

## RESOLUTION NO. 6 FOR 2025

### A RESOLUTION OF THE SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL TO REFER AMENDMENT OF CITY CHARTER CHAPTER II, SECTION 3 COUNCIL AND MAYOR, TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AND ADOPTING A BALLOT TITLE AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

WHEREAS, only the voters of the City of Sweet Home can approve amendments to the Charter of the City of Sweet Home; and

WHEREAS, members of the community have shown interest in amending the Charter such that the position of Mayor is directly elected by the Electors of the City of Sweet Home; and

WHEREAS, the Sweet Home City Council has discussed and heard from citizens about the benefits and detriments of both the current method of selecting the Mayor and other methods;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council resolves as follows:

Section 1. Proposed Charter Amendment. If a majority of eligible voters vote "yes" on the following measure, Chapter II, Form of Government, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Sweet Home will be amended as follows, with ~~striketrough~~ text deleted, and **bold** text added:

#### Section 3 Council And Mayor

Except as otherwise provided in this charter, all powers of the city shall be vested in a council of seven members nominated and elected from the city at large.

At each biennial general election, ~~four~~ **three** councilors **and a mayor** shall be elected. The ~~three receiving the highest number of votes~~ **councilors** shall each hold office for four years, and the ~~one receiving the number of votes next to the three highest~~ **mayor** shall hold office for two years. Tie votes shall be determined by lot.

~~At its first meeting of the new term after each biennial general election, the council shall elect from its membership a chairperson who shall be mayor for a term of two years.~~

The mayor and councilors in office at the time of adoption of this charter shall continue in office until the expiration of their respective terms, with powers and duties as provided in this charter.

Section 2. Referral. The ballot title attached as Attachment A and the above text shall be filed with the City Elections Officer and referred to the legal voters of the City of Sweet Home, Linn County, Oregon at an election on May 20, 2025.

- Section 3. Election. May 20, 2025 is designated as the date for holding the election for the purpose of voting on this measure. The precinct for the election shall be all of the territory within the corporate limits of the City of Sweet Home, and the election shall be conducted by the Linn County Clerk's Office by mail.
- Section 4. Publication. The City Elections Officer is directed to publish notice of receipt of the ballot title under standard procedures and in compliance with ORS 250.275(5).
- Section 5. Filing with County. The City Elections Officer shall file the ballot title with the Linn County Clerk as required by ORS 254.095 and include the proposed measure in the statement of city measures to be voted on.
- Section 6. Explanatory Statement. The Explanatory Statement for the measure on Attachment B shall be submitted for inclusion in the voters' pamphlet as provided in ORS 251.345.
- Section 7. No Position. The City Council takes no position in favor of, nor opposing this proposed measure.
- Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED by the Council and approved by the Mayor, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager Pro Tem - Ex Officio City Recorder

## **Attachment A to Resolution No. 6 for 2025**

Measure No. 25-\_\_\_\_\_

Ballot Title:

A. Caption (10 words allowed, 10 total)

Charter amendment for direct election of the Mayor by voters

B. Question (20 words allowed, 20 total)

Should the Sweet Home Charter be changed so that the Mayor is elected by voters, rather than the City Council?

C. Summary (175 words allowed, 175 total)

The Sweet Home Charter is the constitution of the City of Sweet Home. Under the Charter, the role of Mayor is limited to acting as chairperson of the city council, presiding over council meetings, appointing committees, and signing ordinances and other documents authorized by the city council. Last amended in 2014, the Charter currently states that the city council "shall select from its membership a chairperson who shall be mayor for a term of two years."

A "YES" vote changes the Charter to allow for direct election of the Mayor by the voters of the City of Sweet Home instead of the current process of the mayor being selected by the city council. The Mayor and councilors currently in office would continue to serve in their offices for the remainder of their terms, three councilors and the Mayor until January 2027, and the other three councilors until January 2029.

This amendment does not change any of the powers or duties of the Mayor.

The first election affected by this measure would be in November 2026.

## **Attachment B to Resolution No. 6 for 2025**

### **Measure No. 25-\_\_\_\_\_ Explanatory Statement (500 words allowed, 427 words total)**

The Oregon Constitution gives city voters the right to adopt, amend, and revise the City Charter.

Sweet Home voters last amended the City Charter in 2014.

The City Charter is the constitution of the City of Sweet Home, and dictates, among other things, the powers of the City, the powers and duties of city officers, and how city officers are selected.

Under the current charter, the office of Mayor is the chairperson of the council and presides over council meetings. The charter gives the Mayor the power to call special meetings, appoint members of committees, determine the order of business, and sign all ordinances and other writings authorized by the council. The Mayor is a member of the city council and may vote as a city councilor.

Regarding the election of councilors, the current charter states that at each biennial election (November of even numbered years), four councilors shall be elected: the three with the highest number of votes serve four-year terms, and the one with the least number of votes serves a two-year term.

Regarding the election of the Mayor, the charter states that at the first meeting of the new term after each biennial election, the Mayor is elected from the membership of the city council for a term of two years.

This proposed measure would amend the current City Charter Chapter II FORM OF GOVERNMENT, Section 3 Council And Mayor to read as follows:

#### Section 3 Council And Mayor

Except as otherwise provided in this charter, all powers of the city shall be vested in a council of seven members nominated and elected from the city at large.

At each biennial general election, three councilors and a mayor shall be elected. The councilors shall each hold office for four years, and the mayor shall hold office for two years. Tie votes shall be determined by lot.

The mayor and councilors in office at the time of adoption of this charter shall continue in office until the expiration of their respective terms, with powers and duties as provided in this charter.

This measure would change the election process for city councilors and the mayor by eliminating one city council position and changing the position of mayor to an office that is elected to a two-year term by registered voters within the boundaries of the City of Sweet Home. Remaining city councilors would all have four-year terms, and three of them would be elected at each biennial election.

The City Council adopted this Explanatory Statement but has taken no position favoring nor opposing this proposed measure.