



# CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 25, 2021, 6:30 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.

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## Meeting Information

The City Council will hold a Regular City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 3225 Main Street. In order to protect residents, staff, and elected officials due to the novel COVID-19 virus, the frequency and length of public meetings, including the City Council, boards and commissions, will be minimized. Non-urgent and non-essential City business with expected public feedback will be postponed whenever possible. Individuals attending public meetings in person will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing, (6-ft.) and be free of symptoms related to COVID-19. The City of Sweet Home City Council 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 City Council meeting live, online visit [live.sweethomeor.gov](https://live.sweethomeor.gov). If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 541-367-5128 and you'll be asked to choose option #1 to be logged in to the call. **Meeting ID 226 531 982#**

The video stream and call in options are allowed under Council Rules, meet the requirements for Oregon public meeting law, and has been approved by the Mayor as Chairperson of the meeting.

Cell phones should not be used in the Council Chambers by city staff or Council during this meeting for any reason, including text messages, emails, or phone calls. If a member of the public needs to utilize their cell phone for a call, please exit the Council Chambers.

## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 PM.

## Roll Call

### PRESENT

Mayor Greg Mahler  
President Pro Tem Diane Gerson  
Councilor Dave Trask  
Councilor Lisa Gourley  
Councilor Susan Coleman  
Councilor Angelita Sanchez  
Councilor Dylan Richards

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*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.*

## STAFF

City Manager Ray Towry  
Finance Director Brandon Neish  
Public Works Director Greg Springman  
Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen  
Police Chief Jeff Lynn  
City Attorney Robert Snyder  
Communications Specialist Lagea Mull  
Administrative Assistant Julie Fisher

## MEDIA

Benny Wolcott, The New Era

### **Consent Agenda:**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Coleman.

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

### Approval of Minutes:

- a) 2021-05-11 City Council Minutes

### **Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of Petitions:**

None

### **Old Business:**

- a) Request for Council Action - Jacobs CH2M/HILL/OMI Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities Contract Amendment

City Manager Towry explained the request and gave a history of the Council decision to bring utility operations in-house. This decision resulted in the current amendment ending the contract with OMI/Jacobs on July 1, 2021. CM Towry explained the terms of Amendment #4.

Motion made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by President Pro Tem Gerson.

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

- b) Information Only - 2021 Overlay Project Status Update

Engineer Rice presented on the 2021 Overlay Project explaining Kalmia and Juniper streets were going to be moved to phase 2 allowing a fair bid process. Grape Loop and Harding will be completed in Phase 1.

- c) Discussion Only: Library Needs Assessment

City Manager Towry presented the Council with the Library Needs Assessment and the recommendation from the Library Advisory Board to accept the assessment. Next steps would be an RFP for conceptual ideas with design and cost estimates.

Discussion ensued. Consensus of the Council was to move forward.

## **New Business:**

### **a) Request for Council Action - Community Park Donations**

CEDD Larsen explained donors have come forward for park improvements to include two dog parks and fire truck playground equipment at Clover Park.

The Park and Tree Committee has discussed the donations and their recommendation was to accept the donations with the amendments of a dog park at New City Hall and Northside Park in lieu of Sankey Park to help spread amenities throughout the city. The fire truck playground was recommended Strawberry Park instead of Clover due to parking concerns. A small playground at New City Hall was proposed as well.

Motion made by Councilor Trask, Seconded by Councilor Coleman to approve the request and accept the donation and direct staff to plan, design and construct: a dog park at Northside Park, a dog park at City Hall, small playground and flower area at City Hall, and small playground at Strawberry Park.

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

### **b) Request for Council Action - Sankey Park Bandstand**

CEDD Larsen and PWD Springman reported the bandstand was constructed in 1930's but was never added to any historic registry. In 2018 a tree fell and damaged the structure. In addition to rot, the bandstand does not meet building code, is not adequate for snow load bearing, the footings are undersize, and the headers are inadequate. The Park and Tree Committee recommendation is to replace the structure with a similar sized structure using similar elements.

Patrick Rodgers spoke toward preserving the structure using volunteer labor stating the structure is a representation of our timber community.

CM Towry read comments submitted from Shawn Shaffer and Elizabeth Anderson into the record that the City should build for the future, and restoration would cost more than replacement.

CM Towry also read comments by LL (Guest) agreed, recommending a new stage that can be used for so much more, but would have elements of current design.

Motion made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Richards to remove the bandstand as recommended by the Park and Tree Committee and incorporate elements of the bandstand in the design of a new structure.

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

## **Ordinance Bills**

Request for Council Action and First Reading of Ordinance Bills

None

Second Reading of Ordinance Bills

None

### Third Reading of Ordinance Bills (Roll Call Vote Required)

- a) Ordinance No. 4 for 2021- Ordinance Bill No. 1295 - An Ordinance Amending the Official Zone Map (pg. 153)
- Ordinance Bill No. 4 for 2021 - Ordinance Bill No. 1295 i An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map was read by Title Only.
- Motion made by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Coleman to approve Ordinance Bill No. 4 for 2021 - An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map.
- Roll Call Voting Yea: Mayor Mahler, President Pro Tem Gerson, Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley, Councilor Coleman, Councilor Sanchez, Councilor Richards

### Reports of Committees:

Ad Hoc Committee on Health

Administrative and Finance/Property

Area Commission on Transportation

Chamber of Commerce

Councilor Richards reported the Chamber of Commerce is making progress towards regaining their non-profit status.

Charter Review Committee

Councilor Gerson presented the recommendation from the Charter Review Committee that no changes be made to the Charter at this time. There was discussion among the Council.

Council of Governments

Legislative Committee

Library Advisory Board

Park and Tree Committee

Solid Waste Advisory Council

Youth Advisory Council

Councilor Gerson reported several of the Youth Advisory Committee members will graduate from the Rural Development Initiative (RDI) Leadership program tomorrow night at 6pm at the Senior Center.

### Reports of City Officials:

Mayor's Report

Mayor Mahler stated a Councilor suggested a random seating arrangement. Mayor Mahler agreed it is a good team building practice. The seating arrangement of the Council will now be random.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Towry reported a guest speaker, David Rabiner, participated in our staff training. Mr. Rabiner is a motivational speaker and presented on High Functioning organizations, personality types, and how good teams have different outlooks and perspectives. Mr. Rabiner then presented at the Council training that evening. Members from the Chamber of Commerce and Sweet Home Community Foundation attended.

City Manager Towry announced a group of students will graduate tomorrow night at 6pm from a Rural Development Initiative (RDI) Leadership program. The program is part of the Ford Family Leadership training from which several of our staff are graduates.

**Department Director's Reports** (2nd meeting of the Month)

Finance Director

- a) April 2021 Monthly Report

Finance Director Neish presented the April Finance Reports. There were no questions of the Council.

Police Chief

- a) Police Department Monthly Report

Police Chief Jeff Lynn reported on the speed signs along Main Street and said the data collected will be released within a week. Chief Lynn also reported that extra policing in the 3200 block of Hwy 20 before and after school has occurred to ensure drivers are stopping for the school bus.

City Attorney

**Council Business for Good of the Order**

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder