

Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2025

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly workshop on July 28, 2025 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Angie A. Kyle called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being: Branham L. Lovingood, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, JoAnna Jinks and James H. Stutts. City Attorney John Cleveland was present. A quorum was present.

No one was present to make a public comment on actionable items.

There was no Old Business.

In New Business Mayor Kyle turned the floor over to City Administrator Jessica Morgan to overview the Community Center project. The City Administrator advised the need to finalize a decision regarding the \$1,136,000.00 CDBG Grant funding that cannot be used on this project as it is currently planned, due to a corner of the existing building being in the floodway. She advised the other grant funding secured to help pay for the rehabilitation of the Community Center building is a Connected Community Grant in the amount of \$609,980. She also advised the City received a \$1,000,000 LPRF Grant with a 50% match to rehabilitate the pool and bathhouse and resurface the track at the recreation complex. Mitch Loomis with East Tennessee Development District was present to answer questions regarding the CDBG and Connected Community Grants.

Several options included returning the CDBG Grant funding; shifting the building slightly and keeping the current design which would require demolition of the current building; demolition of building and complete redesign of the center; reallocating CDBG funding to recreational complex project as matching funds or a possible land swap with Nick Bishop who owns five parcels adjacent to the Depot/Visitor's Center. Commissioner Richeson was concerned about the delay to the recreational project if funds were reallocated. Commissioner Stutts advised he would like to see the Community Center building be what the City needs and not just try to fit the footprint of the current building. Commissioner Lovingood advised he would like to form a committee to search for recreation land and build the Community Center on that land. Commissioner Moser advised he feels having the Community Center downtown is beneficial. The board agreed that additional recreation land is needed, however, and agreed to add the discussion of a search committee to the July 28th agenda. Commissioner Jinks advised we need to have vision for our needs in the future. Commissioner Stutts advised he feels a land swap with Mr. Bishop would be advantageous to both parties. We could then build the building that is needed. Commissioner Moser advised that the current plan would only need the roof raised from the planned 20 feet to meet our needs.

After discussing each option Commissioner Richeson moved to reallocate the CDBG funding to the Recreation project upon approval of the state. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Lovingood, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Commissioner Moser recused himself from the vote disclosing his interest in Main Street Studios as the project architect. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

Nick Bishop was present to discuss a possible land swap. He said he would be open to negotiations.

Commissioner Jinks moved to authorize Mayor Kyle to enter into negotiations with Mr. Bishop concerning a possible land swap. The motion was seconded. Upon Roll Call Voting, the Ayes were as follows: Commissioners Lovingood, Moser, Richeson, Jinks, and Stutts. Nays being none. The motion was carried.

No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

This the 7th day of July, 2025.

Mayor

Attest: _____
Recorder