



# CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 18, 2020, 6:00 PM  
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street  
Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

## Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

---

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 P.M.

## PRESENT

Councilor Lisa Gourley (Committee Chair)  
Bob Dalton  
Larry Horton  
Kate Hall (Video)  
Dick Knowles (Phone)  
EM Tommy Mull (Video)  
CEDD Blair Larsen (Video)  
Jim Gourley  
James Page  
Chief Jeff Lynn

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the 2020-02-24 Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes (J. Gourley/B. Dalton). Motion passed unanimously.

## Community Health Fair Committee:

Bob Dalton reported that the Community Health Fair Committee is in a holding pattern. He said that he and Dick Knowles have made a number of phone contacts to previous vendors talking with them. Their hope is that by mid-June they should know more on whether or not larger group meetings will be allowed. Mr. Dalton also indicated that he and Dick Knowles have talked about some online meeting options that may be able to address needs of community if Health Fair cannot happen.

Lisa Gourley discussed that online education and services may be able to reach a larger audience than even the Health Fair. She said that some will not feel comfortable coming out and that online options may help with that.

#### Western University Committee:

Larry Horton reported that Western University Medical School has 3 students that he was to be working with. He explained that he has been able to talk with them via telephone but has not been able to actually meet with them. He did say the group has prepared a resource list pamphlet and had shared that with Bob Dalton. Mr. Horton explained that most items that they were going to be working on like the High School mentoring program, the additional work with the medical van in our community were not able to move forward. Mr. Horton commented that because of the pandemic, they have not accomplished a whole lot this year.

Lisa Gourley asked if there could be an opportunity to reach out through social media to address some of the community issues. Some recommendations that she had heard is a preference for online zoom style meetings rather than just phone calls.

Mr. Horton explained that the three students are done this year. There has been talk of continuing the efforts next year with new students.

#### Hero Banner Project:

Jim Gourley reported that hangers used for the Hero Banners are currently being used for graduating senior photos. Mr. Gourley explained that they had promised that the Hero Banners would be up by Memorial Day, but, they have talked with all of Hero Banner folks to ask if it was ok to not have them up due to graduation.

Larry Horton commented that both groups are very deserving and think it's nice to see recognition for seniors that are missing out on a lot.

Dick Knowles discussed that various Samaritan Health subcommittees have been discussing tele-health and the fact that it has been used much more than before. He reported that they are looking at trying and improve on that. It is just a thought at this point. The pandemic has driven them to do something with tele-health that they have not planned on.

#### Presentation on City's response to COVID-19

As the City's Emergency Manager, Tommy Mull has daily contact with Linn County Emergency Operations Center for updates. He continues to track supplies of PPE and has maintained contact with City Stakeholders – multiple calls for outreach in our community. The City has developed a tiered response pandemic (Tiers 1, 2, 3, 4). Currently we are entering a phased reopening – Phase 1- currently. The City will be monitoring how Phase 1 goes.

James Page reported that the Sweet Home Clinic cancelled nearly all of their patient visits. Samaritan in general is starting to open back up. Clinical staff is returning. Things have been slow. NARCAN distribution has been slow. The problems have not gone away. Mr. Page reported that there has been Influx in hospitalization in substance abuse recently. Working on getting things back in place (community Court, etc.). Mr. Page also talked that two peer support persons are starting on the 26th of May. He said that they will be providing support, transportation, and community court assistance. He also said that when the mental health van comes back they will be a part of it. Mr. Page also offered a Shame and stigma presentation to the committee. He described it as being an evidence-based practice on responding to substance abuse.

City Manager Ray Towry discussed options for a financial health training for community members. He explained that a local church donated funds to pay water bills for those people who could not pay. Don Knight lead this initiative. He is also asking what else can be done as it relates to educating people on their money management. Hearing from sources that some basic lack of financial planning is needed. Mr. Towry said that he is waiting till we open back up and he will begin researching some best practices.

Blair Larsen provided an update on how the City is trying to preserve business health in this pandemic. He indicated that his office has moved towards economic preservation not development at this time. He said that the City is trying to be a conduit with businesses for federal and state opportunities. He described that he has been able to develop a database on contact information for local business. Mr. Larsen would like to encourage all business owners to reach out to the City because there are a lot of resources available. Recently the City has devoted \$50k for matching funding small business grants. Grant size will be determined by business size. The City will be advertising this program when and if they are approved by the State. Trying to fill gaps and help those who have been left behind. Moving forward with our regular work – economic development work does go on it is just diminished

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

---

Chair – Councilor Gourley

---

Date: