



Public & Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

February 21, 2024, 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.

Meeting Information

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Frank Gallagher
Committee Member Vince Adams (4:12 PM arrival)
Committee Member Erin Barstad
Committee Member Joe Graybill (4:02 PM arrival)
Committee Member Bud Mather
Committee Member Mykal Hildebrand (alternate)
Committee Member Kelcey Young, City Manager (ex officio)
Committee Member Jason Ogden, Police Chief (ex officio)

STAFF

Cecily Hope Pretty, Administrative Services Director
Adam Leisinger, Communications Manager
Sean Morgan, Community Services Officer

Approval of Minutes

Committee Member Graybill entered at this time.

Committee Member Hildebrand moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023 Public & Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Committee Member Mather seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Old Business

Updates on 1st Avenue Closure

City Manager Young stated that City Council would hold a workshop to discuss the proposed options for closing a portion of First Avenue and invited the committee members to attend. She noted that any changes would likely be temporary to allow for public input before any permanent changes were made.

Committee Member Hildebrand asked if staff had traffic and speed data for First Avenue. City Manager Young replied that there was evidence of speeding, and the street may not have been constructed suitably for a residential area. She added that Chair Gallagher had conducted a survey of residents on First Avenue and they were supportive of a potential closure. Committee Member Hildebrand asked of the

placement of temporary closure barricades. City Manager Young replied that the barricade would likely be placed at 1498 First Avenue. Committee Member Hildebrand expressed concern that the closure would simply reroute through traffic to another area. City Manager Young stated that this was the intent of initiating a temporary closure in order to study how traffic patterns were affected before making a final decision. She added that the closure would enhance access to Clover Park.

Committee Member Adams entered at this time.

Committee Member Hildebrand asked of plans for signage. City Manager Young replied that significant signage would be placed to inform drivers of the change.

The committee reiterated their support to send the recommendation forward to the City Council for consideration. No action was required for this item.

School District Traffic Safety Improvements

City Manager Young stated that staff was working on proposals for additional stop signs in school zones based on the Committee's prior recommendation. She noted that the Public Works Department would be able to install the signs themselves. She reviewed the proposed locations at each school and stated that they would be included in the upcoming City Council workshop with the Committee's support.

Committee Member Adams expressed concerns with the slickness of the crosswalk surface at Mountain View Road and 22nd Avenue. City Manager Young stated that staff was in discussions with the Sweet Home School District about potential changes to the crossing. Chief Ogden added that the Police Department had added traffic control in the area.

Committee Member Adams moved to recommend that the proposed locations be reviewed by City Council. Committee Member Hildebrand seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Election of Vice Chair

Committee Member Mather moved to nominate Committee Member Graybill as Vice Chair of the Public & Traffic Safety Committee. Committee Member Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Speed Trailers

Chief Ogden stated that staff would investigate options and costs for speed trailers.

No action was required for this item.

Ticket Statistics

Traffic Officer Position

Ticket Statistics and the Traffic Officer Position were addressed jointly.

Chief Ogden stated that City Council expressed a desire for greater traffic enforcement in the past fiscal year. He noted that the position only operated completely when the Police Department is at full staff. He added that full staffing was anticipated in the summer, at which point there would be a dedicated Traffic Officer. He stated that traffic statistics had significantly increased in 2023 due to an improvement in staffing levels.

No action was required for this item.

22nd & Mountain View Crosswalk

This item was addressed during the School District Traffic Safety Improvements item. No action was required.

Good of the Order

City Manager Young stated that the Transportation System Plan was almost complete.

Chair Gallagher expressed support for purchasing a traffic counter. City Manager Young stated that a purchase had already been approved and it would be ordered soon.

No action was required for this item.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Chair

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder