

Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Doyle F. Lowe called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being: Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, and Billy G. West. Commissioner Bill W. Stockton was absent due to sickness. City Attorney John Cleveland was present. A quorum was present.

Mayor Lowe led the meeting with an invocation of the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Chief Eddie Byrum.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 7, 2021 and the workshop of September 26, 2021. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

After the Recorder's report, Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the distributions. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

In New Business, Commissioner West moved to authorize Mayor Lowe to execute the contract with TDOT for the Walnut Street Grade Crossing Improvements, which carries a 10% match from the city. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the Resolution to extend a temporary policy for the emergency paid leave act applicable to employees with a positive covid test in their household. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND VIA TEMPORARY POLICY THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE EMERGENCY PAID SICK LEAVE ACT CREATED BY THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

WHEREAS, the well-being of the citizens and employees of the City of Sweetwater is of the greatest importance; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has seen fit to expand the benefits of FMLA in regard to leave due to the Covid-19 pandemic under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing high case rate and need for quarantines and isolation;

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater, that this Resolution be adopted on October 4, 2021.

Section 1: The City of Sweetwater will allow employees to continue to utilize any of the 14 days of Emergency Paid Sick Leave still available at the employee's regular rate of pay where the employee is unable to work because there has been a positive test within the household of the employee including the employee himself or herself. An additional lot of 10 days is added beginning October 4, 2021 for employees with a positive covid test within their household. These days may be used while awaiting test results and in the days after a positive covid test within the household. After all covid days have been used, employees may use their own leave time.

Section 2: Beginning October 4, 2021, the employee must present documentation of a positive covid test in order to use covid sick time. Documentation may include a photograph with time stamp of an over-the-counter test or doctor's or pharmacist's note.

Section 3: All covid days expire on December 31, 2021. Days may be applied retroactive to July 1, 2021 if applicable.

Section 4: If Congress acts in a way that requires the City to offer extended Emergency Paid Sick Leave past October 4, 2021, then the City's voluntary extension should be considered null and void in order to avoid potential duplication of benefits.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately, the public welfare requiring it.

Signed,

Mayor Doyle F. Lowe

Attest:

Jessica Morgan, Recorder

Commissioner Richeson moved to appoint Brian Hodge to full-time firefighter. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 992 to establish the Rules of the Road on first reading. A second was given. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and West. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

The Recorder advised she was still checking with the bank on increasing the credit card limit. The item was placed on the November agenda.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 993 to amend Title 14 to add R-4 Zoning on first reading. A second was given. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and West. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe invited everyone to attend the NFC Fitness Court on October 8, 2021.

He also reminded the board that Sweetwater would be hosting the AL MS TN Rural Tourism Conference October 18-20th and appreciated everyone's work to make Sweetwater look great. City Planner Chuck Whited announced that Red Stag is projecting to start work on the building and pouring footers on November 1, 2021.

No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

This the 4th day of October, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Recorder