

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2024

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in a regular monthly workshop session on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Doyle F. Lowe called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, JoAnna Jinks, and James H. Stutts. Commissioner Lamar Hughes was absent while recovering from surgery. No one was present to make a public comment.

Anne Caver from Mitchell, Emert, and Hill auditing firm was present to review the audit for the year ending June 30, 2023. She presented a clean report with no compliance issues, good controls in place, and good financial stewardship by the city.

Commissioner Stutts moved to table the Tree Board Resolution to the March workshop. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was tabled.

The Sweetwater Public Library board presented a request to provide raises and benefits to library personnel. The total additional funds requested was around \$122,000. The board agreed to review the request and consider amendments to the employee handbook to define full time library personnel. The item was added to the March workshop.

The board reviewed the draft of the employee handbook. Several items were discussed including a general consensus by the board that they prefer to pre-employment drug test all employees. They instructed John Cleveland to follow up with MTAS regarding the recommendation. Commissioner Stutts asked the board to clarify their merit bonus policy that commissioners can provide merit bonuses to department heads. Everyone agreed that is the intention of the wording. The handbook would be discussed again the March workshop.

City Recorder Jessica Morgan reviewed the landfill expense line item, which was currently overbudget due to excessive dumping at the city garage. The board agreed that the city should not accept demolition materials from commercial enterprises at the garage and direct people the county convenience center. They instructed the street department to check pricing on an automated gate and the board would discuss the item further at the next workshop. It was agreed that codes enforcement would instruct holder of demolition permits to obtain a dumpster.

The board reviewed the design for the stages of the community center presented by Main Street Studios. Sam Moser estimated 5 months for drawings to be completed. The contract was placed on the March 5 meeting for action. The board also reviewed options for a land swap on the A Street properties purchased from Sweetwater Utilities Board and the green space behind the depot. Jessica Morgan was instructed to talk with the property owner about lease options.

The board reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan. City Recorder Jessica Morgan reviewed the covid spend plan year to date and balance. The board reviewed the ten-year street paving plan and sidewalk projects. The board requested the next multimodal grant be applied for on the Monroe Street sidewalk project, as the engineer's estimate was \$2,000,000. The item would be placed on the march agenda for further review.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the March 5, 2024 agenda. He presented certificates from MTAS for Sam Moser and JoAnna Jinks for completing the Elected Officials Academy Municipal Foundations course.

No further action was taken.

The workshop was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

This the 26th day of February, 2024.

Mayor

Attest: _____

Recorder