

Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2019

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly workshop on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Lowe called the workshop to order with Commissioners present being: Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Edward Lee, Billy G. West, and Bill W. Stockton. City Attorney John Cleveland was present.

Mayor Lowe introduced Jamison Sliger, State of TN PARTAS consultant, who presented the State of TN Tier One Benchmarking certification to the Parks and Recreation Department, which certified the city through December 31, 2024. He commended the city on their LPRF Grant and the benchmarking achievement.

Mayor Lowe presented the list of names that he and Commissioner Moser compiled to serve on the Tourism Advisory Council. He noted the council would not be a city board and serve at the will of the Mayor and Tourism Commissioner, likely meeting semi-annually. The Council was comprised of:

Tourism Professional: Dave Jones, State of TN

Attraction Representative: Lisa McClung, The Lost Sea

Hotel Representative: Kevin, Rodeway Inn

Main Street Director Kassie Kelley

Restaurant Representative: Dianne Allison, The Dinner Bell

Publicity Representative: Tommy Millsaps

City Tourism Department Head: Chuck Whited

City Recorder Jessica Morgan

No objections were voiced to the names submitted. The first meeting would be held in March and a representative would report back to the city board.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the March Agenda. He commended the departments, particularly police, streets, and parks for keeping citizens safe by blocking dangerous roadways during the recent flooding.

Mayor Lowe announced the city had set a new sales tax record in February, 2019, making it the highest sales tax collections in the city's history. He credited the Rural King locating here in 2018, as well as several new businesses in town and an increase in local shopping. He thanked the business owners and those who chose to shop locally for recognizing the power of our local economy. He also announced the annual Main Street statistics for 2018. In 2018, the Main Street district generated 26 net new jobs, 8 net new businesses, and an all-time lowest downtown vacancy rate. Finally, he stated the city expected to meet the goal for the auditor's recommended fund balance a year earlier than expected by this July.

Mayor Lowe adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

This the 25th day of February, 2019.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

RECORDER