

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2026

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Sweetwater met in their monthly workshop session on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Angie Arp Kyle called the meeting to order with Commissioners present being: Branham L. Lovingood, Sam Moser, Alan Richeson, Mike Martin, 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.

Corbin Cross with Young Life was present to ask the board's permission to host a 5K run on July 4th. He advised the board that going forward Young Life will try to partner with the Knoxville Track Club. He advised that he feels the run will not only benefit his organization but the entire community as well. The item was added to the April 6th agenda.

Justin Ball was present to discuss TCRS Hazardous Duty Supplement options for consideration by the board to make available to Police Officers and Fire Fighters employed by the city who have 20 years of service and are between the ages of 60 and full retirement age. This is supplemental income through an increase in benefit for eligible employees. He advised that an actuarial study was done for Sweetwater to determine how much the plan will cost the city. He advised that TCRS has a model Resolution which he can forward to the city for passage. Commissioner Stutts requested the item be placed on the April workshop for discussion.

The City Administrator gave her monthly update to the board. In discussion of the Community Center project, she advised that Commissioner Moser was preparing bid specs. Commissioner Moser advised that the specs will be written for the project as a whole but will include a request for the wing that needs to be completed by December 31st be separated with that completion date requested. He advised we could have a bid opening on April 30th. At this time there will be real numbers and the board can then decide how to move forward taking into consideration the grant funding that expires 10/31/2025 which we believe can be pushed to 12/31/2025.

The City Administrator advised the board that Norfolk Southern is renegotiating the lease on the Marketplace. The current lease is a three- year lease in the amount of \$12,500 with a yearly CPI increase. She advised that Norfolk Southern claims they have not negotiated in several years. They are currently asking \$42,500 as the new lease amount. She also advised that upon her reaction to the large increase that the representative advised the city to make a counter offer. The board agreed for Mrs. Morgan to counteroffer.

Commissioner Richeson asked for the land that the city received via tax sale from Monroe County off of Wood St. to be designated as Park land. He advised he would like to see the underbrush cleaned up and maybe a fishing dock installed for children to use. The item was placed on the April agenda for action.

The City Administrator advised that the board needs look at the garbage fee as it currently is not enough to cover the cost from the garbage contractor. She advised that the state classifies the sanitation fund as an enterprise fund which needs to pay for itself via fees. She advised that the fee has not been increased since 2011 and that we currently have to move money from the general fund to supplement the sanitation fund. She advised the fee is currently \$11.00 per month and if increased to \$14.00 would cover the shortage and help pay for the disposal of the debris picked up by the street department. This would not cover the labor for sanitation, which comes from the Street department. The board discussed adding a clause enabling The Administrator to be able to increase that fee when the garbage contractor increases our rate. The Schedule of Fees was added to the April 6th agenda.

The City Administrator advised that the pool project may not be finished by the proposed May 25th opening date. She advised that we are currently taking lifeguard applications and that we plan to hire lifeguards and a manager. She advised that lifeguard training will be at the Loudon pool.

The Administrator advised that the City's BPA loan dated June 20,2016 for \$1,200,000 with a principal balance of \$456,000 is seeing a rate increase. She advised that for the remaining five years of the term the rate will increase from 2.86% to 5.48%. She advised that TML Bond is offering 3.99 % with a \$1,370 cost of issuance. She advised they have until June to decide.

The City Administrator advised the board that the generator bought for City Hall through a cybersecurity grant is currently being installed.

The City Administrator updated the board on the latest Main Street event which took place in March. She advised that some Main Streets are moving toward doing more events, smaller in nature, focusing on a smaller feel. She advised that the event was very well-received and a huge success for the pop-up book shop that set up in the train car as well as our Downtown merchants.

The City Administrator updated the board on some key pieces of state legislation affecting cities and their ability to self-govern.

The City Administrator reviewed the changes to the Capital Improvement Plan and advised the board that it will be added to the April agenda.

Mayor Kyle reviewed the agenda for the April 6th meeting.

Each department head gave a report.

No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

This the 23rd day of March 2026.

Mayor

Attest: _____
Recorder