

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being: Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, and Billy G. West. Commissioner Bill W. Stockton was absent. A quorum was present. Mayor Lowe led an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Parks and Recreation Director Tim Crawford.

A public hearing was opened to take comment on the Transportation Alternatives Grant. After a review of the project by Jessica Morgan, the city board concurred they would prefer to complete Phase Three on Industrial Park Road with city forces on city right-of-way and the grant application should be submitted for Main Street. Street Commissioner Billy G. West offered to work on the Industrial Park sidewalk and felt the Main Street portion would need environmental and engineering work the grant could help provide. Others present made comments. Fire Chief John Anderson noted the Main Street portion would be a great project. Police Chief Eddie Byrum noted there was a lot of pedestrian traffic along the route and would tie in well with the parks and recreation facilities nearby. He mentioned future races could utilize sidewalks instead of the streets and shoulders, which he felt was much safer. Tulli Cole voiced her support of the project, as did Street Superintendent Richard Jenkins. Parks and Recreation Director Tim Crawford said the amount of pedestrian traffic warranted sidewalks in the area and he notices a lot of runners along the route. City Planner Chuck Whited noted the connectivity the project would provide, ensuring a walking and biking route from the north end of town to the south end of town if this grant was awarded. Sonya Crush noted this project was great and she felt sidewalks made our area more attractive to families, which is what we wanted to attract to our area. Shane Duncan also voiced his support of the grant project. Commissioner Richeson noted he hoped in the future we could work on a sidewalk project for Monroe Street, to which the Mayor agreed. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the minutes from the meetings of August 3, 2020 and August 24, 2020. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

City Recorder Jessica Morgan reviewed the distributions for the month of August, 2020. Commissioner West moved to approve the report. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

In New Business, Commissioner Moser moved to approve the contract with Cannon & Cannon for a TDOT Multimodal Grant. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe announced Sweetwater as a SmartStart Community, which would be listed on the TN Department of Economic and Community Development website as one

of two communities in East Tennessee to achieve the designation, which can assist new entrepreneurs in starting a business by directing them to the many available resources.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve a grant for the creation of the Sweetwater Business Relief Program from the East Tennessee Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 and provide matching funds of \$10,000 from the Tourism Fund to provide relief to businesses affected by the downturn in the tourism industry. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe reminded the board of the joint meeting with Sweetwater Utilities Board on Thursday evening.

No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

This the 8th day of September, 2020.

Mayor

Attest: _____
Recorder