

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2023

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order and led an invocation. Commissioners present were Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, Joanna Jinks, and James H. Stutts. Commissioner Lamar Hughes was absent due to illness. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Stutts moved to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting of November 6, 2023, 2023, the called meeting of November 13, 2023, and the called meeting and workshop of November 27, 2023. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

The Recorder requested the distributions for October 2023 be tabled for the January meeting.

There were no visitors present to make a public comment. A public hearing was opened to take comment on the following items:

Ordinance No. 1028

Commissioner Stutts requested clarification on the provision in the drafted ordinance regarding debate among the board members. City Attorney John Cleveland confirmed that the draft intends that board members may speak during the public comment time without a motion, particularly if they wish to respond or clarify items brought up by members of the public, but that we will continue to follow Robert's Rules of Order requiring a motion and second prior to discussion for action on the item.

Ordinance No. 1030. No written or oral comments were given.

Ordinance No. 1031. No written or oral comments were given.

Ordinance No. 1032. The public hearing was closed at 5:07 p.m.

In Old Business, Commissioner Stutts moved to approve Ordinance No. 1028 to amend Title 1, General Administration, Chapter 2, Mayor and Board of Commissioners, 1-202 Order of Business and to add 1-204, Order of Debate and Public Comment on second and final reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve Ordinance No. 1030 to amend Title 11, Municipal Offenses, Chapter 7, Misc 11-706, Use of City Property on second and final reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 1031 to rezone Map 015 N Group A Parcel 005.00 on Highway 11 from R-1 to R-3 on second and final reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 1032 to adopt River Park Lane as a city street on second and final reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

The Library Appointment was tabled.

In New business, a public hearing was opened to take comment on the CDBG project for the community center. Several people were present to make comment on the project. Branham Lovingood noted this would be a great asset for the city and an opportunity for things we do not have now. Jim Fairweather said it would be nice to have indoor basketball facilities. Mitch Loomis noted it would be a downtown centric amenity that would help downtown. Tania Rich provided a written letter of support from Sweetwater Public Library. Jon Campbell stated this would be similar to the recent success in the housing rehabilitation grant and this project would help even more citizens. Eddie Byrum said both police and fire could use the facility for joint training and engage with citizens, as with their citizens police academy. Olivia Shutter reiterated that this provides new opportunities for the city. David Moses said he was for the project. Sonya Crush stated there was a community need for broadband and meeting rooms, which had been a long-standing need in the community. Shawn Vestal stated he thought this was an excellent project.

Commissioner Jinks moved to approve Ordinance No. 1033 to close part of Industrial Park Road on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Sweetwater Public Library Board member was present to ask the city board to consider adding benefits for the library employees. It was decided that a committee would be formed made up of Jim Stutts JoAnna Jinks, Stuart Sadikoff, Jessica Morgan, Tania Rich, and Jim Fairweather. The committee would bring back estimates and information to the board. The item was added to the workshop in January for follow up.

Commissioner Richeson advised that Commissioner Hughes asked him to make the motion to appoint Will Dyer to fill the vacancy in the Parks Department and he made the motion. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Jinks moved to appoint Colin Hanson for the litter control position, now in the Street Department. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Stutts moved to appoint Kaden Duprey and Dante Johnkins as full-time patrol officers. He noted this completes the hiring for the VCIF grants. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Stutts moved to declare retiring officers' service weapons as surplus assets and to give those weapons to the retiring officer as a retirement gift. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Jinks requested to dispose of the bobcat 743 skid steer in the street department in exchange for a larger roller compactor from Jinks Concrete. Commissioner Richeson asked about comparable values. Commissioner Jinks advised that the value on the skid steer may be more valuable but was not useful to the street department and the roller would be. David Moses noted the skid steer was a smaller size and had last been used several years ago and a larger roller was needed for use with the hotbox and asphalt patching. Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the trade, and the motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

The Historic Zoning Commission nominated Ashley Myers Burrage to serve on the commission. Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the nomination with a term expiring June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to send the back taxes for TMG to a tax sale specific for this property. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

No further action was taken. The December workshop was cancelled unless pressing business developed. The January meeting was set for Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 5 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at

This the 4th day of December, 2023.

Doyle F. Lowe

Attest: _____

Recorder