

## Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2024

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater Tennessee met in a workshop session on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Doyle F. Lowe called the workshop to order with Commissioners present being: Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, JoAnna Jinks, and James H. Stutts. City Attorney John W. Cleveland was present.

Mayor Lowe introduce Gerry Lynch who proposed to lease a city building on A Street to develop a microbrewery. The board asked several questions about the timeline and plans. The board directed the Recorder to obtain a copy of a similar lease from Loudon and send it out to the board.

Recorder Jessica Morgan reviewed several recent activities including the July 4<sup>th</sup> event plans, Moody's rating review, Tourism Director Hayley Isbill completing year one of Marketing College, the budget approval from the State, the plans for the Green Space downtown on the Main Street grant, and the return of federal TAP Grant funds that the deadline for construction would not be met for. She advised TDOT agreed to leave the STBG funds in the contract for NEPA ad Design work through the selected consultant and encouraged the city to reapply for the construction funding in the next TAP round.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the upcoming July 1 meeting agenda.

The board adjourned and reconvened as the Committee of the whole to review an ordinance to appoint a city administrator. The board discussed the wording that stated "recorder" would be replaced with "administrator" throughout the code. Commissioner Stutts asked if the wording in the ordinance conflicted with the personnel ordinance or role of the personnel commissioner. City Attorney John Cleveland advised he did not think it did as the personnel commissioner role was primarily advisory and noted that this ordinance does delegate the hiring and firing authority to a three-person committee with only one commissioner, which provides some privacy to the employees. Commissioner Stutts also inquired about whether requiring the city administrator to be pre-employment drug tested was a conflict. City Attorney John Cleveland advised that his opinion was that as administrator, the role could be placed in safety sensitive situations at any time and could therefore be consistent with the policy. When questioned by a citizen in the audience about how this ordinance could help the city, Commissioner Stutts responded that the Recorder job position had evolved and entailed duties the board desired to be handled and this ordinance puts into writing what the current Recorder already does and make it clear this person is designated by the board to perform these duties. He noted that it was not a city manager position, which would be a statutory change that would require a referendum on a new charter. He stated the city board still had authority over the position. The board requested the wording changes from John Cleveland and could then add the item for first reading on the July agenda.

Mayor Lowe requested reports from each department head. Sweetwater Police had participated in the sting with local agencies to conduct a undercover child sex trafficking investigation last week and arrested 7 perpetrators. They were also doing training in the schools during the summer and planning for National Night Out in August. Sweetwater Fire noted the burn ban in effect until dry conditions were alleviated and noted programs in the schools and the upcoming water gun fight during the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Parks and Recreation noted some maintenance issues at the pool that were being resolved and the addition of more cameras leading to solving a vandalism issue. The Street Department noted new

gates to prevent dumping at their locations and fixing potholes throughout the city. The Main Street director updated the board on the recent Ladies Night Out event and the upcoming musical fundraiser. The library described a successful summer reading program and working on filling current vacancies.

No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

---

Mayor

---

Recorder

