

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

The City Council of the City of Sweetwater, Texas, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Room at City Hall, 200 E. Fourth Street with the following members present:

JIM MCKENZIE, Mayor
JOHN MCPHERSON, Mayor Pro Tem
RICKY CASTRO, Councilman
JEROD PEEK, Councilman
KERRY BAKER, Councilman

DAVID A. VELA, City Manager
JEFF ALLEN, City Attorney

ABSENT: Becky Jimenez, City Secretary

Staff Members Present: Lisa Adames Assistant City Manager for Administration, Kirsta Koennecke Finance Director, Lynn Barrett Director of Planning and Operations, Bryan Sheridan Police Chief, Justin Clowers Interim Utilities Director, Dewey Coy Fire Chief, and Zach Adames IT Director.

1. Mayor McKenzie called the meeting to order.
2. Jim Cargile gave the invocation.
3. Councilman Castro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and the Texas Flags.

Mayor McKenzie mentioned today was National Law Enforcement Day and asked Police Chief Bryan Sheridan to extend their appreciation to the department for everything they do.

4. Motion was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson to approve the minutes for the meeting held on December 12, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Public Input: Mr. Jerry Stapp representing Lifehouse Community spoke on behalf of Mr. Loran Rule who could not attend the meeting. Lifehouse Community is working on a construction project for one-year transitional housing program. Mr. Stapp is also overseeing the project. The organization is a non-profit and the project is funded entirely by donations from individuals, companies and organizations in the community. Lifehouse community is requesting that the City waive its permit fees for the Lifehouse Community construction project that totals \$4,300.00.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 9, 2024

6. Mr. Ryan Garcia with JES Holdings, LLC made presentation requesting assistance for Sweetwater Station.
7. Consent Agenda Items

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve the Consent Agenda Items 6A and 6B. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. City Council to discuss, consider and act upon approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2023.

COPY OF REPORT IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XVI PAGE 3346.

- B. Resolution: City Council to discuss, consider and act upon adoption of Resolution designating the Sweetwater Reporter as the official City newspaper for publications required by State law and/or the City Charter.

COPY OF RESOLUTION IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XVI PAGE 3347.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, NOLAN COUNTY, TEXAS, DESIGNATING THE SWEETWATER REPORTER AS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE CITY OF SWEETWATER FOR A ONE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2024.

8. Regular Agenda Items

- C. Motion was made by Councilman Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve an Ordinance ordering an election of the qualified voters of the City of Sweetwater to be held on May 4, 2024, for the purpose of electing two City Councilmembers (Precincts 2 and 4) of said City. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF ORDINANCE IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XVI PAGES 3348 – 3352

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TEXAS ORDERING A MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 4, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS: COUNCIL MEMBER PRECINCT 2 AND

COUNCILMEMBER PRECINCT 4; AND PROVIDING FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE HOLDING OF SUCH ELECTION.

- D. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman Baker to approve a Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023 Patrol Car Replacement project. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF RESOLUTION IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XVI PAGES 3353 – 3354.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY, REDUCING CRIME, AND IMPROVING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

- E. Lynn Barrett, Director of Planning and Operations was sworn in by City Attorney Jeff Allen for her testimony regarding the dilapidated structures.
- Prop. 1: Motion was made by Mayor Councilman Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to enter into public hearing for 405 Fisher Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Lynn Barrett, Director of Planning and Operations explained the building code issues for the property along with visuals of the property and structure. Based on the property inspections staff determined that the structure(s) contain nuisance conditions that constitute a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the citizen and likely to endanger persons and property, and structure is dilapidated, substandard and/or unfit for human habitation, constitutes a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the citizen and likely to endanger persons and property. Staff's recommendation was to demolish structure.

Public Comment on described property: 405 Fisher Street

None

Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro for declaration of dilapidation and/or deterioration and unfit for human habitation and order repair, rehabilitation or demolition of 405 Fisher Street within 35 days from date of Order. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 9, 2024

9. City Manager's Report

- A. Newman Park Playground Equipment Update
- B. Promotion – Justin Clowers – Utilities Director
- C. Promotions – Battalion Chief Ronald Stegge and Lieutenant Dylan Mauzey
- D. Code Enforcement Update

10. Motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman Baker. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim McKenzie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Jimenez, City Secretary

Persons signing register: Jim Cargile, Ryan Garcia, Karen Hunt, Miesha Adames, Ethan Whittenburg, Richard Acuna, Stacy Boil and Jerry Stapp