

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2015

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 10, 2015, 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 August 27, 2015, Regular Meeting. 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 Draine asked about the bill from Republic Services and Steve Kelley stated that it was to remove the dumpster at the treatment plant. Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the bills. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

Approval of Triad and Zachrich bills for submission to the SRF – The Clerk presented the Council with the bills from Triad Associates for \$16,800.00 and Zachrich Construction for \$72,536.00 for submission to the SRF. Chuck Briede made a motion to approve both bills for submission to the SRF for payment. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede – Aye

Travis LeMaster – Aye

Steve Kelley – Aye

Travis LeMaster spoke regarding the letter from Richard and Susan Street asking the Council to waive the late fee on their waste water account. Discussion was held. Chuck Briede made a motion to waive the late fee. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble – Aye

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

V. Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation for Blight Elimination Program

Travis LeMaster explained the Blight Elimination Program grant that the town received and the need to appropriate the grant funds in the amount of \$36,000.00. The floor was opened for comments. No comments were forthcoming and the hearing was closed. Travis read Resolution 2015-10 out loud. Chuck Briede made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-10. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll call:

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

VI. Open Forum

David Bettegnies spoke regarding the stop sign that is going to be placed on Main Street at Peterson Drive. Mr. Bettegnies spoke regarding his concern as a farmer that it will make it more difficult for trucks and equipment to navigate the intersection. Mr. Bettegnies and Danny Newhouse both expressed their wish that the Council not place stop signs on Main Street at the intersection with Peterson Drive. Lengthy discussion was held which included the observations and input from the members of the Council and the police department. Discussion was also held regarding the town's authority under Indiana Code for placing stop signs and Kim Rogers was asked to write an opinion regarding the interpretation of the Code and its' influence on the Council's decisions inside town limits.

VII. Department Reports

Town Maintenance, Devin Cole

HVAC for Town Hall – Devin stated that he received quotes for a new furnace and air conditioning system with duct work for town hall. The average cost was \$11,000.00. Devin will get additional quotes and provide them to the Council.

Devin stated that he will be doing training for his waste water certification on October 6th and October 8th.

The cut off for the road salt was in August so the town will not be able to be in that program this year. Devin stated he will purchase skids of bagged salt to use on the streets.

Devin is working on getting estimates for the sidewalk from Washington Street to State Road 18 on the east side of Main Street.

Devin asked what he needs to do to prepare for the Open House on the 19th other than cleaning. Travis LeMaster stated that tables and chairs will need to be set up. Devin suggested bringing the picnic tables from the trail to the treatment plant. Travis stated that Triad Associates are providing the food and the Sweetser Lions have offered to provide drinks. Chuck Briede suggested that Devin make up information sheets that can be placed throughout the plant so that visitors will know what each piece of equipment does.

Devin stated that they will be changing out the speed limit signs tomorrow but that the stop signs won't be placed until next week because utility locates need to be done. Discussion was held regarding needing a school zone sign on the east side of Main Street north of State Road 18.

Devin reported that they had been trimming trees along Main and Meridian Streets.

We are still waiting for an answer to whether or not the LED signs for the Trail crossing on Main Street can be included in the sign inventory project. Devin also stated that Mitch Hansel will turn in the inventory soon.

The electrical work at the plant still has not been completed. Devin is waiting on Hueston Electric to come and do the work.

Devin is still waiting for a price on the polymer that he will need to add to the sludge. He explained that there will probably need to be a different dumpster for the sludge to keep it from flowing onto the ground. Devin explained that a company named Blue River Technology makes a sludge bag and explained that the cost is \$400.00 to \$600.00 per bag and would last from 1 to 2 years. Devin also stated that there will probably need to be another dumpster just for screenings.

Chuck Draine asked if the Vac truck is working since the repairs have been made. Devin stated that it is. Chuck Draine also asked if the backup pump has been ordered and Devin stated that it has.

Chuck Draine asked how often the sludge testing has to be done. Devin stated that it is required by Republic Services and that it only needs to be done once every three years.

The hole behind Wendy Stamps' house for the storm water catch basin was discussed. Devin will need to order a grate for it but wants to make sure that there are not other catch basins needing a grate also so that he can get them all at one time.

Chuck Draine asked when the drain on the alley will be finished and Devin stated they will have it done in 2 weeks.

Devin also stated that he is looking into the mapping issue with the alleys. Chuck Briede asked for a list of all of the alleys that Devin intends to gravel and stated that he doesn't want to gravel any alleys that are unimproved and where the homeowners are maintaining them. Devin explained that his motivation for putting gravel in the alleys is for town improvement and for easier access for utility companies and emergency vehicles.

Town Marshal Bill Freet

Bill spoke regarding the four way stop signs originally proposed for Eagle Drive and Peterson Drive on Main Street. Bill asked about the cost of the signs and Devin stated that the signs just ordered for Main Street at Peterson were around \$300.00. Bill explained that it is difficult for one police officer to work the entire town and stated that he agrees with Steve Kelley from the earlier discussion about the stop sign and believes the Council may have acted too quickly.

Bill stated that he contacted EMA for traffic control help on Halloween for the Pumpkin Walk.

Bill is exploring different signage on the Dodge Charger that would make it more easily identifiable as a police vehicle.

Bill reported that they received a check from the Gas City Court for the citations that have been written since 2012.

Bill stated that he is writing tickets on State Road 18 and that he does not want help from the Sheriff's Department with traffic.

VIII. Other Business

a. Continuing Business

Waste Water Treatment Plant – The open house is September 19, 2015, from 2-5 pm. Travis LeMaster will re-confirm with Triad that they are handling the details such as plates and napkins. Devin was instructed to put a sign at the post office to remind everyone.

Volunteer Day Report – Steve Kelley stated that last Friday there were 25 students from Indiana Wesleyan University who painted the curbing, cross walks and parking spaces along the length of Main Street. Steve also stated that the morning of the 19th, approximately 75 to 100 volunteers from Liberty Baptist Church are coming to volunteer. Steve stated that he desperately needs help from anyone who can supervise and direct the volunteers. He has put together a work list and broken down how many people will be needed for the various tasks but he needs help overseeing the workers. Steve will be getting more supplies for the volunteers to use and more bottled water for everyone.

b. New Business

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District – Travis LeMaster reminded the Council of Pam Price's visit at the last meeting and her request that the Town appoint a representative from Sweetser for the District's board. Travis asked Chuck Draine if he would be the primary representative with Steve Kelley as an alternate if Chuck is unavailable. Chuck Draine and Steve Kelley agreed. Travis stated that he met with Pam on Tuesday and that the town-wide planning meeting is still being arranged.

Travis LeMaster stated that the next council meeting will be the Budget Hearing on September 24, 2015.

Chuck Draine asked Kim Rogers about the status of having the meeting with the State regarding the BEP. Kim stated that he will be filing for the tax deed on the Shane property and that the deed can be obtained 30 days after the filing if no objections are made so the meeting is still 30 days out.

Steve Kelley asked Kim Rogers about the land for the trail and that they are approaching the deadline. Kim stated that as long as no remonstrance has been filed they can close on the land.

Steve Kelley explained that there is an issue regarding the trail and additional drainage that is needed on the trail which necessitates the purchase of an extra 20 feet of land in which to run the pipe. The additional 20 feet of land would mean that the drainage pipe could be shorter. If the land is not available for purchase then the cost of the pipe could be as much as \$7,500.00.

Chuck Briede made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:29 pm.

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








