

Meeting Minutes
July 5, 2022

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 5 p.m. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being: Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, and Billy G. West. Commissioner Stockton was absent due to illness. City Attorney John Cleveland was present. A quorum was present. The meeting was opened with The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by City Planner Jon Campbell.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 6, 2022 and the workshop of June 27, 2022. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

After the Recorder's report, Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the distributions for May, 2022. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

A public hearing was opened to take comment on Ordinance No. 1005 to amend the budget. No written or oral comments were given.

A public hearing was opened to take comment on the amendment to the Employee Handbook regarding residency requirements. No written or oral comments were given.

The public hearing was closed at 5:07 p.m.

In Old Business, Commissioner Hughes moved to approve proceeding with the Monroe Street sidewalk project using Covid Recovery funding. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

In New Business, Commissioner West moved to approve the nomination of Richard Collette to Sweetwater Utilities Board with a term expiring June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

The Library Board nominations were tabled until after the passage of Ordinance No. 1008.

Commissioner Moser moved to appoint David Vestal and Jason Dacus to the Economic Development Board with terms expiring 7/1/2026. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to appoint Jackie Mayotte, Terry Knight, and Crystal Reagen to the Industrial Development Board with terms expiring 7/1/2028. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to appoint Terry Knight and Mike Ridley to the Health, Education, and Housing Board with terms expiring 7/1/2028. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser nominated Mary Chappell Crabtree, Amber Fairweather, and Jason Hall to the Historic Zoning Commission. Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the nominations with terms expiring 7/1/2026. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner West nominated Jeff Brewster and Pidge Collette to the Sweetwater Heritage Museum board with terms expiring 7/1/2025. He moved to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Richeson moved to appoint Eric Thompson to the Sweetwater Tree Board with a term expiring 7/1/2026. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to appoint Sam Moser to the Building Codes Board of Review with a term expiring 6/30/2025. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe nominated Abby Cook to the Sweetwater Regional Planning Commission with a term expiring 6/30/2029. Commissioner Richeson moved to appoint Abby Cook. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the Initial Resolution to approve the issuance of the bond for Sweetwater Utilities Board. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner West moved to approve the Bond Resolution for Sweetwater Utilities Board. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 1006 to rezone parcel 17.01 of Tax Map 023 C Group E from M-1 to C-3 on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and West. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve Ordinance No. 1007 to rezone parcels 31.00, 31.01, 32.00, and 32.01 from R-1 to R-3 on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and West. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve Ordinance No. 1008 to amend Title 2, Chapter 2 regarding the library board on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting,

the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and West. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the Resolution to amend the Employee Handbook to change the residency requirement to comply with state statutes. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION

AMENDING SECTION 3, “EMPLOYMENT,” SUB-SECTION E “OPEN ELIGIBILITY,” OF THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TENNESSEE.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee passed Public Chapter 720, effective March 24, 2022, amending *Tenn. Code Ann.* §8-50-107(d) to prohibit local governments from dismissing disciplining, fining or penalizing a paid, full-time law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical personnel, and dispatchers of law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service departments, other than the chief of the department (“first responder”), or denying employment to a person applying to be a first responder, based on where the first responder or applicant resides; and

WHEREAS, Section 3, “Employment,” Sub-section E “Open Eligibility,” provides that in cases where residents of the City and non-residents are equally qualified for positions presently vacant, the residents shall receive first consideration for filling such vacancies; and

WHEREAS, said provision of said sub-section is inconsistent with state law as applied to first responders; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee, that Section 3, “Employment,” Sub-section E “Open Eligibility,” be, and the same is hereby, amended by deleting said sub-section in its entirety, and adopting the following sub-section in its place and stead.

E: OPEN ELIGIBILITY.

Individuals shall be recruited from a geographic area sufficient to obtain well-qualified applicants for the various types of employment positions. All applicants for positions that require the potential for call-back to respond to emergency situations, including but not necessarily limited to, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and dispatchers of law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service departments, other than the chief of the department, shall be required to live within a distance that the Department Head and Department Commissioner shall determine makes them reasonably available to respond to such call-backs in a timely manner, which shall be determined and defined at the time of hire. If applicants live beyond such limitation, it shall be a specific condition of the offer of employment and continued employment that they relocate to within the limitation before completing the first year of employment. Should employees subject to call-back determine to move during the course of their employment, it is their obligation to advise their Department Head of their plans and discuss availability for response times prior to moving their residence. Employees choosing to make themselves unavailable for a reasonable response should not expect to continue their employment with the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other provisions of the Employee Handbook shall remain in full force and effect except as amended herein, and that this Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of the City

requiring it.

ADOPTED this 5th day of July, 2022.

DOYLE LOWE, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

JESSICA MORGAN

City Recorder

Commissioner Richeson moved to appoint Jaren Whitfield and Joseph Moses as part-time firefighters. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner West moved to appoint Eddie Thompson as full time employee to the street department. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe thanked all the departments for their assistance with the Independence Day Celebration. He invited the public to attend a Red Stag Information meeting with the leadership team for the Sweetwater location here at City Hall on July 21 and July 28 at 9 am and 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.
This the 5th day of July, 2022.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Recorder

