



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 27, 2021, 5:00 PM
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

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 City of Sweet Home City Council is streaming the meeting via the Microsoft Teams platform and asks the public to consider this option. To view the City Council meeting live, online visit live.sweethomeor.gov. If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 541-367-5128 and you'll be asked to choose option #1 to be logged in to the call. Meeting ID: 663 999 581#

This video stream and call in options are allowed under Council Rules, meet the requirements for Oregon public meeting law, and has been approved by the Mayor as Chairperson of the meeting.

Cell phones should not be used in the Council Chambers by city staff or Council during this meeting for any reason, including text messages, emails, or phone calls. If a member of the public needs to utilize their cell phone for a call, please exit the Council Chambers.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Greg Mahler
President Pro Tem Diane Gerson
Councilor Dave Trask
Councilor Lisa Gourley
Councilor Angelita Sanchez (Online)
Councilor Dylan Richards

ABSENT

Councilor Susan Coleman

STAFF

City Manager Ray Towry
Finance Director Brandon Neish
Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen
Administrative Services Manager Julie Fisher
Communications Specialist Lagea Mull
Operations Manager Steven Haney

The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.

MEDIA
Benny Wolcott

New Business:

a) ARPA Premium Pay Discussion

City Manager Towry presented the American Rescue Plan Act Premium Pay Discussion. Premium pay and Cost of Living Expenses (COLA's) were discussed with consideration of the equity between represented and unrepresented staff due to the differences in contract language. Finance Director Neish and CEDD Larsen elaborated on ARPA funds and the 5 total allowable expenditures. Initial consideration of providing premium pay could help represented employees with the COLA cap in their contract. Premium pay would be calculated at their July 1 rate of pay. The required ARPA money needed to pay those premiums was estimated and presented to Council. Base rates would not change, this would be a one time premium pay. Consensus of the Council was to approve the Premium Pay at 5%. Discussion ensued regarding staff dedication during COVID-19, fires, and emergency cooling stations. Staff has been willing to step up and serve the community in these hard times. Each Councilor stated they value the employees and feel this one time bonus will circulate in the community and benefit not only the employees but also the local businesses. The item will come before Council on August 10th for decision.

Old Business:

a) Debt & Capital Project Discussion

Finance Director Neish presented an outline of Capital Projects that would qualify for ARPA funds and additional projects that Council may want to seeking other funding to complete. Staff split projects into Round #1 and #2. Round #1 was suggested to include Small Diameter Water Line Replacement, Water Meter Modernization Project, and WTP Fluoride System Replacement. Round #2 would include WTP Raw Water Control Valve Replacement, Installation of a Self-Service Bulk Water Station, Canyon Creek Pump Station and WTP Turbidimeters Meter Replacement. These projects would be completed with American Rescue Plan Act funding. Council discussion ensued about the importance of the Emergency Generator Project and prioritizing that project above the Bulk Water Fill Station. The Consensus of the Council was to move forward with the Small Diameter Water Main Replacement and the Emergency Generator Project with the ARPA Funds.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder