



CITY OF SWEET HOME COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2026, 4:00 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 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Kelsey Ann Wray
Vice Chair Bob Dalton
Committee Member Dr. Larry Horton
Committee Member Dick Knowles
Committee Member Shirley Schumacher
Committee Member Wanda Jones

ABSENT

Committee Member Michael Grenz

STAFF

Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager
Jennifer Gaspard, Community Services Officer
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Sean Morgan, Community Services Officer

Approval of Minutes

- a) 2026-05-27 Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Jones moved to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2026 Community Health Committee meeting. Committee Member Knowles seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Wray, Dalton, Horton, Jones, Knowles, Schumacher

NAY: None

ABSENT: Grenz

Recognition of Visitors / Public Comment

There were no visitors to be heard.

Old Business

- a) Health Fair Update

Vice Chair Dalton stated he had received back one third of the applications he had sent out with 20 tables reserved. He noted that reminders would be sent to the outstanding invitees.

No action was required for this item.

New Business

a) Micro-Grant Announcement

Deputy City Manager Pretty announced that the City received a \$2,500 microgrant for disaster and emergency preparedness through the AARP Community Challenge Grant program. She noted that the focus was on seniors but could be extended to anyone and requested the support of the Committee as staff developed events and supplies. She added that Sweet Home was the only recipient in Oregon in this grant category.

No action was required for this item.

b) National Night Out

Officer Morgan stated that the event was in the planning stages currently for August 4th and would be hosted again on 13th Avenue. Deputy City Manager Pretty invited the Committee to host a table and promote the Community Health Fair.

No action was required for this item.

Community Partner Presentations

a) Sean Morgan, Community Services Officer

Officer Morgan introduced Officer Gaspard and stated she was brought on to assist with community services and events, including National Night Out. He highlighted her assistance with the homeless community and absorbing the code enforcement program.

Officer Morgan reviewed the positive impact of the Family Assistance and Resource Center (FAC) in the community. He stated that the 2025 point-in-time count in Sweet Home totaled 20 individuals and the 2026 count totaled 27. He noted that these numbers were down significantly from 2024, which were over 40. He stated that when FAC beds were available, the Police Department was no longer available as a place to sleep. He noted that this had led to an increase in tent camping on private property and the Police Department was working on mitigating it. He added that many of the people who did not go to FAC often did not want to go to a site with rules or requirements. He stated that the Police Department did still allow people to sleep in their vehicles overnight in the parking lot. He noted that many of the car campers exhibited good behavior and did not have substance use issues but did not have enough resources to get housed. He stated that there were challenges to incentivizing those who exhibited anti-social behaviors.

Vice Chair Dalton thanked Officer Morgan and all those involved for their work with the homeless population. He asked what Officer Morgan's biggest need or want was that would make the most difference. Officer Morgan replied that there were already resources available, but the challenge was getting people to accept the resources. Vice Chair Dalton asked what could help the population living in their vehicles if they were just down on their luck. Officer Morgan replied that there were still challenges to getting them to take actions that would change their situation and follow through but that he and FAC were available to assist.

Chair Wray asked if the department was able to make referrals to Community Court even if individuals were not in legal trouble. Officer Morgan replied that they already did. He added that sometimes assistance requires physically helping people in their households in order to avoid eviction.

Vice Chair Dalton asked if it was possible to provide a package of resources and create an action plan tailored to each individual person. Officer Morgan replied that they were in contact with all the available service providers but the challenge was getting someone from homelessness to housed and it was critical to establish a trusting relationship in order to convince many people to accept assistance and navigate the bureaucracy involved to receive services. Officer Gaspard added that many homeless were challenged with coping skills and needed high levels of assistance to complete necessary tasks. Officer Morgan stated that the County organized a Situation Table where he could bring his cases to a group of providers and tailor resources more directly to individuals. Vice Chair Dalton asked if there were any policy changes needed to improve the provision of services. Officer Morgan replied that he was not sure what would assist with the resistant population who was not willing to make lifestyle changes. Officer Gaspard added that changes in the judicial system made it more challenging to intercede, particularly in mental health cases.

Chair Wray asked if there was any specialized training the officers were taking. The officers replied that they both had extensive training. Chair Wray asked if all police officers received the same training. Officer Morgan replied that the department was working in batches to send officers to CIT training.

Vice Chair Dalton asked where someone goes when they are excluded from FAC. Officer Morgan stated that they typically attempt to camp elsewhere in Sweet Home and the Police Department worked to stop them and encourage them to seek resources elsewhere since they were no longer eligible for FAC's services. He added that clarification from the State on "reasonable shelter" and accounting for the unreasonable behavior of individuals would be helpful.

Committee Member Knowles asked of the officers' interaction with Linn County's mental health van. Officer Morgan replied that they typically came weekly but he had not seen the drug and alcohol van. Committee Member Knowles noted that the point-in-time count was tied to funding and that the timing likely made the count inaccurate and affected Sweet Home's funding. He commended the officers for building a good relationship with the homeless community despite the typical stigma associated with police departments.

Chair Wray asked of the best way to connect Committee Members' unhoused clients to services. Officer Morgan stated that he was available to assist but ultimately people would likely be referred to FAC. He added that individuals were typically more successful if they went to FAC sooner rather than waiting and remaining unhoused long-term.

Committee Member Horton thanked the officers for their work and commended the Police Department for their demeanor towards the homeless population.

No action was required for this item.

Committee Business for the Good of the Order

Committee Member Knowles stated that National Alliance on Mental Illness started a new Connection Support Group at the River of Life Church to provide community support.

Deputy City Manager Pretty shared that Linn County Health would host a free mobile health clinic and free produce market monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Nazarene through October.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 PM.

ATTEST:

Chair

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder