



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2026, 6:30 PM
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

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 & Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Susan Coleman
President Pro Tem Josh Thorstad
Councilor Chelsea Augsburger
Councilor Ken Bronson
Councilor Aaron Hegge
Councilor Dylan Richards
Councilor Angelita Sanchez

STAFF

Jason Ogden, City Manager / Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Greg Springman, Public Works Advisor

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- a) 2026-02-10 City Council Work Session Minutes
- b) 2026-02-10 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor Richards moved to approve the Consent Agenda. President Pro Tem Thorstad seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards, Sanchez
NAY: None

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of Petitions

Old Business

- a) Request for Council Action – Reaffirming the City's Commitment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Managing Oregon Resources More Efficiently (MORE)

City Manager Ogden provided an overview of the MORE program and the efficiencies that can be delivered through intergovernmental partnerships. He noted that City Council had approved the IGA in 2020 but the paperwork was never filed and staff were seeking Council's reaffirmation of their desire to participate.

Councilor Richards moved to approve the MORE-IGA as presented. President Pro Tem Thorstad seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards, Sanchez

NAY: None

New Business

- a) Request for Council Action – Granting Negotiation & Execution Authority to the City Manager for the Sankey Park Phase III Contract

City Manager Ogden stated that Sankey Park Phase III construction needed to be completed by June 30, 2026 and provided an overview of the project scope. He noted that staff had substantially completed contract negotiations and requested approval to finalize and execute the agreement. He stated that the contract amount was for \$496,401.25 which was currently budgeted funded through a grant, donations, a City funds.

Councilor Bronson commented on the high cost generated by bureaucratic requirements, including engineering.

Councilor Sanchez noted a potential conflict of interest and that she would abstain from voting.

Councilor Richards moved to approve the item as proposed. Councilor Bronson seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Sanchez

- b) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 3 for 2026 – Adopting & Allocating Funds for an Outdoor Fitness Court

City Manager Ogden stated that the Resolution would allow the City to accept a \$35,000 grant award to construct an outdoor fitness court at the park land next to City Hall. He reviewed the characteristics of the fitness court and stated that staff were pursuing additional grant opportunities to offset the City's required match of \$185,000 plus installation costs. He presented a video from the National Fitness Campaign describing their efforts and benefits.

Councilor Sanchez expressed concern with the required local match, additional liability, and competition with local fitness business owners.

AYE: Coleman, Thorstad, Augsburger, Bronson, Hegge, Richards

NAY: Sanchez

Reports of Committees

Administration, Finance & Property Committee – President Pro Tem Thorstad

Community Health Committee – Councilor Bronson

Library Advisory Board – Councilor Augsburger

- 2026-02-12 Library Board Meeting Minutes

Park & Tree Committee – Councilor Hegge

Planning Commission

Area Commission on Transportation – Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Bronson (alternate)

- a) 2026-02-26 CWACT Meeting Agenda

Chamber of Commerce – Councilor Hegge

Council of Governments – Councilor Bronson, Councilor Sanchez (alternate)

Solid Waste Advisory Council – Councilor Richards

Councilor Hegge stated that the Beautification Committee under the Park & Tree Committee would be resuming meetings soon and planned to conduct plantings in May. He highlighted the upcoming Blooms

and Brews Festival to celebrate Arbor Day. He noted recent restoration around Ames Creek in Sankey Park with approximately 2,500 native plantings.

Department Reports

There were no reports to be heard.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ogden highlighted the recent installation of fish in the medians that were fabricated by Sweet Home High School students. He noted that the Chamber Banquet would take place on Saturday and tickets were still available to the public.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Coleman thanked President Pro Tem Thorstad for representing her at the upcoming Chamber Banquet due to her planned absence. She thanked the Police Department for earning their Autism Friendly Designation. She highlighted a Sunshine Industries fundraiser on March 7th and a puzzle competition fundraiser for the Sweet Home High School Josai Club on March 14th.

Council Business for Good of the Order

Councilor Richards noted that the State of the Union was currently in progress and encouraged its viewing.

Councilor Bronson recognized the Sweet Home High School's wrestling team and cheer squad for their recent performance.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder