

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council

August 12, 2021

I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Present

Matt Stewart—Absent

Travis LeMaster—Present

Dave Fox—Present

Chuck Briede-Present

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

II. Minutes

Dave Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2021, meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

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 written. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. Public Forum

No comments.

V. Department Reports

Police Department — Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan reported one of the fire extinguishers was used on a call for a car fire. He has put in an order to have it recharged.
- Ryan said the annual IDACS (Indiana Data and Communications System) audit did not have any issues.
- Ryan reported that Deputy Brad Moore broke his ankle in a non-work-related incident and will be out for approximately 8 weeks. Ryan has a deputy candidate he intends to hire to help fill-in during Brad's absence.
- Ryan recapped the department case activity the past two weeks (190 calls).
- Ryan said the Delphi Street property to which the town had previously issued a nuisance ordinance violation warning, had deteriorated again after the initial clean-up. Ryan asked what the next step would be. Town Counsel Michael Hotz said since more than ten days had passed between the first letter and the current violation, a new warning letter would need to be issued.
- Ryan said there has been concern expressed about the property on the southwest corner of Peterson Drive. The current owner has passed away. A neighbor has been mowing the property and has intends to buy the property. The prospective purchaser wondered if the town would assume the responsibility to mow the property until it was offered in a Sheriff's sale. Chuck responded that the town would not assume that responsibility. If the property is not maintained, the town could engage an outside party to

do so and the town would file a lien against the property for the cost of the maintenance incurred by the town.

- Michael said questions had been raised about the authority of the town to issue town traffic ordinance violation citations (specifically speeding tickets) and where the money goes for tickets issued. Clerk will provide copies of relevant ordinances to Michael and the Marshal's department for review. Michael said he would not recommend any changes in current procedures.
- Chuck inquired about security arrangements for the Sesquicentennial. The hours to be covered are from 10 am to 10 pm and Chuck said the goal was to always have three officers on duty during the event. Ryan said he had two officers plus himself until 4 pm. With Brad's injury, he currently does not have three people from 5-10. Ryan will continue to try and find a third person for that time. If he is unable to find someone, Ryan will be expected to cover that shift.
- Chuck asked about Grant County EMA's participation at the Sesquicentennial. Ryan said they would be providing two people plus two large digital signs. There was a discussion of the EMA personnel's role and locations, as well as the location of the signs and when they would be deployed. Travis said it would be helpful if the signs could be deployed on Friday as there will be significant set-ups going on. Ryan said he will be meeting with EMA again prior to the event to coordinate final plans.

Maintenance Department — Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin said he should have the Main Street parking and crosswalk striping done tomorrow. There was discussion about having a center stripe on Main Street. Devin said he could do it but probably not until after the Sesquicentennial.
- Devin summarized the plans for Sesquicentennial traffic control using barricades, traffic cones, yellow caution tape, and street signs.
- Chuck said he had a list of items that needed to be done in preparation for the Sesquicentennial. He said he would get with Devin after the meeting to review.
- Devin said that they had removed the trees from in front of All Things Custom and that he would take the stumps down lower prior to the Sesquicentennial. He said he will grind the stumps sometime after the event. He said he would also work on the stump by town hall.
- Devin said they would not be painting curbs until after the Sesquicentennial.
- Devin said they have all the Hometown hero banners installed. Travis said he had three more banners coming and that people had until Labor Day to place an order. Travis said the three remaining banners may be in next week and asked if they could be installed prior to the event. Devin said if they came early in the week, he could probably get it done.
- Devin said a door fell off the recently purchased bucket truck due to a rust issue. He said they will make a bracket for the door and get it reinstalled.
- Kyle asked if we would have new flags for the Veteran's Memorial prior to the Sesquicentennial. Devin said we will. Travis said the JROTC will be using the American Flag for the Sesquicentennial Parade so the center pole of the Memorial would be empty during the event.
- Devin said they will have the mowing done prior to the Sesquicentennial.
- Chuck asked if we had an edger to edge the sidewalks. Devin said we didn't, but he could use a weed eater to do the edging.
- Chuck said we need a place and container for vendors to dispose of gray water. Devin said he had a container. Chuck said probably stage it behind the café.
- Dave said there was a tent going to be erected on the grocery store lot. The tent provider will supply barrels to secure the tent, but we will be responsible for filling the barrels with water. Devin said he would take care of it.
- Chuck reviewed the location of the vendor booths.
- Chuck reviewed other preparatory items for the event such as the tent for the Newhouse lot, picnic table placements, and trailer locations.
- Chuck said they had purchased new faucets for the train. Devin said he will try to get them installed prior to the Sesquicentennial.

- Chuck said there was a significant dip in the road at the main street drain by the Methodist Church. Devin said there was a difference in elevation between Main and Sherron and it would be addressed when the work on Sherron street is performed.
- Devin said he would be meeting with Andrew King about quoting the private sidewalk at the old dress shop that the town will be installing.
- Chuck and Dave wondered if the weeds along the new sidewalks would be addressed by the contractor. Devin indicated maintenance would be the homeowner's responsibility. Chuck expressed his concern that the quality of the seed that was applied was inferior to what was there before the project. Dave asked Stu Savka of Fleis & Vandenbrink (F&V) if there was anything F&V could do to address the issue. Stu said that someone from F&V will be there for the final walkthrough and will address it with INDOT and the contractor at that time. Devin said he would mow and trim the areas in question this time.
- Travis asked if anyone from the railroad had responded to the town regarding the junction box and pipe at the railroad crossing. Devin said he had not yet heard back from them. Travis suggested taking pictures of the items and emailing them to the railroad contact. Devin said he would do so.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said he acquired fire extinguishers and first aid kits for the John Deere Tractor and Gator.
- Steve reported the Garfield statue should be done in the next day or so.
- Steve said the trail camera had been installed.
- Steve mentioned that the trail crosswalk across Main Street needs to be painted. Picking up on Mr. Carter's suggestion last week of placing a stop sign at that location, Travis suggested we could purchase a rubber "Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk" sign to place in the crosswalk at that crossing. The cost of the sign is about \$150.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to authorize the purchase of the pedestrian crosswalk sign for the trail crossing at Main Street. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Steve said he has been contacted by aspiring Eagle Scout Garrett Geller. Garrett is seeking a project to donate his time for. Garrett says he has about 20 people who will assist with the project. Steve has engaged him to do the following this coming weekend:
 - Crack seal the trail
 - Paint the dog fence at the dog park
 - Paint the picnic table tops and seats
 - Paint the undercarriage of the train cars

Steve said Jeff Speicher, Don Hatch, Ron Achor, and Travis LeMaster have offered to help.

VI. Continuing Business

- Travis said they had a radio spot on WBAT discussing the Sesquicentennial. In addition to the scheduled events, he said we were up to 73 vendor booths, 30 food choices, and five bands. There was a discussion of providing signage on the county roads providing directions into town in light of the State Road 18 bridge being closed. Travis reviewed the scheduled events and some of the participants and expected attendees.
- Town counsel Michael Hotz circulated a sample ordinance for regulating truck traffic on town roads and streets for the council's consideration. After discussion the matter was tabled.

VII. New Business

- Travis reported the AIM conference will be in October and some of the topics may be of interest to the council. AIM stands for Accelerate Indiana Municipalities. It was previously known as IACT (Indiana Association of Cities and Towns).

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
