



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 30, 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 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 meeting live, online visit <http://live.sweethomeor.gov>. If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 541-367-5128, choose option #1 and enter the meeting ID to be logged in to the call. Meeting ID:469 818 233#

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Roll Call

PRESENT

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

STAFF

City Manager Ray Towry
Finance Director Brandon Neish
Administrative Services Manager Julie Fisher

Old Business:

Councilor Trask apologized to the Council for his process during the last meeting. Mayor Mahler acknowledged his apology.

a) Proclamation of State of Emergency

City Manager Towry introduced resolutions from Harrisburg, Baker City, and Brownsville which were included in the packet for Council review and were used for the draft resolution for Sweet Home.

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.

There was discussion on what the Council's goal is for the proclamation. Mayor Mahler was concerned about the loss of employees from the School District, Fire District, and other entities who have employees leaving due to the mandatory vaccination requirement. The Council agreed the impact will greatly effect our community. Councilor Sanchez stated the City should empower the people to make choices for themselves regarding mask and vaccinations. She added private and individual lifestyle and healthcare decisions should be made for themselves. Council discussed requesting funds to help with the mental health crisis our community has had due to the mask mandate, vaccination mandates, as well as COVID itself.

Dr. Tim Hindmarsh and Dr. Sam Milstein addressed the Council acknowledging the difficulty of navigating during difficult situations. They spoke to the Council on their responsibility for ensuring police, fire, infrastructure and safe water. They spoke of Relative Risk Ratio and how to do the least amount of harm, noting emergency services are more important to our community than the risk of losing personnel to mandatory vaccinations.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder