



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 14, 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

Kelcey Young, City Manager
Ryan Cummings, Police Captain
Megan Dazey, Library Services Director
Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director
Adam Leisinger, Communications Manager
Jason Ogden, Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Administrative Services Director
Robert Snyder, City Attorney
Greg Springman, Public Works Director

PRESS

Sarah Brown, New Era/Lebanon Local
Shayla Escudero, Albany Democrat-Herald

GUESTS

Patty Holk, Beautification Committee Member
Bonnie Healy, Beautification Committee Member
Phyllis Osborn-Smith, Beautification Committee Member
Candace Snyder, Beautification Committee Member
Bob Dalton, Community Health Committee Vice Chair

Consent Agenda

- a) Request for Council Action - Authorization to Sign Property Line Adjustment Application PLA 24-02

Approval of Minutes:

- a) 2024-04-22 City Council Executive Session Minutes

b) 2024-04-23 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

a) Beautification Committee Recognition

Mayor Coleman recognized attendees from the Sweet Home Beautification Committee and acknowledged their work to beautify the city. Attendees were honored with certificates and gifts.

b) Mental Health Awareness Month

Mayor Coleman read the proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month. She noted that one of the Youth Advisory Commission's greatest concerns for the community was mental health.

New Business

a) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 9 for 2024 – Updating Non-Represented Management Salary Schedules

City Manager Young highlighted the accomplishments of Director Springman as Public Works Director over the last several years and noted that he would be stepping into an interim role overseeing the water and wastewater treatment plants. She added that the City had recruited a new Public Works Director/City Engineer with the goal of enhancing engineering expertise on staff, pending City Council approval of the proposed salary range. She noted that staff reorganization would result in overall cost savings to the department.

Mayor Coleman noted the ingenuity of the reorganization resulting in cost savings for the City. The City Council thanked Director Springman for his contributions to date.

President Pro Tem Mahler moved to approve Resolution No. 9 for 2024. Councilor Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 10 for 2024 – Limiting Claims Arising from Recreational Use of Public Trails & Structures

City Manager Young noted recent concerns in Oregon regarding recreational immunity and stated that recent legislative changes to restore recreational immunity for municipalities were temporary. She added that Oregon laws allowed for smaller municipalities to opt in to recreational immunity provisions via resolution and recommended approval.

Councilor Richards moved to approved Resolution No. 10 for 2024. Councilor Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Committees

There were no reports to be heard.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report

City Manager Young stated that staff was preparing to install new stop signs as approved by City Council and would be coordinating internally to ensure communication in the community. She noted the success of the first Community Market for the seasons and thanked the vendors who participated. She highlighted that potential City Council candidates in the November 2024 election would be able to file for their candidacy in June. She noted that staff would soon launch Citizens Academy for the community to enhance civic knowledge and provide volunteering opportunities.

Mayor Coleman asked of the schedule for Citizens Academy. City Manager Young replied that it would be offered multiple times.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Coleman highlighted multiple upcoming City Council Work Sessions. She proposed cancellation of the July 23, 2024 City Council meeting; there was consensus to cancel same.

Department Director Reports

Library Services Director

- a) Library Director Report - April 2024

Community & Economic Development Director

- a) Community & Economic Development Director Report - April 2024

Police Chief

- a) Police Chief Report - April 2024

Chief Ogden highlighted that it was Law Enforcement Appreciation Week and extended his gratitude to all his staff. He noted the upcoming graduation of two officers from the Police Academy and that he had been asked to give the commencement speech.

Councilor Trask asked of street work he observed on Juniper Street. Director Springman stated that staff was doing preparatory work to reduce costs for an upcoming improvement project. City Manager Young added that additional work was planned for Ironwood and staff was developing a plan for future street improvements citywide to be shared at a later date.

Council Business for Good of the Order

Councilor Sanchez moved to schedule an Executive Session to discuss concerns with Council conduct. Councilor Thorstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Executive Session was tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2024 at 5:00 PM upon City Council consensus.

Mayor Coleman highlighted an upcoming public input session for the Willamette National Forest hosted by the U.S. Forest Service on May 15, 2024.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder