



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 14, 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 5:40 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

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

STAFF

Jason Ogden, City Manager Pro Tem / Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Assistant City Manager Pro Tem
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Angela Clegg, Planning & Building Manager
Blair Larsen, City Attorney
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Greg Springman, Public Works Director

New Business

a) Municipal Finance

Director Brown stated that the approved budget for the current year approved the full amount of property tax levies for the Police Operating Levy after several years opting to take less than the full amount. He noted that property taxes were typically received toward the end of the calendar year and he was able to provide more accurate estimates following their receipt. He stated that the Library and Police Departments were in financially healthy positions and recommended no increase to the levy amounts.

b) Levy Ballot Language

Assistant City Manager Pro Tem Pretty stated that the current level for the Library Operating Levy was \$1.17 per \$1,000 of assessed value and was last approved for an increase in 2015. She stated that the Police Operating Levy was \$7.85 per \$1,000 in assessed value.

Councilor Richards expressed support for maintaining the current levy levels.

Mayor Coleman expressed gratitude that the Police Department opted not to take the full amount when it was not needed. City Manager Pro Tem Ogden stated that the City wanted to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and not request more than was needed.

Councilor Bronson asked of the duration of the levies. City Manager Pro Tem Ogden stated that they were each five years.

Director Brown noted that cities typically went out for levies earlier than needed to ensure an additional opportunity for it to pass with any necessary adjustments.

Councilor Bronson asked of the expiration of the current levies. Assistant City Manager Pro Tem Pretty replied that they would expire on June 30, 2026.

Councilors Sanchez, Augsburger, Thorstad, and Mayor Coleman expressed support for maintaining the current rate.

Councilor Sanchez asked of the cost to place the items on the ballot. Assistant City Manager Pro Tem Pretty stated that she had recently contacted Linn County Elections to ask of election costs and was told the calculations were too complex to provide a breakdown to individual cities.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager Pro Tem – Ex Officio City Recorder