

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
September 11, 2025

The August 28, 2025, meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum.

- 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-Absent

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 meeting of August 14, 2025, as corrected. Tyler Wineinger seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Aye

Tyler Wineinger-Aye

Warren Dailey-Absent

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Travis Lemaster-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the payroll dockets of August 22, 2025 and September 5, 2025, and the bills docket of September 11, 2025, as submitted. Matt Moore seconded the motion.

Matt Moore-Aye

Tyler Wineinger-Aye

Warren Dailey-Absent

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. Kyle 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.

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

Police Department – Interim Marshal Brad Moore was in attendance

- Brad reported that the new laptop computers will be installed in the 2024 and 2020 Tahoes next week.
- Brad said the recent dog bite incident did not result in a citation. Council discussed the history of issues with this particular animal and the reason the facts of the most recent incident did not rise to a violation of the current town animal control ordinance.

Maintenance Department – Operations Manager Patrick Kendall was in attendance.

- Patrick reported the new mowers have been delivered.
- Patrick said they changed out a pump at the plant RAS well.
- Kyle reported they had requested a quote from Expert Electric to install hookups along the trail for vendor trailers to use during events. He said he has inquired of the engineering company for the main street trail crossing safety improvements to see if the cost of the installation could be included in that project.
- Kyle reported that Patrick was stung 8 times while working on the brush piles. He is going to borrow the backhoe from Swayzee to clear out the area.
- Kyle initiated a discussion of implementing a fee to help cover the cost of the contracted leaf pickup service.
- Kyle distributed a draft RFP for the trash pickup service. The current contract with Republic Services expires at the end of April 2026. There were no revisions to the RFP. Kyle will see that it gets distributed.
- Patrick reported that the alarm went off on the Short Street lift station but he did not receive an electronic communication.
- Kyle reported that Patrick will be doing some repairs to the train deck and ramp. More extensive work may be contemplated if the town is awarded a Lilly Grant.

- Kyle reported Patrick and Ed have been doing some

Parks Department – Parks President position is vacant.

- Kyle reported that Patrick will be doing some repairs to the train deck and ramp. More extensive work may be contemplated if the town is awarded a Lilly Grant.
- Kyle reported Patrick and Ed have been doing some tree trimming.

VI. Continuing Business

- Kyle reported that Comtech had been out to get the town hall internet password updated.
- Alan Busby has installed some of the new electronics for public access to archived meetings and continues to work on completing the project.
- Kyle asked town counsel Michael Hotz to work with the clerk’s office on obtaining information to initiate foreclosure proceedings on some properties we have filed liens on for years but have not recovered anything through property taxes.
- Kyle asked Michael for next steps on pursuing restitution for breach of contract for outfitting the 2024 Tahoe.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to authorize town counsel Michael Hotz to proceed with action to obtain restitution for breach of contract for failure to complete the outfitting of the 2024 Tahoe police cruiser. Tyler Wineinger seconded the motion.

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

- Kyle said that we still need to review and update the traffic and nuisance ordinances.
- The council discussed the request from Metro Communications to install underground fiber optic cable across Main Street. Kyle will reach out to see if they are contemplating street cuts or directional boring. Once we have that information the town will craft its response and requirements.
- Sean Kleinpeter of Kleinpeter Financial Group LLC led a discussion of the potential revenue impact of Indiana Senate Bill 1 and potential town responses.
- Sean prepared and submitted our annual TIF Neutralization report to the county.
- Sean has been working on a wastewater rate study. He presented his initial findings and recommendations to the council. During the project he discovered and confirmed the Debt Service Fund is approximately \$33,000 over funded. He prepared an Incumbency Certificate/Authorized Callback for the council to execute in order for the town to request those funds be distributed to the town for use in wastewater operations.
- Mike Kleinpeter of Kleinpeter Consulting Group LLC discussed the status of the OCRA Planning Grant. The current deadline for the next stage is August 31. Mike asked the council to approve a 60 day extension to keep the town in compliance.

After discussion, Tyler Wineinger made a motion to request from OCRA a 60 day extension to submit the plans for the next stage of the project. Matt Moore seconded the motion.

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

Mike said in order to be eligible for the construction grant that opens September 18, the town has to have the construction plan approved by OCRA and have the final public hearing by December. Another requirement to be eligible for this round, an environmental review has to be completed and submitted by December 20, 2025.

RQAW representatives Aaron Crow, Ricardo Paredes, and Scott Clay were in attendance and presented a proposed agreement between RQAW and the town for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (Division 1) and a Sanitary Sewer Network Assessment (Division 2). The scope of proposed services includes Design, Permitting, and Bidding. The estimated costs are:

- Division 1 \$905,890
- Division 2 \$399,100

Ricardo went through the details of the proposal and answered numerous questions from the council. The main questions revolved around costs and/or providers for:

- Bidding
- Meetings
- CCTV of Sanitary System
- Survey
- Solar field design (on the roof of the treatment plant)

RQAW will review the concerns of the council and return with a modified proposal at the September 25 council meeting.

Sean spoke about the need to have a Financial Advisor for the project and to issue a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to cover the costs of the project prior to obtaining an SRF loan. The town will need a bond counsel for the BAN. He said the new rates will have to be in place before the BAN can be issued. Sean said he would put together a source of use of funds for all aspects of the project.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve executing an engagement letter with Kleinpeter Financial Group LLC to provide financial consulting for the Wastewater Improvements Project. Matt Moore seconded the motion.
Matt Moore-Aye
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey-Absent
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the contract with Kleinpeter Consulting Group LLC to conduct an Environmental Review for \$5,000 for the Wastewater Improvement Project. Tyler Wineinger seconded the motion.
Matt Moore-Aye
Tyler Wineinger-Aye
Warren Dailey-Absent
Kyle Taylor-Aye
Travis Lemaster-Aye

- VII. **New Business**
- None
 - The next council meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025, at 7 pm.

VIII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 pm.
Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter