

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
April 8, 2021

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

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Matt Stewart.

II. **Minutes**

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as amended. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

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

IV. **Public Forum**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was not in attendance.

- Kyle reported he spent some time at the treatment plant with Devin reviewing the operation.
 - As lights in the shop need replacing Devin is using LED's.
 - Devin is still waiting on parts for the one of the blowers.
 - Devin would like to have a catwalk and/or other platform constructed over the pit so that it is more safely accessible during maintenance and repairs on the screen.
 - The gas tank meter is not reading correctly and will be repaired or replaced.
 - Devin needs a cell phone upgrade. Clerk will request an upgrade from Verizon.
 - Now that we have asset tags, we will need to decide which assets will be tagged for inventory tracking. Steve Kelley demonstrated how the asset tag app works. The initial order of tags was 500 and it was determined that we will need to order additional tags. There was a discussion of the current town capital asset policy, how it intersects with the asset tag policy, and the likelihood that it needs to be updated.
 - There is an ongoing issue with improper items being introduced into the sewer system in the area serviced by the Eagle Drive lift station. There was a discussion of how to address and remedy the issue. Matter tabled pending review of options to remedy.

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

- Ryan submitted a written report:
 - Ryan addressed the complaints of vehicles speeding and/or running stop signs.
 - Brian Sharp has been hired as a deputy and will begin this week.
 - Ryan had to order some new badges and collar brass as some of the older sets are showing signs of wear.
 - Deputy Brad Moore was involved in a multi-jurisdiction and department vehicle pursuit.
 - Ryan recommends the town purchase AED's: one for each police vehicle and one for town hall.
 - Ryan said one of the portable breath testers is broken and needs replaced.
 - Ryan is researching information on drug field test kits.
 - Deputy Brad Moore has requested a rechargeable flashlight for that would remain on the old Tahoe.
- Kyle said new brakes were put on the older Tahoe.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said he and some others had completed the installation of the new borders on the flower beds on the trail at 700 West. He said the beds will need a load of soil.
- Steve said we either need to install trail cameras or install signs in an to attempt to detect and/or deter vandalism along the trail. After discussion, it was determined the sign option was probably more practical. There was a discussion of establishing a reward for reporting vandalism that leads to the

arrest and prosecution of the vandal(s). Steve will get some cost estimates for the signs (probably 8 in total). Matter tabled.

- Steve has not heard back from Hutchens Construction on a start date for the work on the caboose.
- Steve came across a “The Sweetser Switch Trail Story” and presented it to the council.
- Bill Mundt will be giving a “History of Sweetser” presentation at the upcoming Lion’s Club meeting. The council discussed that it would be desirable to have the presentation recorded for posterity.

VI. Continuing Business

- Kyle Taylor gave an update on the Christmas Lights project.
 - We are choosing between products from GP Design or Winterland. We need a total of 52 lights. The GP Design quote is \$13,500. The Winterland quote is \$10,400. The lights quoted are “wrapped”, which makes them more visible during the day. “Unwrapped” lights would be slightly less in cost. Installing the lights would require a bucket truck or similar equipment. Kyle reported that he was told renting a bucket truck for the project would cost approximately \$10,000.
 - According to AEP, the most cost-effective way forward is to utilize existing poles that have streetlights. If we don’t, then we have to run new wires to the poles without streetlights. There are currently 12 poles with streetlights, so an additional 40 poles would need to be electrified. Kyle received a quote from Expert Electric of approximately \$220 per pole for that work. Once completed, AEP would then establish the connection to power. There would be a separate bill established by AEP for the town for those new connections.
 - Dave recommended that the Christmas Lights and Hometown Hero Banners need to be at the same height on the pole and thus we would not be able to have both on a pole simultaneously.
 - There was discussion of how many poles to utilize along Main Street and along State Road 18, and how many different Christmas Light designs to deploy.
 - Kyle will summarize all these details in a report for the councils’ review. Matter tabled pending review of Kyle’s report.
- Chuck said there was no new information regarding the lease agreement with Mr. Newhouse for the use of his lot for the Sesquicentennial.
- The old vac truck has been listed for sale. Travis said high bid to date is \$2,500. It will be listed for about two more weeks.
- Kyle reported the vac truck should be here sometime next week at which time they will take the old jetter and trailer.
- Matt asked if there was an update on the Bragg Street property acquisition. Town counsel Michael Hotz reported that the Auditor’s office indicated we will not need to wait for the July tax sale for the property to be assigned to the town. He has submitted a resolution to the County Commissioners for their consideration. Once that is acted upon, that will commence an approximately six-month process of notification of redemption. After that, we will go before the court which will result in another 30-day notification period, after which, if there are no issues, the town should acquire title to the property. The council plans to quit claim deed the property to Habitat for Humanity for development of a residence.
- Concerning nuisance abatement, Michael will obtain contact information for the property owners in question and the specifics of each instance and draft proposed notices for the council’s consideration.
- The new Republic Services contract still needs signed. While the contract financial terms have been agreed upon, Michael has some recommendations as to the format of the contract itself. Michael will draft a revision and contact our Republic Services representative. Matter tabled.
- Chuck said we need to determine what the new trash rate will be as of May 1. The previous contract and the new contract are for five years. Each year of the contract the cost to the town rises. In the past, the town raised prices each year as the town’s cost increased. Council discussed just raising the trash price once to cover the period of the contract rather than each year. After discussion:

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to raise the monthly trash rate to \$12.96 per unit as of May 1, 2021, such rate to be effective for five years. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Chuck initiated a discussion of the possibility of establishing a separate enterprise fund for trash pickup. Clerk will research and report back to the council.

VII. New Business

- Kyle had some business cards made and wondered if anyone else wishes to have them made.
- While establishing Zoom meetings, Kyle set-up a council email account through Gmail.
- Matt said a resident from the Allen Drive area had approached him about the possibility of constructing an outlet road/street from the neighborhood to 400 West.
- Travis suggested we call a special public meeting to get the public’s views on recycling. The meeting could be held at the fire station.
- Travis said last meeting we approved the Oak Hill Pot-O-Gold fundraiser through July. He reported that it appears it is already sold out and wondered if we would be willing to extend the time they could use the rock along the trail. Council agreed to extend the time if the organization requests an extension.

- Chuck Briede said some of the food vendors for the Sesquicentennial have requested to set-up the night before which will result in the need to close a portion of Main Street the evening before the event.
- Chuck said we have a house in town that has been under construction for over two years. Dave said no one is living there yet. Town practice has been to begin billing for sewer service after a certificate of occupancy has been received. Travis said we need to review the current sewer ordinance to see if a situation like this is addressed and, if not, perhaps amend the ordinance to establish when billing begins for sewer service. Matter tabled pending review of the ordinance.
- Clerk reminded council that the Ethanol Racing Fuels fine for excess infiltration was still outstanding. Clerk will recap issue for counsel's review.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
