



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 19, 2020, 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.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- a) The City Council will hold a Special City Council public meeting on March 19, 2020 at 6:30p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 3225 Main Street. In order to protect residents, staff, and elected officials due to the novel COVID-19 virus, the frequency and length of public meetings, including the City Council, boards and commissions, will be minimized. Non-urgent and non-essential City business with expected public feedback will be postponed. Individuals attending public meetings in person will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing, (i.e., maintain a 6-foot distance) and be free of symptoms related to COVID-19. The City of Sweet Home City Council is streaming the meeting via video format and asks the public to consider this option. To view the Special City Council meeting visit <http://bit.ly/SweetHomeCityCouncil>

This video stream has been approved by the Mayor as Chairperson of the meeting.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Greg Mahler (in person)
President Pro Tem Diane Gerson (via video)
Councilor Cortney Nash (via video)
Councilor Dave Trask (in person)
Councilor James Goble (via video)
Councilor Lisa Gourley (in person)
Councilor Susan Coleman (via phone)

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of Petitions:

None

New Business:

- a) Request for Council Action - Resolution No. 4 for 2020 - Declaring State of Emergency Proclamation

City Manager Towry requested the City Council to declare a "state of emergency" regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, explaining to the Council that the declaration will allow additional resources and additional assistance to be available to the City.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 4 for 2020- A Resolution Proclaiming a "state of emergency" concerning COVID-19 made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Trask.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Nash, Councilor Trask, Councilor Goble, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman

Mayor Maher read the Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Sweet Home.

- b) Request for Council Action - Resolution No. 5 for 2020 - A Resolution Adopting the City of Sweet Home Pandemic Response Plan

City Manager Ray Towry and Emergency Manager Tommy Mull introduced the City of Sweet Home Pandemic Response Plan in response to COVID-19. City Manager Towry updated the Council on the hard work the emergency response team has put in during the last week.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 5 for 2020 - A Resolution Adopting the City of Sweet Home Pandemic Response Plan, made by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Coleman.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Nash, Councilor Trask, Councilor Goble, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman

- c) Request for Council Action -Temporary Policy Response to COVID-19

City Manager Towry introduced the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Flexible and Evolving Response Plan.

Motion made to adopt the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Flexible and Evolving Response Plan, by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Trask.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Nash, Councilor Trask, Councilor Goble, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman

- d) Request for Council Action - Revised Personnel Policy - Emergency Response Duties

City Manager Towry introduced the Request for Council Action for a revision to the Personnel Policy addressing Emergency and Inclement weather. Additional language to current policy was added to clarify employment and compensation considerations during an emergency.

Motion made to approve the Revised Personnel Policy by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Goble.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Nash, Councilor Trask, Councilor Goble, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman

- e) Request for Council Action - Emergency Relief for City Utility Accounts and other City Fees

Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen explained the Emergency Relief for City Utility Account Policy that aids business who close doors due to effects of COVID-19 would not accrue additional utility charges for shut off fee. In addition, there will

be no water shut offs on residential accounts to aid with hygiene and safety during this pandemic.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion made by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Gourley. Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Nash, Councilor Trask, Councilor Goble, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman

- f) Proclamation - Urging Compassion and Flexibility from Leaseholders and Lenders during the Coronavirus Emergency

Mayor Mahler read the proclamation urging compassion and flexibility from leaseholders and lenders during the Coronavirus emergency

- g) Cancellation of the March 24, 2020 City Council Meeting

Mayor Mahler canceled the City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor's Report

Mayor Mahler thanked staff for their efforts during this time. He urged everyone to take this situation seriously and to stay safe.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Towry thanked the Council for their patience and staff for their hard work during this pandemic.

Councilor Trask also thanked staff.

Police Chief

Police Chief Lynn stressed the importance of social distancing in hopes that this pandemic would pass quickly and with the least interruption for police services.

City Attorney

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

After the meeting adjourned, a member of the public thanked the Council for what they are doing. He is the owner of a small local business which has closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated he is concerned for his business. CEDD Larsen asked him to contact staff for information regarding small business aid during this time.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder