

Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2024

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly workshop and a called meeting on Monday, August 26, 2024 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order with an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call reflected Commissioners present as: Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, JoAnna Jinks, and James H. Stutts. Commissioner Lamar Hughes was absent due to a recent surgery. City Attorney John W. Cleveland was present.

City Administrator Jessica Morgan presented the June 30, 2024 quarterly and fiscal year-end report. She reviewed total cash in bank at \$7,136,531.09, down from the prior year due to spending out the ARPA funds. General fund balance was higher than the previous year due to excess sales tax revenue. She reviewed completed capital improvement plans and gave a grant overview. She reviewed the changes to funds in the bank account, noting a matured certificate of deposit with Capstar that was cashed out and transferred to the LGIP account. She also noted that the city closed the Old National Investment Account, Insured Cash Sweep account and moved the cash to other accounts including the LGIP fund and general checking account. She noted that Cigna would refund over \$100,000 in rebate for the 2023 calendar year. She recommended giving \$1,000 to each employee and saving the rest to offset future premium increases. Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the rebate distribution. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

The board reviewed the single RFQ received for the LPRF grant from Main Street Studios. Commissioner Moser disclosed his interest as principal at Main Street Studios and recused himself from the vote. Commissioner Stutts moved to approve selecting Main Street Studios as the consultant for the LPRF grant. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to adopt the pay scale presented to the board affecting City Administrator, City Recorder, City Clerk, and Tourism Director. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

In the workshop discussion, the representative from Hyper-Reach, the city's emergency calling service, requested a change of contract to an unlimited allotment of calls due to an increase in call volume. Commissioner Richeson suggested we consider other options. Mayor Lowe requested the representative from Hyper-Reach attend the September workshop to present his proposal to the city board.

Commissioner Moser reviewed the pricing received by contractor on the Biggs Home. He advised the amount was over the bid limit, and he would proceed with drafting bid specs to advertise for sealed bids.

Mayor Lowe reviewed a proposal from Rex Ball concerning property for sale between Highway 68 and Monroe Street. He invited the board to look over the property and proposal.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the agenda for the September meeting. Chief Byrum noted the liquor committee had reviewed the application for Sweetwater Wine & Spirits, LLC and would be running the background

checks for the next meeting. City Attorney John Cleveland reviewed the Resolution concerning Scruggs, Jones, & McClain subdivision. He noted certain streets were maintained by the city but additional roadways and alleys were not city streets and this Resolution would clarify that for future inquiries.

The board reviewed requests from various groups concerning use of the Community Center building for indoor sports and for future community center activities. The board reviewed the plans from Main Street Studios for the Community Center project.

The board moved from the city hall board room to the newly acquired buildings downtown to tour and discuss use.

The board proceeded to tour the facilities recently acquired from Sweetwater Utilities Board. No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

This the 26th day of August, 2024.