



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 27, 2021, 6:30 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. There will be opportunity for public input via the live stream. 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: 226 531 982#

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 6:30 PM.

Mayor Mahler stated an item of business would be added to the agenda under New Business, item d) Resolution No. 21 for 2021 – A Resolution Establishing Salary Schedules for Non-Represented Employees.

Roll Call

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Councilor Susan Coleman

STAFF

City Manager Ray Towry
Police Chief Jeff Lynn
Finance Director Brandon Neish

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.

Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen
Public Works Director Greg Springman
Administrative Services Manager Julie Fisher
Communications Specialist Lagea Mull
City Attorney Robert Snyder

MEDIA
Benny Wolcott

Motion to approve the absence of Councilor Coleman from the 07/27/20 Work Session and Regular Meeting. Motion made by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Gourley.
Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Approval of Minutes. Motion made by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Richards.
Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

Approval of Minutes

- a) 2021-07-13 City Council Work Session Minutes
- b) 2021-07-13 City Council Minutes

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of Petitions:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- a) Downtown Lounge Public Address System Application
Police Chief Jeff Lynn presented the request to Council for approval of a Public Address System Permit for the Downtown Lounge. Katherine Julian has submitted the permit to amplify music over 1000' for an Oregon Jamboree after party at the Downtown Lounge. Police Chief Jeff Lynn reported he had no issues with the request. Past police records showed there were no noise complaints during the 2019 Downtown Lounge After Party Event. The request was amended to Include Thursday evening 8pm till midnight.
Motion to approve the Public Address Permit for the Downtown Lounge. Motion made by Councilor Richards, Seconded by President Pro Tem Gerson.
Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards
- b) Request to Review and Amend City Code Pertaining to Bees and Beekeeping
Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen present Council with a request to consider changing the current City Code pertaining to bees and beekeeping. Ken Bronson, local beekeeper, gave information to the Council regarding regulations in other cities that are not as restrictive as Sweet Home. Fran Bronson spoke on how honey bees were introduced to the Governor's garden and have not caused any issues with any of the visitors. Don Heribson and Richard Little both spoke in favor of updating the ordinance and offered their expertise to aid staff in the revision.

Motion to Direct Staff to draft an Ordinance amending SHMC 6.04.020 (L). Motion made by Councilor Richards, Seconded by Councilor Gourley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

- c) Request for Council Action - Resolution No. 20 for 2021 - A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for the State Gas Tax Fund

Finance Director Neish reported that a position became vacant in streets due to an employee taking a Fleet Maintenance position. The position remained vacant due to concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects on state gas tax funds. Staff is requesting approval from Council to fill that vacancy back to per COVID operating levels.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 20 for 2021 - A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for the State Gas Tax Fund. Motion made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

- d) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 21 for 2021 – A Resolution Establishing Salary Schedules for Non-Represented Employees.

City Manager introduced the request stating the City has worked hard to build trust between management and employees. An unintended difference in language between the two contracts in calendar year vs fiscal year would give management staff a higher percentage COLA than represented staff. Management is requesting Council revised the management's COLAs to match those of the AFSCME employees and instead of 5.45% increase, would be 1.25% increase.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 21 for 2021. Motion made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Gerson.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

Ordinance Bills

Request for Council Action and First Reading of Ordinance Bills

- a) Public Hearing for Zone Map Amendment Application ZMA21-02

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:14 PM. Mayor Mahler read the Public Hearing Disclosure Statement.

Declarations of City Council regarding Exparte Information, Personal Bias, Conflict of Interest: None

Staff Report: Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen presented the Staff Report and reported the findings and decision of the Planning Commission Public Hearing.

Testimony of the Applicant: Michael Grove, Sweet Home Sanitation, explained the proposal is to add an additional scale which will help customers get in and out quickly and preventing back up off of 18th Avenue.

Additional Testimony: There was no additional testimony in favor, opposition or neutral testimony.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:21 PM.

Motion to move Ordinance Bill No 6 for 2021 - An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map to first reading. Motion made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

Ordinance Bill No. 6 for 2021 was read in its entirety.

Motion to move Ordinance Bill No. 6 for 2021 to second reading on August 10, 2021. Motion made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

Second Reading of Ordinance Bills

None

Third Reading of Ordinance Bills (Roll Call Vote Required)

a) Willow-Yucca Street Neighborhood Local Improvement District (LID)

Ordinance Bill No. 3 was read by title only for its third and final reading.

James Mellein spoke in favor of the LID, asking the Council for a yes vote. He spoke regarding his views of affordability, accessibility, and the importance of clean water on demand.

Motion to Approve Ordinance Bill No. 3 for 2021 and begin the process of financing and constructing the improvements. Motion made by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Gourley.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Richards

Voting Nay: Councilor Sanchez

Reports of Committees:

Area Commission on Transportation

Councilor Richards reported attending a meeting with Representative Jamie Cate and Senator Fred Girod. All parties have suggested a new traffic study. Councilor Sanchez, who also attended the meeting agreed and stated it would be good for the community to be ready with a plan in the case any funding opportunities became available.

Chamber of Commerce

Councilor Richard reported on the Chamber Banquet and that the event went well.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor's Report

Mayor Mahler commended the Chamber of Commerce for a successful Annual Chamber Awards Banquet.

Mayor Mahler announced County Commissioner Sprenger will announce a decision regarding the sale of the mill property soon, hopefully next week.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Towry thanked staff and Council for taking care of issues while he was on vacation. While in Washington, he visited the Walla Walla facility for the homeless. He was impressed with the site and felt it would be a good model for Sweet Home. CM Towry asked permission of the Council to commission a field trip to visit the facility. The Mayor, Councilor

Gourley, Councilor Trask, Chief Lynn, CSO Sean Morgan, someone from the Community at Large, and someone from the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors could attend. The Council agreed.

City Manager Towry reported staff is working with the Regional Solutions Team and an ODOT representative to find solutions to traffic safety on Main Street. All parties have suggested a new traffic plan.

Department Director's Reports (2nd meeting of the Month)

Finance Director

- a) June 2021 Monthly Report (pg. 52)

A written report was included in the packet.

Police Chief

- a) Police Department Monthly Report (pg. 64)

A written report was included in the packet.

Councilor Gerson asked Chief Lynn about how the Oregon Jamboree will affect the homeless.

A hole in the Annex wall was reported to staff who will investigate.

City Attorney

None

Council Business for Good of the Order

Councilor Gerson asked about the successfulness of the vacant building ordinance and registration.

Mayor Mahler announced County Commission Sprenger will announce a decision regarding the sale of the mill property next week.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder