



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 11, 2025, 5:30 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 5:30 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

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

STAFF

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

PRESS

Sarah Brown, The New Era

Work Session – FY 2025-2026 Council Goals

a) FY 2024-2025 City Council Vision, Mission & Goals

Mayor Coleman emphasized the importance of City Council goals to direct policy. She stated that she received results from a recent community survey and highlighted themes of cleanliness, homelessness, vacant downtown buildings, sidewalks, and entertainment options.

City Manager Pro Tem Pretty reviewed the Council and City Manager goals for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. She noted that there was a high number of infrastructure-related goals but several were lacking funding and may not be completed within the fiscal year. She provided a draft of the proposed five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). She stated she would provide the Councilors with time to review their materials and then requested that they write their proposed goals on papers organized by Mission Statement tenets. She reviewed the five tenets of the City's Mission Statement:

- I. WE ASPIRE to make Sweet Home a community people find desirable to live in.
- II. WE ASPIRE to have an effective and efficient local government.
- III. WE ASPIRE to provide viable and sustainable infrastructure.
- IV. WE ASPIRE to provide viable and sustainable essential services.
- V. WE ASPIRE to create an economically strong environment in which businesses prosper.

Councilor Bronson asked of the inclusion of goals that may take multiple years to accomplish. City Manager Pro Tem Pretty replied that Council goals were typically based on a one-year term, the CIP was typically based on a five-year term, and Master Plans were typically based on a 20-year term.

Mayor Coleman asked if current goals would still be pursued if they did not formally roll over into the next year's goals. City Manager Pro Tem Pretty replied that staff would work toward completion, but some may not be feasible to accomplish short-term due to funding.

Councilor Sanchez asked of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the 8th Avenue Water Main Project. Director Springman replied that the funds were utilized for the 9th Avenue Water Main Project and no funds were remaining. He added that staff's top priority for water funding was to install a generator at the Water Treatment Plant. Councilor Sanchez asked if funding for the generator was still in place. City Manager Pro Tem Pretty replied that they had not heard of any impact to the federal funding for the generator, but that the grant request had not included funding for its installation and staff was actively seeking additional funding for construction. Councilor Sanchez asked if this request had been submitted to the State. Chief Ogden replied that it had been submitted to State and Federal offices. Councilor Sanchez asked of the availability of emergency funding. City Manager Pro Tem Pretty stated that staff would continue to investigate funding options.

Councilor Sanchez asked of the status of the City's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) application to fund the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. City Manager Pro Tem Pretty replied that the City's audit was still pending and was required to be completed before the loan application could be submitted.

Councilors completed writing their proposed goals. City Manager Pro Tem Pretty asked Councilors to add stickers next to their top three goals in each category.

City Manager Pro Tem Pretty stated she would read out those goals which received support from three or more Councilors:

DESIRABLE COMMUNITY:

Weddle Bridge Repair
Marketing Plan/Public Relations Campaign
Downtown Vacancy Reduction

EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT:

Monthly Newsletter
Increased Electronic Notifications to Citizens
Cybersecurity Review of Key Infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURE:

City Hall East Wing Renovations
Emergency Plan Updates
20-Year Plan
Library Technology Upgrades

ESSENTIAL SERVICES:

Purchase Paver & Roller
Mountain View Road Multi-Use Path & Sidewalks
Wastewater Treatment Plant – Phase 1

ECONOMIC STRENGTH:

Revenue Generation
24th Avenue Railroad Crossing
Santiam Feed Store
Old City Hall

City Manager Pro Tem Pretty stated that staff would compose a memo for Council's review regarding details for each proposed goal and request additional feedback at the following Work Session.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder

DRAFT