



City of Sweet Home
3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386
541-367-8969
Fax 541-367-1215
www.sweethomeor.gov

CITY MANAGER MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Jason Ogden, City Manager / Chief of Police
CC: Executive Staff
Date: March 10, 2026
Subject: FY 2026-2027 City Council Goal Setting Priorities

Purpose

This memorandum serves to provide additional context regarding the initial priorities established in the February 24, 2026 City Council Work Session regarding goals for the upcoming fiscal year, aligned with the five tenets of the City's Vision Statement:

WE, as City Council, have been entrusted to make decisions that do the most good, for the most people, for the longest period of time to enhance the quality of life for our community.

- 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.

The following proposed goals received support from a minimum of three Councilors. Staff comments, context, and additional information are below, as well as staff recommendations for each item. A summary of recommendations is provided at the conclusion of the report.

DESIRABLE COMMUNITY

Weddle Bridge Restoration: Staff has been working through the state process of historic redesignation of the Weddle Bridge. Determination is anticipated sometime in 2026.

\$250,000 is dedicated to Weddle Bridge restoration in the current fiscal year budget which is anticipated to carry over. Staff consulted with an engineer from the Linn County Road Department, who utilized costs related to rehabilitation of the Shimanek Covered Bridge in Scio. Removing many of the costs associated with ensuring the Shimanek Covered Bridge could be used for vehicles, Linn County estimated the Weddle Bridge restoration to be approximately \$340,000 in 2022 dollars. Linn County also estimated that a load rating, which is needed prior to any work, would cost approximately \$15,000. Staff have not been able to identify an engineering firm available to perform the load rating but continue to contact companies and departments throughout the state.

Once rehabilitation can proceed, the bridge's location over Ames Creek will likely lead to higher permitting costs through the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), which have not been estimated to date.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

Mountain View Pedestrian Improvements: The City received a Carbon Reduction Grant through ODOT to support pedestrian infrastructure upgrades on Mountain View around Sweet Home Junior High School. While the project faced challenges due to improper scope and estimating, the City and ODOT collaborating to rescope the project and ODOT identified additional funding to preserve the most critical components of the scope and formalize the project through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This will be a multi-year effort with engineering anticipated to begin later in 2026.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

Walk and Bike Trails: Staff have tentatively proposed development of a formal Trails Plan in FY 2029-2030 as part of the five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Staff are looking at trail development opportunities in multiple locations in the coming fiscal year, including Quarry Park and adjacent to City Hall, but no formal plans have been adopted and funding has not been confirmed.

Staff do not recommend adoption of this goal without further clarification.

Park Projects: This item had several sub-items including Quarry, Strawberry, Northside, racquetball, and tennis.

Significant park developments at Strawberry Park and Northside Park will likely need the support of grant funding, which has not yet been secured. Development and/or restoration of sports facilities will also likely need funding support.

Regarding Quarry Park, staff recently met with a representative of DiscGolfPark to discuss development of a professional-level disc golf course. Staff received the initial feasibility assessment on February 27, 2026 and are in discussions with DiscGolfPark on potential next steps and costs.

Staff recommends adoption of a goal related to further development of future uses at Quarry Park, though potential under the “Economic Strength” category.

Staff do not recommend adoption of other components of this goal without further clarification and seek direction on narrower priorities to focus funding efforts.

EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

Review Council Rules: Staff have organized multiple work sessions regarding Council Rules in the past three years resulting in no recommended changes or further direction from Council.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal and seek direction on priority areas for discussion in order to plan for a productive work session.

Old City Hall: The Request for Proposals (RFP) for demolition of the old City Hall is currently open and pending the results of a hazardous materials survey, which is anticipated to be conducted this March. Staff will return to Council with the results of the RFP once finalized, anticipated before the end of this fiscal year. At that time, Council can make the determination regarding proceeding with demolition or directing staff to take other action regarding the property.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Willow-Yucca LID: Staff are currently waiting on the results of an engineering change order to account for drainage concerns at the site. Once those results are received, staff will re-assess the funding structure of the LID, develop recommendations for any cost overruns from the original scope, and present those to Council for approval. Construction is anticipated next fiscal year.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

Wastewater Treatment Plant: The City recently finalized its FY2023 audit and anticipated seeking an updated credit rating at that time, but was notified that a fully updated credit rating is required to close the WIFIA loan which will require completion of the FY2024 and FY2025 audits first. These are anticipated to be completed before the end of the calendar year. Completion of the audit is anticipated by the end of the current fiscal year, after which staff can proceed with the WIFIA loan application, identify a Construction Manager, and proceed with construction.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Complete Audits and Revise Cost of Wastewater Treatment Plant: Because the current estimate of the plant project was last updated in 2023, a new estimate will be needed prior to financing.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal in conjunction with the Wastewater Treatment Plant item above.

Water Treatment Plant Generator Installation: Staff were recently notified that the EDA grant received for the generator would be reclassified from “non-construction” to “construction” which triggers additionally required reviews and reporting, but also opens up additional funding to cover a portion of construction costs. Staff are working through the new requirements and anticipate procurement later this year.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

Canyon Creek Pump Station: The scope of this project is to install a booster station on Timber Street which would resolve recurring issues with low water pressure in the Canyon Creek area. The project cost is estimated at \$350,000 and is proposed for the coming fiscal year in the CIP.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

ECONOMIC STRENGTH

Old City Hall: **Staff recommend adoption of this goal as described under “Efficient Government.”**

Santiam Feed Store: Staff continue to work with an interested lessee, who is in the process of determining their financing. Staff hope to receive a proposal for Council consideration later this calendar year.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

Quarry Park: **Staff recommend adoption of this goal in this category with the clarifications provided above under “Desirable Community.”**

Fund CEIP: The Commercial Exterior Improvement Program (CEIP) was placed on hold in 2024 due to a low fund balance in the Economic Development Fund. The FY2023 audit shows there may be a larger fund balance available and staff anticipates proposing a phased-in revival of the program in the coming fiscal year. Details of that proposal will be brought to City Council for consideration. Staff have also redirected some revenues to the Economic Development Fund and will continue to seek additional opportunities.

Staff recommend adoption of this goal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

Based on the information currently available, staff recommend the following goals for City Council adoption in Fiscal Year 2026-2027:

DESIRABLE COMMUNITY

Weddle Bridge Restoration
Mountain View Pedestrian Improvements
Quarry Park Improvements

EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

Review Council Rules
Old City Hall Plan

INFRASTRUCTURE

Willow-Yucca LID
Wastewater Treatment Plant Updates & Construction

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Water Treatment Plant Generator
Canyon Creek Pump Station

ECONOMIC STRENGTH

Santiam Feed Store Plan
Fund CEIP