

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 9, 2021
9:00 A.M.

The City Council of the City of Sweetwater, Texas, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via GoToMeeting videoconferencing in Sweetwater, TX and had the following members present:

JIM MCKENZIE, Mayor
JEROD PEEK, Mayor Pro Tem
KERRY BAKER, Councilman
LARRY MAY, Councilman

RICKY CASTRO, Councilman
DAVID A. VELA, City Manager
PATTY TORRES, City Secretary
PETE SHERIDAN, City Attorney

Staff Members present: Chief of Police Bryan Sheridan, Utilities Director Eddy Campbell, Director of Administrative Services Lisa Adames, Director of Planning & Development Services, Dana Schoening and IT Director Zach Adames.

1. Mayor McKenzie called the meeting to order.
2. Councilman May gave the invocation.
3. Sweetwater Intermediate School Student Council representatives led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and the Texas Flags.
4. Motion was made by Councilman May, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve the minutes for meeting held on February 9, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Public Input: None

This meeting was closed to in person attendance by the public. A temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or videoconference public meetings was granted by Governor Greg Abbott. These actions were taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding meetings that bring people into a group setting and in accordance with Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code.

6. Mr. Joe Spano, Municipal Services Manager with Republic Services, spoke in regards to the company's response to Winter Storm 2021.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 9, 2021

7. Sweetwater Intermediate School student council representatives, made a presentation regarding the benefits of allowing "backyard chickens" in the City of Sweetwater.

8. Regular Agenda Items

A. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman Baker to approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sweetwater entitled "Animals and Fowl". The motion carried four (4) aye and one (1) abstention.

Mayor McKenzie, Councilman May, Councilman Castro and Councilman Baker vote aye.

Mayor Pro Tem Peek abstained.

COPY OF ORDINANCE IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2308 - 2310.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND FOWL TO ALLOW FOR THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

B. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman May to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Audit) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Fire Marshall, James Smith spoke in regards to the need of hiring firefighters. Motion was made by Councilman May, seconded by Baker to approve an Ordinance to temporarily increase the number of positions in the Sweetwater Fire Department by three (3). The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF ORDINANCE IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2311 - 2313.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CLASSIFICATIONS AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS FOR THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS PURSUANT CHAPTER 143 OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS BY THREE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; FINDING AND THAT THE MEETINGS AT WHICH THE ORDINANCE IS PASSED ARE OPEN

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 9, 2021

TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- D. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to authorize City staff to receive bids for Sweetwater Lake lot #149, which was returned to the City for non-payment of the annual lake lease. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. Motion was made by Councilman May seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Peek to authorize the city manager to sign Novation Agreement between Sweetwater Industrial Foundation, Inc., the City of Sweetwater, and Texas State Technical College. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF AGREEMENT IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2314 - 2327.

- F. Motion was made by Councilman May, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve to advertise and receive bid proposals for construction of water line improvements to the Georgia Pacific Project. The motion carried unanimously.
- 9 City Manager's Report
- A. Letter from Charles Perry, Texas State Senator, District 28
 - B. Donation of items to Ciudad Acuña Fire Department.
 - C. Police Department vehicle
8. Councilman Castro made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Peek to adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim McKenzie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patty Torres, City Secretary

Persons signing register: Sage Diller, Carolyn Mullican, Jimmy Bennett, Joe Spano, James Smith and SIS Student Council Representatives