



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2025, 6:30 PM
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

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.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Susan Coleman
President Pro Tem Josh Thorstad
Councilor Chelsea Augsburger
Councilor Ken Bronson
Councilor Aaron Hegge
Councilor Dylan Richards

ABSENT

Councilor Angelita Sanchez (excused)

STAFF

Jason Ogden, City Manager / Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager
Angela Clegg, Planning & Building Manager
Megan Dazey, Library Services Director
Blair Larsen, City Attorney
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Greg Springman, Public Works Director

MEDIA

Sarah Brown, The New Era

Mayor Coleman requested a moment of silence.

Councilor Augsburger moved to excuse the absence of Councilor Sanchez from the September 23, 2025 Work Session and Regular Session due to her work at the Emigrant fire. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards

NAY: None

ABSENT: Sanchez

Consent Agenda

- a) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 19 for 2025 – Harvest Festival 14th Avenue Road Closure

Approval of Minutes:

- a) 2025-08-26 City Council Work Session Minutes
- b) 2025-08-26 City Council Meeting Minutes

President Pro Tem Thorstad moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Hegge seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards

NAY: None

ABSENT: Sanchez

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of Petitions

There were no visitors to be heard.

New Business

- a) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 20 for 2025 – Declaring a State of Emergency Concerning the Green Peter Drawdown

City Manager Ogden stated that the City had approved a similar resolution the prior year to allow Sweet Home to access resources in case of emergency related to the Green Peter Drawdown and recommended that City Council approve it again for the same reason. He noted that declaring a State of Emergency was about planning and being proactive rather than motivated by fear.

President Pro Tem Thorstad moved to approve Resolution No. 20 for 2025. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards

NAY: None

ABSENT: Sanchez

Mayor Coleman read the Proclamation declaring the State of Emergency.

- b) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 21 for 2025 – Adopting the 2025 Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

City Manager Ogden stated that Resolution No. 21 would adopt the 2025 Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP). He noted that the plan provided a guideline for reducing community risk due to natural hazards and allowed the City to access federal disaster funding. He noted that Sweet Home's current plan was valid through 2027 but adoption of the proposed NHMP would extend Sweet Home's eligibility and postpone the necessity of a new plan by a few years.

Councilor Bronson moved to approve Resolution No. 21 for 2025. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards

NAY: None

ABSENT: Sanchez

Reports of Committees

Charter Review Committee – President Pro Tem Thorstad

2025-09-16 Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Community Health Committee – Councilor Bronson

2025-08-27 Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes

Library Advisory Board – Councilor Augsburger

2025-09-11 Library Board Meeting Minutes

Park & Tree Committee – Councilor Hegge

2025-08-20 Park & Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

Planning Commission

Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation – Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Bronson (alternate)

Chamber of Commerce – Councilor Hegge

Council of Governments – Councilor Bronson, Councilor Sanchez (alternate)

Solid Waste Advisory Council – Councilor Richards

Councilor Hegge stated that there were 145 active members of the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce and highlighted the benefits of Chamber membership. He noted that the next Business After Hours event would take place on September 25th at the Elks Lodge and encouraged businesses to join. He stated that the Harvest Festival was coming up on October 4th. He added that an ivy-pull hosted by the Park & Tree Committee would take place on October 7th at Northside Park. He noted an uptick in park vandalism and asked the public to report any issues.

Councilor Bronson stated that he attended the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation but there was no quorum. He noted concerns with the status of the proposed transportation funding package.

Department Reports

Library

- Library Director's Report – August 2025
- Library Newsletter – September 2025

Planning & Building

- Planning & Building Manager Report – August 2025

Code Enforcement

- Code Enforcement Report – August 2025

Public Works

- Public Works Report – August 2025

Finance

- Finance Department Report – August 2025

Police

- Police Department Report – August 2025

Director Dazey stated that the library was collecting clothing for the Teen Clothing Drive on Monday, September 29th.

Planning & Building Manager Clegg stated that the Harvest Festival pie contest was canceled but more judges were needed for the Chili Cook-off. She noted that 97 booth spaces were reserved by 86 vendors to date.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ogden recognized the Sweet Home Fire District for their recent controlled burn activities and their good communication. He highlighted a free electronics recycling event at City Hall on October 25th. He noted the creation of a new monthly newsletter to be distributed publicly. He thanked staff for their work on Harvest Festival.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Coleman thanked City Council for their productivity and discussion in recent Work Sessions. She thanked City Manager Ogden and Deputy City Manager Pretty for hosting Business Oregon and discussing future plans.

Council Business for Good of the Order

a) November Meeting Schedule

Mayor Coleman stated that the regularly scheduled meetings in November coincided with Veterans Day and the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, which Council usually canceled. She noted that the City Charter required the Council to meet once monthly and requested Council feedback on their desired date to meet in November.

There was consensus to hold a single regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder