



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 24, 2024, 5:30 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 5:30 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Susan Coleman
President Pro Tem Greg Mahler
Councilor Lisa Gourley
Councilor Dylan Richards
Councilor Angelita Sanchez (5:32 PM)
Councilor Josh Thorstad
Councilor Dave Trask

STAFF

Jason Ogden, City Manager Pro Tem / Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Assistant City Manager Pro Tem
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager

MEDIA

Sarah Brown, The New Era

City Council Work Session - City Manager Recruitment

Mayor Coleman requested a discussion on the desired qualities of the next City Manager.

Councilor Richards requested that someone from Sweet Home be selected.

Councilor Gourley noted the importance of diplomacy and understanding rural Oregonians.

Councilor Sanchez entered at this time.

Councilor Trask expressed preference for a candidate with prior City management experience. Mayor Coleman noted that the previous five City Managers did not have prior City management experience.

Councilor Gourley stated that previous selections were made while there was long-term stability in other key staff roles. She noted the importance of expediency in identifying the next City Manager.

Councilor Thorstad expressed a desire for a positive outlook and plans to stay in Sweet Home long-term.

Councilor Sanchez noted the importance of working well under pressure.

President Pro Tem Mahler expressed the importance of vision for the community.

Councilor Sanchez expressed support for someone with prior City management experience but noted that familiarity with Sweet Home was also important.

Assistant City Manager Pro Tem Pretty provided an overview of various recruitment options and their associated costs, including proposals from Prothman and Bob Murray & Associates. She noted that one professional recruitment firm expressed that recruitment would be a challenge due to recent events in Sweet Home.

Councilor Sanchez requested that staff reach out to the previous City Manager Pro Tem for additional suggestions.

Councilor Thorstad requested that the pool be opened through a City-run recruitment. He added that he felt it was important for the City Council to be seated in 2025 would have a role in making the selection.

Councilor Sanchez requested that the current Council begin the process and the next City Council make the selection.

Councilor Richards expressed support for an in-house process.

President Pro Tem Mahler noted his familiarity with Prothman and expressed concern that they were not sufficiently aggressive in recruitment.

Councilor Richards expressed support for appointing City Manager Pro Tem Ogden as the permanent City Manager.

There was a consensus for staff to prepare internal recruitment materials as well as to gather proposals from additional recruitment firms. Assistant City Manager Pro Tem Pretty stated she would contact the City Council soon to schedule an additional work session.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager Pro Tem – Ex Officio City Recorder