



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 24, 2024, 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 Greg Mahler
Councilor Lisa Gourley
Councilor Dylan Richards
Councilor Angelita Sanchez
Councilor Josh Thorstad
Councilor Dave Trask

STAFF

Jason Ogden, City Manager Pro Tem / Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Assistant City Manager Pro Tem
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Megan Dazey, Library Services Director
Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Robert Snyder, City Attorney
Greg Springman, Public Works Director

MEDIA

Sarah Brown, The New Era

GUESTS

Christopher Allison, Citizen Honoree
Eturnyti Allison, Citizen Honoree
Amanda Kilmer, Citizen Honoree
Ken Bronson, 6313 Lake Pointe Way, Foster, OR 97345
Elizabeth Curtis, P.O. Box 356, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Robert Egner, 28628 Ridgeway Road, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Terry Martin, 2812 Fir Court, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Dawn Miller, 331 8th Avenue, Sweet Home, OR 97386
Farrell Montgomery

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- a) 2024-08-06 City Council Meeting Minutes

- b) 2024-09-10 City Council Executive Session Minutes
- c) 2024-09-10 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor Richards moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Thorstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of Petitions

- a) Recognition of Public Service

City Manager Pro Tem Ogden described the recent community collaboration with the Sweet Home School District and Police Department to address a threat of violence against the School District. He expressed gratitude for the expediency with which the threat was handled.

City Manager Pro Tem Ogden presented the Chief's Award of Merit to Captain Ryan Cummings, Officer Daniel Gerkman, Sergeant Geoff Hamlin, Commander Penny Leland, Dispatcher Katie Lyon, Officer Cody McPherson, Detective Sean Potter, Officer Tyler Robinson, and Dispatcher Rachel Warren.

City Manager Pro Tem Ogden presented the Public Service Award to Eturnyti Allison, Christopher Allison, and Amanda Kilmer. He also recognized Superintendent Terry Martin.

Mayor Coleman invited those registered to speak for Public Comment.

Terry Martin expressed gratitude for the exceptional collaboration between the Sweet Home School District and the Sweet Home Police Department to address the recent school safety incident. He noted the importance of maintaining a positive relationship between the school district and any future City Managers. He expressed his support for appointing City Manager Pro Tem Ogden to the permanent position.

Ken Bronson expressed support for allowing the City Manager Pro Tem to continue in his role.

Robert Egnor expressed concern with recent media pieces regarding City Councilor conduct and with conduct that he felt had not been addressed by the media or City Council.

Dawn Miller noted that she had originally intended to withdraw from the race for City Council but was now continuing to participate in the electoral process. She expressed support for hiring a City Manager from within Sweet Home. She asked for a public input process regarding the City Manager recruitment.

Farrell Montgomery asked that the City of Sweet Home adopt an emergency plan addressing civil emergencies.

Elizabeth Curtis expressed support for adoption of an emergency plan addressing civil emergencies and for performing risk assessments.

Old Business

- a) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 20 for 2024 – Appointing a City Attorney

City Manager Pro Tem Ogden stated that the item had been discussed in previous Council meetings and reported that the candidate, W. Blair Larsen, had successfully passed the bar exam since the previous discussion. He noted that Mr. Larsen would be sworn in to the Oregon State Bar on October 10, 2024. He recommended approval of the contract as proposed.

Councilor Richards expressed concern with Mr. Larsen's legal experience.

Councilor Gourley expressed gratitude to City Attorney Snyder for his patience during the recruitment process. She moved to approve Resolution No. for 2024. President Pro Tem Mahler seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Coleman, Mahler, Gourley, Thorstad, Trask
NAY: Sanchez, Richards

New Business

- a) Request for Council Action – Contract Approval for the Nandina Overlay Project (9th Avenue to 12th Avenue)

City Manager Pro Tem Ogden provided an overview of the proposed project and historical maintenance concerns.

Councilor Sanchez expressed support for future purchase of a paver to perform projects in-house. She recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

Councilor Richards expressed support for the project.

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

AYE: Coleman, Mahler, Gourley, Richards, Thorstad, Trask

ABSTAIN: Sanchez

Reports of Committees

Ad Hoc Committee on Arts & Culture – Councilor Gourley

Administration, Finance & Property Committee – President Pro Tem Mahler

Community Health Committee – Mayor Coleman & Councilor Gourley

Library Advisory Board – President Pro Tem Mahler

Park & Tree Committee – Councilor Trask

Public & Traffic Safety Committee – Councilors Richards & Thorstad

Youth Advisory Council – Councilor Sanchez

Mayor Coleman reminded the community of the Community Health Committee meeting on September 25, 2024. She congratulated the Committee for their successful support of the annual Health Fair.

Department Director Reports

Library Services Director

- a) Library Services Director Report – August 2024

Community & Economic Development Director

- a) Community & Economic Development Director Report – August 2024

Director Larsen stated that a Work Session for the Housing Production Strategy (HPS) would be held on October 8, 2024 and that a joint public hearing would be held during the regular City Council meeting on November 12th. He noted that the Transportation System Plan (TSP) would come before the City Council and Planning Commission on November 12th at 5:00 PM.

Director Springman described improvements at the City's wastewater treatment facility. He stated that staff was preparing for the upcoming drawdown with high turbidity anticipated to begin in mid-October.

Director Dazey stated that the library would be extending operating hours beginning October 7th.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report

City Manager Pro Tem Ogden expressed his confidence in the Public Works Department's preparation for the drawdown. He expressed gratitude to Director Brown for his responsiveness regarding budgetary matters. He stated that staff was moving forward with quotes for renovations of the east wing of City Hall in order to lease to the Community Services Consortium (CSC). He noted that he applied for a grant through Linn County to upgrade the Police Department's radio system. He reminded the community of the upcoming Harvest Festival on October 5th.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Coleman stated that the City would share details regarding a public meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the drawdown once finalized. She noted that a community input survey would be distributed soon. She stated that the annual "If I Were Mayor..." contest would open soon. She noted that the meeting materials from the July Citizens Academy were available on the City website. She asked property owners to consider hosting the Community Market through the winter season. She wished everyone a happy Rosh Hashanah.

Council Business for Good of the Order

Councilor Sanchez expressed her gratitude to the Police Department, School District, and community members for their role in handling recent public safety concerns. She noted that October 15th was the last day to register to vote for the upcoming election. She recommended that voters investigate statewide measures.

Councilor Richards expressed gratitude to the Police Department for their protection of the community. He stated that he would work to improve his attendance.

Adjournment

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

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager Pro Tem – Ex Officio City Recorder