

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2018

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their regular monthly workshop on Monday, August 27, 2018 at 5 p.m. Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being Lamar Hughes, Sam Moser, Edward Lee, and Billy G. West. Bill W. Stockton was absent due to the meeting at Sweetwater Utilities Board. A quorum was present.

Mayor Lowe began a discussion concerning tourism funding and the plan to work with the county on a visitor's center located near the interstate. He also introduced the idea of a lodging tax for the city of 5%. He stated 95% of the county's hotel/motel tax comes from Sweetwater hotels. He noted he believed the city should institute its own tax to retain and use for economic & community development, including tourism. The item would be drafted in ordinance form and put on the September agenda for first reading.

An updated city seal was reviewed. The Recorder requested the board review the design to be used on property tax notices and other times where a digital design is needed. No objections were given.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the September agenda. City Planner Chuck Whited reviewed the proposed Sign Ordinance No. 968, recommended by Planning Commission. He advised that a supreme court ruling stating that cities cannot regulate signage by content as a protection of free speech. He also noted the Planning Commission had conducted a study of billboards which was also addressed in the ordinance. A summary of the changes was provided in the packets, as well as described by Chuck verbally. The ordinance would limit new billboards only to C-5 zoning and none within 500 ft of an existing billboard. Existing signs were identified and allowed to remain without changes. Regulations on temporary signs were reviewed and there was a provision for subdivision and industrial park signage, setting setbacks and size limitations.

No action was taken. The workshop was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

This the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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RECORDER