

Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2023

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 5 p.m. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order with an invocation of the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call reflected Commissioners present being: Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, Billy G. West, and James H. Stutts. City Attorney John Cleveland was not present due to illness.

Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 5, 2022. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

After the Recorder's report, Commissioner Richeson moved to approve the distributions for the month of November, 2022. Commissioner West questioned if the lease payment for the marketplace had gone up, and the Recorder advised it had, but she was unsure why. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

Mitch Loomis and Laura Smith with East Tennessee Development District were present to take input on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Those present made comments on the maps of park areas. Mayor Lowe stated he thought this plan was needed and a good idea. He stated the city was looking toward the future and we need to be ready for growth. He then opened a public hearing to take public comment and the following were received:

Eddie Byrum stated he felt the proposed community center would fill gaps in our recreation facilities, including a place for seniors to walk and take classes.

Jon Campbell advised it was always good to have a plan. The city is growing -both population and infrastructure, and parks and recreation is a big part of that, especially in small towns, it's important to provide activities for kids and it connects people.

John Anderson added with the growth we're experiencing, we have no choice but to consider expansions, as the recreation complex is packed which is a great thing.

Olivia Shutter agreed that we need to be able to offer more things to do.

Julie Fitch stated she was excited about the proposed community center.

Tim Crawford stated he was happy to see a master plan in place and the addition of the community center would be a wonderful thing, as he sees the growth every day.

Tania Rich stated with the growth we are experiencing, parking should definitely be considered.

Mayor Lowe closed the public hearing at 5:30 p.m.

There was no Old Business, so in New Business, City Attorney John Cleveland had submitted a summary of the newly proposed ordinances and the board briefly reviewed each one.

Commissioner Stutts moved to approve Ordinance No. 1012 to amend Title 4, Municipal Personnel, Chapter 2 and Chapter 4 on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Vote, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, West, and Stutts. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Moser moved to approve Ordinance No. 1013 to amend Title 14, Zoning and Land Use Control, Chapter 8 on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Vote, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, West, and Stutts. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Stutts moved to approve Ordinance No. 1014 to amend Title 11, Municipal Offenses, Chapter 3 to add Section 11-303, Disorderly Houses on first reading. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Vote, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Hughes, Moser, Richeson, West, and Stutts. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Richeson moved to appoint Daniel Alvarez and Juan Rodriguez as part-time firefighters. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion was carried.

The board wished Commissioner West a Happy Birthday the following day.

No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.
This the 3rd day of January, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Recorder