

Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2018

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Billy G. West, and Bill W. Stockton. Absent was Edward Lee. City Attorney John Cleveland was present.

Mayor Lowe opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Firefighter John Anderson.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 1, 2018 and the workshop of October 22, 2018. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

After the Recorder's report, Commissioner West moved to approve the distributions for the month of September, 2018. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. 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 October, 2018. Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

A public hearing was opened at 5:05 p.m. to take comment on Ordinance No. 968 entitled an Ordinance to amend sections of the municipal code pertaining to signage. No written or oral comments were given.

A public hearing was opened to take comment on Ordinance No. 969 entitled an Ordinance to levy a privilege tax upon lodging. Roger Modi, owner of the Economy Inn stood and said the owners had no comment at this time and wanted to wait for the county to make a decision on the existing county lodging tax. Ms. Cornelia Dobbins stood and noted there was a 20% decline each year in the last 5 years of visitors to the Sevierville tourism center, as visitors were coming to use facilities, not to gather information which was readily available on their smart phones. She favored the city organizing a board to oversee tourism efforts in Sweetwater. The public hearing was closed at 5:13 p.m.

In Old Business, Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 968 entitled An Ordinance to amend sections of the municipal code pertaining to signage on second and final reading. Commissioner Stockton seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, West, and Stockton. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Hughes moved to table Ordinance No. 969 entitled An Ordinance to levy a privilege tax upon lodging on second and final reading. City Attorney John Cleveland raised a point of order to state if the motion was tabled indefinitely, it would fail for lack of action.

Commissioner Hughes amended his motion to table the ordinance to the February meeting. Commissioner West seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

In New Business, the board reviewed the City of Sweetwater Debt Policy. No changes were recommended by the City Recorder, Board of Education Finance Director, or Sweetwater Utilities Board Finance Officer. No amendments were made. Sweetwater Utilities Board included an interfund loan agreement in the board member's packets to make the city board aware of the loan.

Commissioner Stockton moved to approve the payment of the State Salary supplement to police and fire personnel in November, with Commissioner West seconding the motion. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe advised the State Comptroller's office had issued a letter of the annual review of the city's audit, which was approved and posted to their site.

Mayor Lowe turned the meeting over to City Attorney John Cleveland who read a letter addressing recent citizen concerns over spending. He stated their concerns had been heard and were reviewed the multiple avenues given to them to speak with city staff and officials. He noted that the citizen's questions to the board had been answered and there were no known purchasing violations, and the city already has a purchasing policy, an internal control manual, and an independent audit each year. He added that the Recorder had self-reported this allegation to the State of TN Comptroller's office, consulted with Tennessee Municipal League and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service for applicable policy models. The Comptroller's office has an open investigation into the matter and the city does not expect to address the complaints publicly until the Comptroller's office issues its findings and recommendations. He concluded by saying the city hopes Ms. Lisa Upton, BJ Kile, Sandi Kile, Emma Williams, and Anita Dawson will understand their complaints have been heard and forwarded to the proper authority and will patiently await the Comptroller's findings.

Mayor Lowe invited everyone to attend the Veteran's Day program at Sweetwater High School on Friday, as well as the Air Force Band performance at Sweetwater Elementary School on Saturday.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

This the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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RECORDER