the alum and stated that he spoke with Vince from Brenntag. According to the contract the town has to have environmental liability insurance. Steve Kelley will contact the town's insurer. Kim Rogers recommended that the insurance company be provided a copy of the contract prior to writing the policy.

Kim Rogers asked Travis LeMaster to sign the Resolution authorizing two Council members authority to sign the DMR reports that Devin has to turn in to IDEM.

Sewer Use Ordinance – Kim Rogers stated that he has a shortened notice for publication. Kim read the notice and stated that the public hearing will be scheduled for May 28th. Kim did stat that the ordinance will have to be published in its entirety once it has been passed.

Income Survey – Travis LeMaster explained to the Council that the town has the option of going door to door to get survey information from the households who did not return a survey. There are approximately 200 households that did not respond. Travis explained that the homes must be visited in the order that they are listed. Discussion was held regarding the Council's willingness to go door to door. All members agreed that it is worth the effort to get the information.

b. New Business

Surplus Property – Steve Kelley and Devin Cole took the GEM to Reynolds Equipment and learned that Reynolds is willing to allow \$3,500.00 for the GEM in trade for the new Gator. Steve Kelley provided the Council with a quote for the Gator. The interest rate is 3.9% for 72 months with an approximate monthly payment of \$251.53. The Gator comes fully loaded including a winch and a snow blade. Discussion was held that the trade-in eliminates the need to declare the GEM surplus. Chuck Draine made a motion to trade in the GEM on the Gator with the provision that Reynolds allows the \$3,500.00 trade in on the purchase of the 855 D Gator. The cost is \$16,121 with trade in. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Absent

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Absent

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

The dedication on the GEM will be transferred to the Gator. Kim Rogers stated that he wants to review the financing contract for the Gator prior to signing.

Travis LeMaster reviewed the upcoming events including the town clean-up day on May 30th, the town-wide rummage on June 19th and 20th and the 5K for Vada Hornocker on June 27th.

Steve Kelley stated that there will be a separate dumpster for metals during the town clean up.

Chuck Draine reminded the Council that May 28th is the volunteer day for Oak Hill High School. Steve Kelley is in charge of the volunteers. There will be approximately 40 students and possible projects include mulching, painting the fence at town hall and painting curbs.

Travis LeMaster reminded the Council that it is time for employee performance evaluations again.

Travis LeMaster read a note that was written on a sewer payment envelope from a resident who is unhappy about the trash rate increase.

Steve Kelley presented the new signs for the trail to the Council and stated that the holders are made.

Steve Kelley stated that he and Chuck Draine went to the Road Show and learned that the Community foundation might have another grant the town can apply for. Steve also stated that they offered a five year plan for parks and suggestions for parks funding through taxes. Discussion was held. There will be a Road Show meeting on May 20th at 2:30pm.

Travis announced that the deadline for filing for election is August 3rd and stated that there are forms in each Council member's box.

Steve Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:35 pm.

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

Travis LeMaster
Charles V. Briscoe

Chuck Draine
Richard P. Gamble
