

Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2022

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners met in a called meeting and workshop session on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Doyle F. Lowe called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, Billy G. West, and Bill W. Stockton. City Attorney John Cleveland was present.

On the called meeting agenda, Commissioner Moser moved to approve the hiring of Savannah Frank in the Planning and Development Department. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe opened one bid from United Elevator of Knoxville for the Tourism Enhancement Traincar Grant. Some discussion was given to constructing a ramp instead of an elevator. Commissioner Moser recommended we proceed with the elevator due to the length that would be required to make the ramp ADA compliant. The bid including installation was \$26,940. Commissioner Moser moved to approve the bid and a second was given. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Commissioner West moved to approve the Resolution to accept a proposal of TDOT concerning the Sweetwater Bridge project, PIN 124490.00. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION

Acceptance of the Proposal of the TN Department of Transportation to construct a project designated as Federal Project No. BR-NH-2(259), State Project No. 62003-2224-94, which involves the replacement of S.R. 2 (U.S. 11, South Main Street): Bridge over Sweetwater Creek; and

Whereas, the TN Department of Transportation has presented a proposal to the City of Sweetwater, Tennessee, concerning Federal Project No. BR-NH-2(259), State Project No. 62003-2224-94, which involves the replacement of S.R. 2 (U.S. 11, South Main Street) which involved the replacement of the Bridge over Sweetwater Creek; and

Whereas, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater has determined that the above referenced project will benefit the City of Sweetwater and the citizens thereof; and

Whereas, the City of Sweetwater wishes to cooperate with the State of Tennessee, Department of Transportation, in its efforts to make road and bridge improvements in Sweetwater; and

Whereas, said Proposal is incorporated herein by referenced, the same as if copied herein verbatim, with a copy of said Proposal attached hereto; and

Whereas, the terms and conditions of said Proposal to the City of Sweetwater as submitted by the State of Tennessee, Department of Transportation, are accepted and approved by the City of Sweetwater Mayor and Board of Commissioners, and the City of Sweetwater shall fulfill all obligations concomitant thereto; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Sweetwater Mayor and Board of Commissioners that this resolution is duly passed and approved this 28th day of May, 2022, and shall take affect from and after its passage.

Resolved this 28th Day of May, 2022

Approved: _____

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Recorder

In the workshop, Mitch Loomis of East TN Development District was present to update the board on the CDBG Home Grant. Jon Campbell found a mobile home construction that would fit the footprint and setbacks of the final home build site within the budget and not requiring any variances. Mitch advised the state had approved a mobile home in lieu of a stick-built home. He said he would proceed with taking formal bids to be opened by committee and awarded by the board in the May meeting with their consent.

Mayor Lowe requested the board move forward with plans for the community center. Commissioner Moser advised if the board was willing, he could perform a site study for the Recreation complex and the downtown area to determine pros and cons of each site and report back. The work would likely take around 8 weeks. That information could then be used to make a decision and also provide information to the engineering and civil work. Commissioner Stockton noted he felt we should plan ahead for the growth we were experiencing. Commissioner Richeson suggested we consider a third option with a larger footprint. Sam recused himself from voting. Commissioner Hughes moved to hire Sam Moser to perform a site study. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

Mayor Lowe provided the Board with a copy of his proposed budget for 2022-2023. His draft included a 3% COLA raise to employees, no increases on benefits, no tax or fee increases, and over \$100,000 returning to fund balance. City Recorder Jessica Morgan gave a presentation on each department's budget and fund balance reports. The Board discussed several items in the budget. Commissioner West advised he felt we should offer a 5.9% COLA in line with social security's increase. Commissioner Richeson noted that like Commissioner West, he worried about the cost of turnover and felt we should do 5.9%. Commissioner Moser agreed he would prefer 5.9% for COLA. He noted he thought that raise would still enable us to provide a balanced budget. Commissioner Stockton asked the Recorder to redraft the budget using the 5.9% figure. No other changes were requested.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the upcoming meeting agenda for April 4, 2022.

No further action was taken. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
This the 28th day of March, 2022.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Recorder