

Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2024

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in a called meeting and workshop session on Monday, July 22, 2024 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Lowe called the meeting 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.

On the called meeting agenda, no one was present to make a public comment.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 1041 to rezone parcel 56.09 of Monroe County Tax Map 023 from C-3 to M-1 on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion is carried.

City Attorney John Cleveland reviewed the changes to Ordinance No. 1042. He suggested the board pass the ordinance on first reading and make further changes before the final reading. Commissioner Stutts requested the organizational chart add Public Relations and IT to the Administrator's department. In response to the Mayor's concern with wording in Section 1-407 The City Administrator Shall: "Supervise and coordinate all administrative activities of each department", Commissioner Richeson suggested "Supervise and" be removed. He moved to approve Ordinance No. 1042 on first reading as amended. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioner Hughes, Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

In the workshop discussion, Mayor Lowe noted that MTAS advised the city would have to deed the property to the Industrial Development Board if we were to rent it to a commercial business. Several commissioners voiced their opinion that other public uses might be available. After some discussion, the board agreed to place the discussion of use of the buildings on the August 26 workshop agenda and include a walk-through of the buildings after the workshop.

Commissioner Moser raised the status of the Biggs Home. After some discussion, the board decided to advertise for bids to repair the masonry and roof at the home. Commissioner Moser and Recorder Jessica Morgan would draft the bid specifications and advertisement. City Attorney John Cleveland did advise the board members not to perform any work at the Biggs home due to liability. The Street Department did agree to remove the invasive trees and bushes and the deck and porch, which is unattached and not original to the structure.

The Recorder provided a report to the board reviewing the recent MTAS Rural Community Leadership training, the covid spending plan, recent changes at the city's bank, now bought out by Old National, the benefits of the IT position, the most recent Moody's credit rating of Aa3, the award of the following new grants: FEMA Equipment Grant for fire hoses, Norfolk Southern equipment grant for accident reconstruction software, and an East TN Foundation mural grant for the 150th Celebration. She updated the board on the new railroad grant signage and the board agreed to authorize Police Chief Eddie Byrum to determine what if any additional signage was needed to improve traffic flow and prevent blocked intersections. The Recorder's report also reviewed the updates to the First Step Pavement Management plan due to recent work by the Street Department on paving and patching.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the upcoming August 5, 2024 agenda. He received reports from each Department Head.

No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

This the 22nd day of July, 2024.

Mayor Attest: _____

RECORDER