

Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2023

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order with the Lord's Prayer, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Stutts moved to approve the minutes for the meetings of January 3, 2023 and January 23, 2023. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

After the Recorder's report, Commissioner Moser moved to approve the distributions for the month of December, 2023. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

A public hearing was opened to take comment on the following items:

LPRF Grant Project for improvements at the Sweetwater Recreation Complex
Ordinance No. 1012 to amend Title 4

Ordinance No. 1013 to amend Title 14

Ordinance No. 1014 to amend Title 11

No written or oral comments were given. The public hearing was closed at 5:08 p.m.

In Old Business, Commissioner Richeson moved to approve Ordinance No. 1009 to amend beer regulations on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 1012 to amend Title 4, Municipal Personnel, Chapter 2 and Chapter 4 on second and final reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve Ordinance No. 1013 to amend Title 14, Zoning and Land Use Control, Chapter 8 on second and final reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve Ordinance No. 1014 to amend Title 11, Municipal Offenses, Chapter 3 to add Section 11-303, Disorderly Houses on second and final reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

In New Business, Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 1015 to accept title to the Biggs House on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to table Ordinance No. 1016 to amend the zoning map 023 Parcel 42.00 to R-2 until the city attorney could be present in the workshop to verify that the property owner's deed restrictions would be enforceable.

City Recorder Jessica Morgan gave the quarterly financial report for December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Moser moved to appoint John Cleveland as the city's Title VI Coordinator. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to adopt the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the Resolution to apply for an LPRF grant with matching funds. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, all efforts shall be made to provide a safe, healthy play area for the citizens of the City of Sweetwater and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the addition of playspaces increases a community's livability and attractiveness to new investors, businesses, industries, and residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sweetwater now seeks to enhance the lives of citizens through exceptional parks and recreation facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TENNESSEE THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1: That the City of Sweetwater is hereby authorized to submit application for a 2023 Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant not to exceed \$1,000,000.

SECTION 2: That the City of Sweetwater is further authorized to provide a matching sum to serve as a match for any monies provided by this grant, up to \$500,000 to be provided by an appropriation in the general fund budget.

SECTION 3: That the City of Sweetwater owns the proposed location and acknowledges the Notice of Limitation of Use to be placed upon the land so that it will be used for public recreation.

SECTION 4: That the City of Sweetwater acknowledges the project must be completed within 2 years if the contract is awarded.

Resolved this 6th of February, 2023.

MAYOR

ATTEST: _____

RECORDER

Commissioner Richeson moved to appoint Gail Sensibaugh to the Sweetwater Library Board to fill a vacancy with a term expiring 7/1/2025. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Library Director Tania Rich provided an annual Library report to the board.

Tourism Director Hayley Isbill provided an annual Main Street and Tourism report to the board. She noted over 60,000 people had attended events in the Main Street district in 2022, with Blooms Bluegrass & BBQ festival hosting over 23,000 people.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the Resolution authorizing submission of a 2023 Community Development Block Grant. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Resolution

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO FUND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program as administered by the State of Tennessee offers grants to local jurisdiction to fund public infrastructure facilities, and

WHEREAS, Counties and municipalities within the State of Tennessee may apply annually for such CDBG funding; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program also offers a deduction in the percentage match for three-star communities, and

WHEREAS, the Three Star incentive makes the 2023 CDBG match for Sweetwater \$120,000.00 based on a \$630,000.00 grant limit, and;

WHEREAS, Sweetwater will apply for the CDBG grant to fund a community revitalization project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sweetwater City Council hereby requests the Mayor or his representatives to prepare and submit a 2023 Community Development Block Grant application for funding up to the maximum amount of \$630,000.00 (CDBG) funds with a local match of \$120,000.00 for a total project cost of \$750,000.00.

Resolved this ____ day of _____, 2023

Certified: _____

Mayor Lowe read a Resolution honoring the life and service of Billy G. “Buster” West.

Resolution

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF

BILLY G. “BUSTER” WEST

Whereas, Billy G. “Buster” West was born in Sweetwater, Tennessee, on January 4, 1934, and spent his life in service to the people of the City of Sweetwater. His life in politics started early, with service on the Student Council at Sweetwater High School, where he played football and baseball. On August 6, 1951, Buster married his high school sweetheart and wife of 66 years, Sarah Wyona Hicks. Buster and Wyona owned and operated Valley Electric and Plumbing Supply in Sweetwater for over 40 years. Prior to that Buster worked at the Oak Ridge complex for 11 years. Buster served 11 years in the U.S. Army National Guard 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Sweetwater.

Whereas, Buster was a long-serving member of the Jaycees, partnering with them to build the baseball field at Sweetwater Jr. High. He coached Little League Baseball for 17 years, which later became the Dixie Youth baseball program. In 1970, the Jaycees petitioned the City School Board to name the Jr. High baseball field the “Billy G. West Field.” In his first year with the Jaycees, he was named statewide “Jaycee of the Quarter” for the efforts he made in starting the Toys for Tots program. From 1966–1980, Buster was the color commentator for Sweetwater High School Football broadcasted on WDEH radio. Buster also served as a board member at Sweetwater Valley Bank through many bank changes, ending with the current Regions Bank.

Whereas, Buster West was first elected to the Sweetwater City Board of Commissioners in 1969 where he served 29 years, first as Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, and later as Commissioner of the Fire Department, as the City Commissioner on the Industrial Development Board, as Commissioner of the Street Department, and on the Sweetwater Utility Board from 1983-1999.

Whereas, Commissioner West was the first Parks & Recreation Commissioner. Commissioner West was responsible for many improvements at Engelman Park and the construction of the Recreation Complex on Starrett Street. He later served as Fire Department Commissioner, Street Commissioner, and Vice-Mayor.

Whereas, as Street Department Commissioner since 2008, Buster West replaced many sidewalks throughout the City and paved many miles of city streets,

renovated and beautified downtown public property, including the remodeling of the gazebo, parking areas and landscaping. Commissioner West got the Highway 322 project started with Governor Ellington and lobbied to get Sweetwater a second interstate exit, Exit 62.

Whereas, Commissioner West was instrumental in the development of the Industrial Park in cooperation with the Industrial Development Board on which he served when the first spec building in the park to recruit industry around 1984.

Whereas, Commissioner West lobbied for improvements at Engelman Park and the construction of the Recreation Complex on Starrett Street.

Whereas, during Commissioner of the Fire Department, Sweetwater's ISO rating was reduced from 6 to 5 which many said was impossible.

Whereas, Commissioner West served over 13 years as Chairman of the Sweetwater Museum Board and oversaw the refurbishing of the Sweetwater Heritage Museum, with the help of the Street and Recreation Department and community volunteers.

Whereas, Commissioner West was named Citizen of the Year in 2021. He passed away peacefully at his home on January 24, 2023.

Whereas, Commissioner West especially loved "The Girls" at Sweetwater City Hall and "The Guys" at the Street Department, he was much loved by all the City employees and community volunteers. He was the City's institutional memory, and he is, and forever will be, greatly missed by all, both as a commissioner and as a friend.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee honors Buster West, for his service and dedication to the City and the people of Sweetwater, and that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the City this 6th day of February, 2023.

DOYLE LOWE, Mayor

ATTEST:

JESSICA MORGAN, City Recorder

PASSED: _____

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the Resolution to declare a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Resolution

Declaring a Vacancy on the Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee

Whereas, the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee, are saddened by the death of Commissioner Billy G. “Buster” West on January 24, 2023; and

Whereas, Article IV, Section 7, of the Charter of the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee, provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

A vacancy shall exist, and the mayor and board of commissioners shall declare the same, by resolution, if ... a commission member ... dies; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved that the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee, hereby declare a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee.

DOYLE LOWE, Mayor

ATTEST:

JESSICA MORGAN, City Recorder

PASSED: _____

Mayor Lowe stated Nancy Baker was interested in serving as the Street Commissioner and would likely be willing to run for office. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve appointing Nancy Baker to fill the vacancy left by Commissioner West's death. The motion failed for lack of a second. Commissioner Moser moved that due to the consensus from his discussion with the Street Department employees and Ms. Baker, to allow the upcoming election in June to determine the replacement. Commissioner Richeson seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Richeson stated he had decided that if a special election would not be required, he would rather allow the voters to choose during the election, regardless of who may be nominated. Upon Roll Call Vote, Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Moser, Richeson, and Stutts. Nays being Commissioner Hughes. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Richeson moved to appoint Sam Moser as Vice-Mayor. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

This the 6th day of February, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Recorder