

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
December 19, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kyle Taylor at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
Roll Call:
Matt Moore-Aye
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey Aye
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

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

II. **Minutes**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024, meeting as submitted. Matt Moore seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Aye
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey Aye
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the payroll dockets of November 15, 2024, November 27, 2024, December 13, 2024, December 18, 2024 (council pay), and the bills docket of November 19, 2024, as submitted. Warren Dailey seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Aye
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey Aye
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Kyle notified the attendants that at this time members of the public may speak on any item of general interest not specific to the meeting agenda and within the town councils' jurisdiction, generally subject to a five (5) minute time limit per speaker. Travis also asked the attendants if there were any Title VI or Title II ADA issues, concerns, or complaints from the public needing the towns' attention and needing addressed.
- Town resident Brad Needler was in attendance. Brad is going to be the new president of the Sweetser Lions Club. The Lions are attempting to bring the Culpepper Merriweather Circus of Oklahoma to Sweetser in mid-June of 2025. It's a traditional big top circus experience. They would stage the event in the area adjacent to the dog park. There would be two shows. This would be a fund-raising opportunity for the Lions Club. The council okayed the Lions Club moving forward with the event.

V. **Department Reports**

Police Department – Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- Ryan submitted a written report which was reviewed and discussed by the council.
- Kyle reported the \$500 uniform allowance for 2024 has not yet been expended

Maintenance Department – Operations Manager Patrick Kendall was in attendance.

- Chad Salzbrenner of Fleis & Vandenbrink provided an update of the Sidewalk Project that is scheduled to be completed in 2025. INDOT has received 5 bids from contractors for completing the project. The low bid was \$416,647.94 from Milestone Contractors. The highest bid was \$566,000. Fleis & Vandenbrink's engineers estimate was \$262,787.88. Chad thought the contractors had a full book of business and were not aggressive with their bids. Based on original project estimates (several years ago), INDOT was going to cover approximately \$150,000 of this final phase. Under that scenario, the town's 20% responsibility went from approximately \$44,480 to about \$216,000 (the difference between the low current estimate and the amount INDOT originally agreed to pay). However, INDOT has now agreed to limit the town's portion to 20% of the \$416,647.94, or \$83,330. The town would also owe construction engineering fees of \$7,200 to Fleis and Vandenbrink, bringing the town's commitment for completing the project in 2025 to \$90,530. The estimated allowance for completing the project per the town was approximately \$80,000. If the town abandoned the project, they would have to repay \$44,480. If the town reduces the scope of the project and accepts new bids, the project would not take place until 2028-2029, and the town would have no assurance of INDOT increased funding nor any idea of potential estimated costs that far in the future.

After discussion, Warren Dailey made a motion to approve the bid from Milestone Contractors for the completion of the Sidewalk Project, obligating the town for \$90,530. Tyler Wineinger seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Absent
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey Aye
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

- Patrick reported:
 - Jason Miller of RMA has submitted the required information for the potential Safety Grant.
 - They completed constructing the loft in the shop
 - Mowers have been serviced and cleaned
 - New tires have been installed on the Gator
- Patrick said the current dump truck is a 2005 and is low mileage (23,000 miles). The body is in good shape, but the bed has significant rusting. He submitted two quotes for putting a new bed on the truck. Patrick’s preferred option is about \$21,000. There is about an 8 week lead time to have it installed. The matter was tabled.
- Patrick reported on his consultations with E&B Paving personnel about the damaged area of the recently repaved area on Devoe. They will be monitoring it through the winter and make a proposal in the spring. The town still has retained funds from the project.
- Kyle reported that he spoke with Ricardo of RQAW about the status of the OCRA Utility Planning Grant. Ricardo said we don’t have comprehensive knowledge of and information on the storm water system and recommended that we ask OCRA to fund a study of the storm water system. RQAW will present their findings to the council in January prior to submitting the information to OCRA.
- Tyler reported there are some problems on Hubert where the sink hole was repaired. Patrick said he would have to wait till spring to address it.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley has resigned.

- No report.

VI. Continuing Business

- Jocques Plothow of RMA presented Title VI implementation plans for the new council members to sign.

After discussion, Tyler Wineinger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-5, A Resolution of the Town Council of Sweetser, Indiana, adopting the 2025 Title VI Implementation Plan. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Aye
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey-Nay
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

- Kyle resumed discussion of amending the town paid vacation policy. Current policy is that vacation renews on the anniversary of the hire date, and unused vacation may not be carried over. Proposal is to change vacation renewal every January and allow some carryover of unused vacation.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to amend the town vacation policy to state that vacation time will be renewed on January 1 of each year. Tyler Wineinger seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Aye
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey Aye
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

- There was additional discussion of the amount of vacation time, when it becomes available, and the minimum paid-time-off increment. The matter was tabled.
- Kyle said he has not yet received a response from Telecad to our last counteroffer.
- A brief discussion resumed about the replacement pistols for the Marshal department. The matter was tabled.
- No update on obtaining a town credit card.
- Kyle said he had not heard back from the Grant County Sheriff Department about interest in putting a Flock Safety Camera along State Highway 18.
- Kyl reported that Flock would give us a 50% discount on the two cameras the council approved at the last meeting if we signed the agreement by December 23, 2024. There was discussion of optimal locations for the cameras. Potential sites were selected and Kyle will coordinate with Flock.
- The clerk distributed the ARPA spending plan for the council’s consideration.

After discussion, Warren Dailey made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-6, the ARPA Spending Plan. Tyler Wineinger seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Absent
Tyler Wineinger-Aye

Warren Dailey Aye
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

- No update on accounting software.
- The deputy clerk treasurer position will be coming open sometime in April of 2025.
- Discussion resumed on getting the new police cruiser kit. The third bidder declined to bid. The two bids received do not include radios. The Indiana Emergency Lighting bid was \$16,609 and Bartley’s L.E.D. Outfitter bid was \$16,000. Once the work starts, there is about a 6-week lead time to completion. Radios will cost about another \$6,500.

After discussion, Warren Dailey made a motion to accept the bid from Bartley’s L.E.D. Outfitter to outfit the new Tahoe police cruiser. Tyler Wineinger seconded the motion.
Matt Moore-Absent
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey Aye
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

- Clerk reported that he had errored in submitting the 2025 budget and many of the funds had a budget of \$0. A public hearing will need to be had to present an increase in appropriations.

VII. New Business

- The council took up discussion of the 2025 Salary Ordinance, Ordinance 2024-8. Recommended maximum rates for each position were discussed. The matter was tabled until the January 9, 2025 meeting.
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- Warren said a resident is concerned that there is an area near Elm and Devoe that is not lit adequately. There was a discussion of who would be responsible for installing a streetlight and how to go about requesting it. Warren said he would contact Indiana Michigan.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for 7 pm, Thursday, January 9, 2025.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 pm.
Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter

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