

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 2024  
9:00 A.M.**

The City Council of the City of Sweetwater, Texas, met in regular session on Tuesday, October 8, 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  
**KERRY BAKER**, Councilman  
**RICKY CASTRO**, Councilman  
**STACY BOIL**, Councilwoman

**DAVID VELA**, City Manager  
**LISA ADAMES**, Assistant City Manager  
**BECKY JIMENEZ**, City Secretary

Staff Members Present: Kirsta Koennecke Finance Director, Bryan Sheridan Police Chief, Justin Clowers Utilities Director, Tad Baird Fire Chief, Miesha Adames SEED/MDD Executive Director, Zach Adames IT Director and Kathleen Cox.

1. Mayor McKenzie called the meeting to order.
2. Councilman Baker gave the invocation.
3. Mayor Pro Tem McPherson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and the Texas Flags.
4. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson, seconded by Councilman Baker to approve the minutes for the meetings held on September 10, 2024 and September 17, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Public Input:  
  
Mr. David Archer, CPL Petroleum Landman for Stockyards Energy Land Services spoke in regards to an offer and principal lease terms of an Oil and Gas Lease.
6. Regular Agenda Items:
  - A. Motion was made by Councilwoman Boil, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson to approve the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter ended September 30, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

**COPY OF REPORT IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XVI PAGE 3509.**

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- B. Motion was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve reappointments of Ms. Carol Gotcher and Ms. Sharmaine Carrington to the Board of Commissioners for the Sweetwater Housing Authority, for two-year terms. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson, seconded by Councilwoman Boil to approve an Ordinance authorizing the payment of an assignment pay for the assignment of one Emergency Services Coordinator within the fire department. The motion carried unanimously.

**COPY OF ORDINANCE IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XVI PAGES 3510 – 3511.**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF ASSIGNMENT PAY FOR A CERTAIN ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THE ORDINANCE IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

- D. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman Baker to approve an Ordinance to increase the number of firefighters by one and increase the number of police officers by two to correspond with the FY 2024-2025 approved budget. The motion carried unanimously.

**COPY OF ORDINANCE IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XVI PAGES 3512 – 3514.**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CLASSIFICATIONS AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS FOR THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 143.021 OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS BY ONE; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS BY TWO; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETINGS AT WHICH THE ORDINANCE IS PASSED ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

- E. Robert Soto, Code Enforcement Officer was sworn in by Interim City Attorney, Samantha Morrow for her testimony regarding the dilapidated structures.

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Prop. 1: Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson to enter into public hearing for 2301 Lamar Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Soto, Code Enforcement Officer 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.

Public Comment on described property: 2301 Lamar Street

Samantha Morrow, Interim City Attorney spoke on behalf of lienholder of this property. The lienholder has a lien that would pursue care, custody and control of this physical property. Since it has been declared in disrepair, they now have legal action to initiate and are asking the City for some time to file the necessary legal documents to retain ownership of the property.

Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilwoman Boil to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem McPherson, seconded by Councilman Baker for declaration of dilapidation and/or deterioration and unfit for human habitation and order repair, rehabilitation, or demolition of 2301 Lamar Street within 90 days from date of Order. The motion carried unanimously.

Prop. 2: Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman Baker to enter into public hearing for 2303 Lamar Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Soto, Code Enforcement Officer 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.

Public Comment on described property: 2303 Lamar Street

Samantha Morrow, Interim City Attorney spoke on behalf of lienholder of this property. The lienholder has a lien that would pursue care, custody control of this physical property. Since it has been declared in disrepair, they now have legal action to initiate and are asking the City for some time to file the necessary legal documents to retain ownership of the property.

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 Baker, seconded by Councilman Castro McPherson for declaration of dilapidation and/or deterioration and unfit for human habitation and order repair, rehabilitation, or demolition of 2303 Lamar Street within 90 days from date of Order. The motion carried unanimously.

Prop. 3:

Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilwoman Boil to enter into public hearing for 2311 Lamar Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Soto, Code Enforcement Officer 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.

Public Comment on described property: 2311 Lamar Street  
None

Motion was made by Councilwoman Boil, seconded by Councilman Castro to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman Baker for declaration of dilapidation and/or deterioration and unfit for human habitation and order repair, rehabilitation, or demolition of 2311 Lamar Street within 35 days from date of Order. The motion carried unanimously.

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7. City Manager's Report
  - A. Sweetwater Reporter Reader's Choice Award Winners
  - B. Mustang Harbor Splash Pad Closing for the Season – October 13, 2024
  - C. Coffee with a Cop
  - D. SNAP Christmas Food Bags
  - E. National Night Out
  
8. 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.

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Jim McKenzie, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Becky Jimenez, City Secretary

Persons signing register: David Archer, Robert Soto, Ethan Whittenburg, Cory Stroman, Kati Zetzman, Karen Hunt and Ken Flynn