



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 10, 2021, 7:00 PM
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

WiFi Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

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.

Meeting Information

The City of Sweet Home is streaming the meeting via the Microsoft Teams platform and asks the public to consider this option. There will be opportunity for public input via the live stream. To view the meeting live, online visit <http://live.sweethomeor.gov>. If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 541-367-5128, choose option #1 and enter the meeting ID to be logged in to the call. Meeting ID:473 954 605#

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Greg Mahler
President Pro Tem Diane Gerson
Councilor Dave Trask
Councilor Lisa Gourley
Councilor Susan Coleman (7:05 PM)
Councilor Angelita Sanchez
Councilor Dylan Richards

STAFF

City Manager Ray Towry
Finance Director Brandon Neish
Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen
Administrative Services Manager Julie Fisher
City Attorney Robert Snyder
Public Works Director Greg Springman
Police Chief Jeff Lynn
Communication Specialist Lagea Mull
Engineer Technician Trish Rice

Media

Benny Wolcott, The New Era

The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of Petitions:

Lori Martin, 37675 Sunset Lane, Brownsville, spoke regarding the upcoming State Mask Mandate stating the community is opposed to the mandate and asked what Sweet Home can do. The Mayor replied the Council is working on a Resolution regarding their position on the mandate. Mayor Mahler clarified the City Council has no authority over the School District. The Mayor stated that anyone is available to come and address the Council. City Manager Towry stated that the mandates are legal and lawful, however the City does not enforce any mask mandate. Ms. Martin asked for a public meeting or town hall to share ideas. Councilor Trask reported Representative Jamie Cate and Senator Girod have said the Governor has the right to mandate masks at schools. They wrote a letter to Governor Brown asking that masks in schools be optional. Mayor Mahler stated behind the scenes actions are happening and emotions cannot dictate our decisions. City Manager Towry added the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade is the bigger picture. Councilor Sanchez encouraged the community to put pressure where it is needed at the state level.

Nancy White, 911 6th Avenue, was concerned about a code enforcement issue regarding a neighbor who has open storage of trash, disabled vehicles, and a large dumpster full of garbage. CEDD Larsen stated it is certainly an issue and the property owner is a repeat offender who gains compliance after notification, but then falls into relapse. Staff must follow process and order to avoid dismissal. He added Code Enforcement work is not quick.

Vince Adams, 809 Mountain View Road, agreed with a town meeting regarding any mask mandate. He was opposed to any homeless camp in Sweet Home. Mayor Mahler stated the Council and staff are trying to address the homelessness problem.

Raquel Buyers, Corvallis, asked what is happening regarding the mask mandate. Mayor Mahler explained the previous discussion regarding a town hall meeting and resolution that will explain the Council's stance. He stated it will be a public meeting and everyone will be welcome to come. He encouraged community voices be heard at the State Capitol.

- a) Police Department Swearing-In Ceremony
Savannah Bradd

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Councilor Coleman, Seconded by Councilor Gerson.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

- a) 2021-07-27 City Council Work Session
- b) 2021-07-27 City Council Meeting

Old Business:

- a) Police Department Traffic Data Review

Chief Lynn presented a Traffic Data Report with findings regarding traffic concerns in the downtown area. Chief Lynn reported that speed and volume of traffic will not be fixed with only enforcement. Chief Lynn presented the data collected in June from the radar signs that showed a high volume of traffic and a high percentage of traffic going at least 5 miles over the posted limit. The data also showed there was a significant decrease in speeding traffic where the road narrows. Staff has engaged with ODOT to find more ways of "traffic calming" efforts. The Police Department will use targeted education to gain more compliance, focusing on the downtown area first, then work further east. Chief Lynn will continue tracking and presenting data and keechanging.

- b) Request for Council Action - Premium Pay for Employees Working During COVID-19

City Manager Towry introduced the request to consider premium pay for staff who worked during COVID as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act relief funds.

Finance Director Neish presented the total cost from ARPA funds noting six employees do not qualify for ARPA, if Council wanted to include those six employees, those funds would come from appropriate funds.

Councilor Gourley stated City staff has gone above and beyond thru COVID and recent fire season. Motion to approve premium pay for all employees. Motion made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by President Pro Tem Gerson.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

New Business:

a) Request for Council Action - 2021 Overlay Project Contract Award

Engineer Technician Rice introduced the request for approval of contract to Knife River for the 2021 Overlay Project. The bid process was outlined and all bid totals presented to Council.

Councilor Sanchez declared a potential Conflict of Interest and abstained from voting.

Motion to Award the Contract to Knife River Motion made by Councilor Coleman, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Richards

Abstaining: Councilor Sanchez

b) Request for Council Action - 24th Avenue Land Exchange Agreement

Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen introduced the 24th Avenue Land Exchange Agreement explaining the need for improved access off 24th to accommodate development of the Quarry property for events like the Oregon Jamboree. To better develop 24th Avenue, the City has proposed a land exchange for property along 24th owned by Reliable Welding for City owned property along their the north property line. The exchange has met all requirements of Oregon law and processes.

Motion to Approve and Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Agreements and Subsequent Planning Applications. Motion made by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

c) Request for Council Action - Water Meter Modernization Authorization

Finance Director Neish presented the requests to upgrade water meters. He explained the benefits of the smart meters including a customer service benefit as the smart meters will help determine and alert staff of potential leaks early. The average lifespan of the smart meters are double the current meters. Finance Director Neish explained the cost of the change over that would include the meters and software. Funding options were discussed. Council asked how rates would be affected.

Motion made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Gourley to approve staff purchase new meters to complete the change-out project and bring an interfund loan forth at the next meeting – The City could complete this project internally, using funds provided from either the General Fund, Wastewater fund or other funding source to be repaid at the beginning of the 2023 fiscal year (July 2022). Any additional costs for interest would be determined by the Council in the interfund loan resolution to be presented during the August 24th City Council meeting.

Roll Call: Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman. Voting Nay: Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

d) Fiscal Year 2021 End-of-Year Report

Finance Director Neish presented an end of the year report for Fiscal Year 2021. Property Tax Revenue, Service Charges, Utility Revenues, Gas Taxes, Other Revenues, Personnel, and Materials and Services were all reviewed. There were no questions.

Ordinance Bills

Request for Council Action and First Reading of Ordinance Bills

None

Second Reading of Ordinance Bills

None

- a) Request for Council Action - Zone Map Amendment for Sweet Home Sanitation

Ordinance No. 6 for 2021 was read by title only.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 6 for 2021 to third and final reading made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

Roll Call: Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

Third Reading of Ordinance Bills (Roll Call Vote Required)

Reports of Committees:

Ad Hoc Committee on Health

Councilor Gourley announced the Community Health Committee will bring a proposal to the Council at the next meeting regarding a sleep center facility.

Youth Advisory Council

Councilor Gerson announced an orientation on August 26th.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor's Report

- a) If I Were Mayor Contest Winner Madalyn Coleman

Mayor Mahler congratulated our local winner Madalyn Coleman who received recognition and a prize in the State contest.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Towry announced Megan Dazey, new Library Services Director starts tomorrow. He thanked the library staff for their dedicated work during the last several months.

City staff met with Senator Merkley's staff, DEQ, Business Oregon, and USDA, to discuss barriers that rural cities navigate to access federal funds. City staff learned there are a few other programs we may be able to access.

A seven member group made of staff, committee and community members are traveling to Walla Walla, WA to study homeless solutions. They hope to learn key points to bring back and implement to comply with Federal and State mandates.

Senator Girod and Representative Cate held a special meeting with the district Fire Chiefs, and City Managers. They plan on continuing to meet on a quarterly basis.

Saturday Senator Girod and Representative Cate held a town hall at Sankey Park. There was good conversation between them and community members.

City Manager Towry reported Governor Brown announced she will be implementing COVID precautions, including wearing masks indoors in public spaces. Staff will set a town hall meeting as requested to discuss what the City can and cannot do. City Manager Towry stated it is important to remember Sweet Home first. Sweet Home has a history of stepping up

helping during tough times. City Manager Towry asked that we remember we may not like what's going on, but we need to put Sweet Home first.

Department Director's Reports (1st meeting of the Month)

Library Services Director

No Report

Community and Economic Development Director

- a) CEDD July Monthly Report (pg. 156)

A written report was included in the packet. There were no questions.

Public Works Director

- a) Public Works Monthly Report of Activities - July 2021 (pg. 161)

A written report was included in the packet. There were no questions.

City Attorney

No Report

Council Business for Good of the Order

It was discussed that City facilities will be open during normal business hours for cooling centers during the hot weather.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder