



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 08, 2022, 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: 473 954 605#

This video stream and call in options are allowed under Council Rules, meet the requirements for Oregon Public Meeting Law, and have been approved by the Mayor and Chairperson of the meeting.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

PRESENT

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

STAFF

Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem
Blair Larsen, Community and Economic Development Director
Julie Fisher, Administrative Services Director
Robert Snyder, City Attorney
Megan Dazey, Library Services Director
Jeff Lynn, Police Chief
Greg Springman, Public Works Director
Lagea Mull, Community Services Director
Brandon Neish, Finance Director (online)

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 Westcott, The New Era

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Councilor Coleman, Seconded by Councilor Richards.
Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

Approval of Minutes:

- a) 2022-02-18 City Council Meeting Minutes - ES
- b) 2022-02-18 City Council Meeting Minutes - SP
- c) 2022-02-22 City Council Meeting Minutes

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of Petitions:

- a) Rural Development Initiative (RDI) Presentation

The Rural Development Initiative Sweet Home Youth Leadership Program reported on their work in the community. Students AJ Rodrigues and Tea Herrera presented a project for the betterment of the community on mental health awareness. Mayor Mahler stated mental health awareness is important and he commended their bravery for coming forward and giving their testimony. Christine Gilmore, RDI Director talked about the benefits of the Youth Leadership Program in Sweet Home.

Old Business:

- a) Request for Council Action – Radiator Supply Request

Motion to table the request and request the Administration, Finance, and Property Committee recommend a policy regarding these types of donation requests made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Mayor Mahler.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

- b) Request for Council Action - Intergovernmental Agreement with Linn County for Proposed RV Sewage Disposal Facility

Staff presented an agreement that was acceptable by Linn County that would include donating property to FAC for the unsheltered and retaining a portion for an RV sewage disposal site. An easement on City property on 24th avenue would be necessary for power, telecommunications, and a waterline. Other improvements would include pavement with a gravel base, multi-use path, drainage swales, concrete ribbon to the protect road base, and lamp posts. There would be a cost share with approximately \$106K being paid by Linn County for roadway improvements and the City and FAC to pay for the remaining improvements estimated at \$77K.

Brock Byers and Shirley Byrd read a statement to the Council that FAC is prepared to move forward without support of the City and withdraw from their agreement with the City if the IGA with Linn County is not signed.

Motion made to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Linn County for the proposed RV Sewage Disposal Facility by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Gourley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman

Voting Nay: Councilor Trask, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

- c) Request for Council Action - Agreement with FAC for Managed Outreach and Community Resource Facility
- Motion to approve the agreement with FAC for a Managed Outreach and Community Resource Facility made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Trask.
Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman
Voting Nay: Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards
- d) Resolution No. 7 for 2022 - Terminating the State of Emergency due to COVID-19
- Staff reported mask will be optional after March 12th at City facilities.
- Motion to approve Resolution No. 7 for 2022 made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Coleman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

New Business:

- a) Request for Council Action - Authorization to Fill a Vacant Position
- Staff reported a need to fill a vacancy for a seasonal worker in Public Works.
- Motion to approve the request for fill a seasonal vacancy made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Coleman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards
- b) Request for Council Action – Chamber of Commerce Contract
- Staff introduced the request to update the Chamber contract with changes in operating hours and reporting specifics.
- Motion to approve the Chamber of Commerce Contract made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Richards.
Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards
- c) Request for Council Action – City Manager Recruitment Strategy
- City Manager Pro Tem introduced options for the Council to consider for recruitment of the next City Manager. Those options included utilizing in house staff, the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, or a firm who specializes in recruitments of this kind. The estimated cost for each option was presented.
- Motion to utilize the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments for assistance in recruitment for the City Manager made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Richards.
Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Richards
Voting Nay: Councilor Sanchez
- d) Request for Council Action – Revisions to City Manager Pro Tem Contract
- Staff presented the request to update the City Manager Pro Tem contract to include the use of a City vehicle for on call purposes.

Motion to approve the revised City Manager Pro Tem contract made by Councilor Coleman, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

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

Ordinance Bills

Request for Council Action and First Reading of Ordinance Bills

Second Reading of Ordinance Bills

Third Reading of Ordinance Bills (Roll Call Vote Required)

- a) Ordinance Bill No. 2 for 2022 - Ordinance No. 1302 -Centurylink Franchise Agreement

Ordinance Bill No. 2 for 2022 was read by title only.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2 for 2022 - Ordinance No. 1302 made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

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

Reports of Committees:

Chamber of Commerce

Councilor Gerson reported the Chamber will meet again on the third Thursday.

Library Advisory Board

Councilor Coleman reported the Library Advisory Board meets this Thursday.

Youth Advisory Council

Councilor Gerson reported she will be meeting with students in recruitment efforts.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor's Report

Mayor Mahler announced a successful retirement party for Councilor Trask celebrating 50 years of service to the Sweet Home Fire District fighting fires.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Pro Tem reported completing her first two weeks as Pro Tem. She stated the City has a very dedicated staff.

Pro Tem Wurster announced the Budget Message will be presented on April 4 and the Budget meetings will be set.

Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen reported on pedestrian safety efforts. The mid way block crossings in front of Safeway and Main and 13th are concerns. The Traffic Safety Plan is being updated and will include statistics on pedestrian crossing but is a long term project which could take up to 18 months.

- a) Annual Chamber Banquet Info and RSVP

Department Director's Reports (1st meeting of the Month)

Library Services Director

- a) February 2022 Statistics

Community and Economic Development Director

- a) February 2022 Monthly Report

A written report was included in the packet. Community and Economic Development Director reported on the Willow Street LID.

Public Works Director

- a) February 2022 Monthly Report

A written report was included in the packet. There were no questions from Council.

City Attorney

No Report

Council Business for Good of the Order

Council stated appreciation the the Police Department for covering extra patrols during a staffing shortage.

The success of our student athletes on various teams was noted.

Councilor Coleman stated although valid concerns were brought up during discussion there was a tone of shame brought to City Council, and she encouraged building bridges. Councilor Gourley apologized for her passion on certain topics.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder