



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 06, 2024, 6:30 PM
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

Mayor Coleman prayed for guidance in the City Council's deliberations.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Susan Coleman
President Pro Tem Greg Mahler
Councilor Lisa Gourley
Councilor Dylan Richards
Councilor Josh Thorstad
Councilor Dave Trask

ABSENT

Councilor Angelita Sanchez

STAFF

Kelcey Young, City Manager
Matt Brown, Contract Finance Director
Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Jason Ogden, Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Administrative Services Director
Robert Snyder, City Attorney
Greg Springman, Interim Public Works Assistant Director

GUESTS

Mary Bridge, 28232 Santiam Highway, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Ken Bronson, 6313 Lake Pointe Way, Foster, OR 97386
Jim Corley, 1408 45th Avenue, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Diane Gerson, 4949 Mimosa Circle, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Terry Martin, 2812 Fir Court, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Pegge McGuire, 250 Broadalbin Street SW, Albany, OR 97321

Mayor Coleman stated that Councilor Sanchez was called away to work and would be absent.

Councilor Richards moved to excuse the absence of Councilor Sanchez. Councilor Thorstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Consent Agenda

- a) Request for Council Action – Contract Approval for Finance Director Services
- b) Request for Council Action – Digital Evidence Management System

Approval of Minutes:

- a) 2024-07-09 City Council Executive Session Minutes
- b) 2024-07-09 City Council Meeting Minutes

President Pro Tem Mahler moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of Petitions

Mary Bridge expressed concerns with safety during the Oregon Jamboree related to placement of vendors on streets and requested increased communication and enforcement in future years.

Diane Gerson read a letter to City Manager Young expressing gratitude for her accomplishments and service to the City of Sweet Home.

Ken Bronson expressed gratitude for City Manager Young's efforts to open the Family Assistance and Resource Center to improve the homelessness situation in Sweet Home.

Terry Martin expressed gratitude and support for City Manager Young's efforts and collaboration in the community and with the Sweet Home School District.

Jim Corley thanked City Council for hiring City Manager Young and expressed gratitude for her service to Sweet Home and highlighted many of her accomplishments during her tenure.

Pegge McGuire expressed her admiration for City Manager Young and her commitment to improving the Sweet Home community.

New Business

- a) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 18 for 2024 – Stating the Intention to Appoint a City Manager & Appointing a City Manager Pro Tem

City Manager Young began by thanking everyone for their kind words. She recommended the appointment of Chief Ogden as interim City Manager (City Manager Pro Tem) to ensure stability during the transition following her departure and commended his experience and character.

President Pro Tem Mahler noted the support of staff present in Council Chambers.

President Pro Tem Mahler moved to approve Resolution No. 18 for 2024. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

- b) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 19 for 2024 – Updating Non-Represented Management Salary Schedules

City Manager Young stated that the role of the proposed Assistant City Manager would be to oversee operations. She noted that the City Manager would have the discretion to keep that role or dissolve it in the future. She recommended that Director Pretty be moved into that position.

Councilor Gourley requested additional information regarding how wage increases were determined and expressed support for it to be a temporary position.

Mayor Coleman stated that the City Council was responsible for appointing a City Manager, City Attorney, and Municipal Judge.

City Manager Young stated that the wages were intended to be in parity with other cities and the City Manager would have the flexibility to change the position in the future.

Councilor Gourley moved to approve Resolution No. 19 for 2024 with the condition that the Assistant City Manager position would operate on a pro tem basis until a permanent City Manager was appointed and could reconsider the need for the position. President Pro Tem Mahler seconded the motion as amended. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

- c) Request for Council Action – Family Housing

City Manager Young stated that the City of Sweet Home had previously declared a State of Emergency regarding homelessness. She noted ongoing issues in Sweet Home regarding homeless families. She stated that the Linn County MAC Group would provide funding for transitional family housing with resources to assist them in securing permanent housing. She added that having a stable location for families to live would allow for better service by the Sweet Home School District and other local resource partners. She stated that Crossroads had submitted a proposal to manage the housing, with a contract to come before the City Council in the future.

Councilor Gourley expressed support for family housing in Sweet Home.

Councilor Thorstad asked of future maintenance costs. City Manager Young stated that it could be covered by future grant programs. Councilor Thorstad asked of the outcome if grants were not secured. City Manager Young stated that maintenance would need to be budgeted or the City could choose to close the housing.

Councilor Trask moved to approve the purchase of family housing as proposed. Councilor Gourley seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Gourley, Mahler, Trask

NAY: Richards, Thorstad

ABSENT: Sanchez

Mayor Coleman thanked City Manager Young and Community Services Consortium for their efforts to secure the grants. She thanked the School District for their efforts to support homeless families.

Reports of Committees

Mayor Coleman stated that the Sweet Home Health Fair would be held on August 17, 2024.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report

City Manager Young thanked the City Council, staff, and community for her time in Sweet Home.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Coleman stated that in August 2022, the City Council unanimously decided to hire City Manager Young. She expressed her gratitude and support for City Manager Young's efforts to build relationships with external partners for the betterment of Sweet Home and to secure significant grant funding. She asked that the community make an effort to treat each other with respect and ensure that they come to Councilors with concerns and engage in public comment opportunities. She presented City Manager with an engraved vase with the City of Sweet Home logo.

City Manager Young was honored with a standing ovation.

Department Director Reports

Library Services Director

- a) Library Director's Report – July 2024

Police Chief

- a) Police Chief Report – July 2024

Chief Ogden thanked the City Council for their support of staff in their new roles. He stated that the Traffic Safety Officer position would be implemented before the end of the month.

Council Business for Good of the Order

Mayor Coleman asked that food truck policies be discussed at a future meeting. There was Council consensus to do same.

Councilor Gourley asked if the City had hired a new Code Enforcement Officer. City Manager Young stated that the program was undergoing a change to include neighborhood improvements in addition to code enforcement.

Councilor Trask highlighted several of City Manager Young's accomplishments during her tenure.

Councilor Gourley expressed her gratitude to City Manager Young for leaving Sweet Home better than she found it.

Mayor Coleman once again expressed her gratitude to City Manager Young.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Manager Pro Tem – Ex Officio City Recorder

DRAFT