

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

The City Council of the City of Sweetwater, Texas, met in regular session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 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
JEROD PEEK, Mayor Pro Tem
JOHN MCPHERSON, Councilman
KERRY BAKER, Councilman
RICKY CASTRO, Councilman

DAVID A. VELA, City Manager
PATTY TORRES, City Secretary
JEFF ALLEN, City Attorney

Staff Members present: Lisa Adames Assistant City Manager for Administration, Dana Schoening Assistant City Manager for Operations, Bryan Sheridan Chief of Police, Eddy Campbell Utilities Director, Grant Madden Fire Chief and Zach Adames IT Director.

1. Mayor McKenzie called the meeting to order.
2. Larry Holder with Highland Heights United Methodist Church gave the invocation.
3. Mayor Pro Tem Peek led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and the Texas Flags.
4. Motion was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McPherson to approve the minutes for meeting held on August 10, 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. Regular Agenda Items
 - A. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro approving Mark Freeman assuming the City - Marshal Pior Estate grazing land. The motion carried unanimously.

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COPY OF AGREEMENT IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2448 – 2453.

- B. Motion was made by Councilman McPherson, seconded by Councilman Baker to approve the low annual bids for fuel, oil and lubrication products, and hot mix cold lay asphalt for use from October 2021 through September 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

United Oil and Grease was awarded bid for regular and diesel fuel.
United Oil and Grease was awarded bid for oil and lubrication products
Vulcan Materials was awarded bid for hot mix cold lay asphalt.

COPY OF BID SHEET IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2454 – 2456.

- C. Nancy Johnson spoke about recommendations for Group Health Insurance Employee Benefits for Fiscal Year 2022.
Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Baker to approve recommendations made by Nancy Johnson:

1. Remain with Blue Cross Blue Shield and HM for Self-Insurance
2. Raise Individual Stop Loss to \$65, 000
3. Remain with Ochs/Securian for Life Insurance
4. Remain with Ameritas for Dental and Vision

The motion carried unanimously.

- D. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve Resolution reviewing and approving the Financial Policy for Fiscal Year 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF RESOLUTION IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2457 - 2482.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF SWEETWATER FINANCIAL POLICY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

- E. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Peek to approve Resolution reviewing and approving the Investment Policy for Fiscal Year 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF RESOLUTION IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2483 – 2499.

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A RESOLUTION REVIEWING AND APPROVING THE CITY OF SWEETWATER INVESTMENT POLICY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

- F. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman McPherson to enter into a public hearing on the FY 2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget for the City of Sweetwater. The motion carried unanimously.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$133,553 which is a 5.05 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$8,371.

There were no public comments.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to close the public hearing and enter into regular session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was necessary.

- G. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to enter into a public hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.548 (cents) per \$100 valuation for Tax Year 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate.

The tax rate will effectively be raised by 4.74 percent and will raise taxes from maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$4.00

There were no public comments

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to close the public hearing and enter into regular session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was necessary.

- H. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Peek to approve Resolution on the Central Rate Schedule for the 2021 – 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF RESOLUTION IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2500 – 2526.

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CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE CENTRAL RATE SCHEDULE FOR THE VARIOUS FEES, LICENSES, PERMITS AND RATES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TEXAS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND ADOPTING SUCH CENTRAL RATE SCHEDULE.

- I. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman McPherson to approve an Ordinance to adopt the Fiscal Year End 2021 – 2022 Budget for the City of Sweetwater. A record vote was taken as follows:

Councilman McPherson: Aye

Councilman Baker: Aye

Councilman Castro: Aye

Mayor Pro Tem Peek: Aye

Mayor McKenzie: Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF ORDINANCE IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGE 2527.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF SWEETWATER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

- J. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve an Appropriations Ordinance for the Fiscal Year End 2021-2022 for the City of Sweetwater. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF ORDINANCE IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGE 2528.

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

- K. Mayor McKenzie asked for nominations for board members to the Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development – Municipal Development District.

Councilman McPherson nominated Mark Meneses and Mayor Pro Tem Peek nominated Russ Petty.

Motion was made by Councilman McPherson, seconded by Councilman Baker to approve reappointment of Russ Petty and appointment of Mark Meneses as board members to the Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic

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Development – Municipal Development District (SEED-MDD), with terms expiring September 30, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

- L. Motion was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Peek to approve resignation of Mr. Keith Clower from the Board of Commissioners for the Sweetwater Housing Authority and appointing Mr. Jody Walton for the remaining term which will expire in October, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.
- M. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman McPherson to accept Verdunity as the most qualified firm to provide Comprehensive Plan development services for the City of Sweetwater, and to authorize City Manager to negotiate a contract for such services. The motion carried unanimously.
- N. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Baker to authorize the City of Sweetwater to issue requests for qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The motion carried unanimously.
- O. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peek, seconded by Councilman Castro to adopt a Resolution which amends the Personnel Policy Manual regarding Paid Quarantine Leave for Fire Fighters, Peace Officers and Emergency Medical Technicians. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF RESOLUTION IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2529 – 2533.

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TEXAS IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENTS OF HB 2073 AND CHAPTER 180, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE ESTABLISHING A PAID QUARANTINE LEAVE POLICY FOR CITY OF SWEETWATER FIRE FIGHTERS, PEACE OFFICERS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- P. Motion was made by Councilman McPherson, seconded by Councilman Castro to adopt a Resolution which amends the Personnel Policy Manual regarding Mental Health Leave for Peace Officers. The motion carried unanimously.

COPY OF RESOLUTION IS LOCATED IN THE ORDINANCE AND CONTRACT BOOK XV PAGES 2534 - 2538.

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A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, TEXAS AMENDING THE CITY'S PERSONNEL POLICY – LEAVE TIME - TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF SB 1359 AND AMENDMENTS SECTION 614.015, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, ESTABLISHING A MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE POLICY FOR CITY OF SWEETWATER POLICE OFFICERS; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- Q. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Peek to award bid of \$15,388.00 to Coe Construction Company for Demolition and Removal of Dilapidated Structures at 3413 W. Broadway Contingent Upon Available Funding. The motion carried unanimously.
- R. Miesha Adames, Executive Director of SEED/MDD stated that the SEED/MDD Board approved \$15,388 at their meeting for Demolition and Removal of Dilapidated Structures at 3413 W. Broadway.

Motion was made by Councilman McPherson, seconded by Councilman Castro to approve funding assistance request from Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development/Municipal Development District for Demolition and Removal of Dilapidated Residential Structures. The motion carried unanimously.

- S. Miesha Adames, Executive Director of SEED/MDD stated that the SEED/MDD Board tabled the Hard Head Veterans Full-Time Position Incentive at their meeting held on Monday, September 13, 2021.

Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Peek to table Hard Head Veterans Full-Time Position Incentive. The motion carried unanimously.

7. City Manager's Report

- A. Georgia Pacific Waterline
- B. Fire Department Graduation and New Hires
- C. Police Department New Hires and Bicycle Patrol
- D. Sweetwater Cemetery Board – No Curbing

8. Motion was made by Councilman Castro, seconded by Councilman McPherson to adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 am. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim McKenzie, Mayor

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ATTEST:

Patty Torres, City Secretary

Persons signing register: Miesha Adames and Larry Holder