



CITY OF SWEET HOME BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 01, 2025, 5:00 PM
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 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
Committee Member Dawn Miller, Chair
Committee Member Jeana Doll

ABSENT

Committee Member Matthew Bechtel
Committee Member Bob Briana
Committee Member Diane Gerson
Committee Member Nancy White

STAFF

Jason Ogden, City Manager / Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager
Matt Brown, Finance Director (contracted)
Director Dazey, Library Services Director
Blair Larsen, City Attorney
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Cindi Robeck, Financial Operations Manager
Greg Springman, Public Works Director

MEDIA

Sarah Brown, The New Era

Public Comment

There was no public comment to be heard.

Review and Discussion of Proposed 2025-2026 Budget

a) Budget Presentation

Deputy City Manager stated that she would provide an update on the follow-up on outstanding information requests from the previous meeting. She explained that the proposed Oregon Transportation Reinvestment Package would take effect January 1, 2026 and begin providing revenue almost immediately on a monthly basis. She noted that there were multiple past estimates for Weddle Bridge ranging from \$90,000 based on a high-level visual inspection to over \$400,000 based on conversations

with Linn County in comparison to a similar bridge project. She added that the City had just received correspondence from the State that Weddle Bridge may be eligible for historic redesignation and that staff would work with that office to determine next steps.

No action was required for this item.

b) Public Hearing: State Shared Revenue

Chair Miller opened the Public Hearing at 5:12 PM.

There were no comments to be heard.

Chair Miller closed the Public Hearing at 5:13 PM.

b) Approval of Property Tax Rate

Councilor Bronson moved to approve the proposed property tax rate for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at \$1.4157 per \$1,000 for the Permanent Tax Rate and \$9.0200 for the Local Option Levies. Councilor Richards seconded the motion.

Councilor Sanchez asked for a more in-depth explanation of the proposed rates. Director Brown replied that the City did not have the option to raise the Permanent Tax Rate nor the Local Option Levies, but could opt for lower rates.

Councilor Augsburger asked of the rates two years prior. Director Brown stated that the rate was \$7.4700 per \$1,000 in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

The question was called. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards, Sanchez, Miller, Doll

NAY: None

ABSENT: Bechtel, Briana, Gerson, White

c) Approval of the Proposed City Budget for FY 25-26

Councilor Sanchez asked of amending the budget to appropriate more funds towards Weddle Bridge. Director Brown recommended moving funds within 207 from unappropriated funds to Weddle Bridge.

Councilor Sanchez moved to move \$170,000 from unappropriated funds in Fund 207 to the Weddle Bridge Fund and to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 annual budget of \$41,289,940. Councilor Richards seconded the motion.

Councilor Bronson asked if there were other places to move funding and expressed concern with dedicating funds without knowing the full cost of the project. Director Brown replied that the motion on the table was the simplest way to have access to the funds. He stated that contingency funds in the General Fund were also available that could be moved when needed. He added that interfund loans were also possible. Councilor Bronson asked if the money would stay with Weddle Bridge if the project did not occur in the next fiscal year. Director Brown replied that it would carry over as part of the fund balance specific to Weddle Bridge.

Councilor Sanchez expressed support for maintaining remaining historical assets in the community.

Mayor Coleman expressed support for honoring the Weddle Bridge.

Councilor Hegge expressed support for increasing the amount to encourage more community fundraising.

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards, Sanchez, Miller, Doll

NAY: None

ABSENT: Bechtel, Briana, Gerson, White

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Chair

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder

DRAFT