



# CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 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 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: 226 531 982#

Mayor Mahler explained how the public can submit comments online and gave time for anyone who wished to speak to sign in.

## **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 (absent)  
Councilor Angelita Sanchez  
Councilor Dylan Richards

### **STAFF**

Finance Director Brandon Neish  
City Manager Ray Towry  
Administrative Services Manager Julie Fisher  
Public Works Director Greg Springman  
Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen  
Police Chief Jeff Lynn  
Library Services Director Megan Dazey  
City Attorney Robert Snyder

### **MEDIA**

Benny Wolcott, The New Era

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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.*

Motion made to excuse Councilor Coleman from the meeting by President Pro Tem Gerson, Seconded by Councilor Trask.

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

### **Consent Agenda:**

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

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- a) 2021-08-10 City Council Minutes

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

Several members of the public came forward to speak against the Mask Mandate. Those members were Clinton Gregg, Vanessa Beckler, Theo White, Rick Mace.

Brad King submitted online comments and was in favor of the mask mandate to protect the children. Brad Marks also submitted online comments and wanted the individual to have the right to choose.

Several members of the public came forward to speak against the Sleep Center Proposal. Those members were David Yoakum, JoshThorsted, Kimberly Tayon, Lori Martin, Clinton Gregg, Veronica Ellis, Elizabeth Windsor,

Several members of the public came forward to speak in favor of the Sleep Center Proposal. Alan Reynolds was a former victim of homelessness and stated how the Family Advocacy Center (FAC) aided him in becoming sober and finding housing. Rod King was in favor of the proposal.

Nancy Patton and Lillian Mikowski submitted neutral testimony regarding the Sleep Center Proposal.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

- a) Sweet Home Sleeping Shelter Proposal

Dr. Larry Horton and Brock Byers introduced the concept of a low barrier sleep center to provide homeless a safe place to sleep. Members from the Community Health Committee visited a similar site in Walla Walla Washington and spoke to employees of the sleep center, local emergency services, and City staff. The feedback they received regarding the Walla Walla Sleep Center was positive from all groups and statistics showed a lower call for fire and police services related to issues with the homeless population.

The Council wanted more information but did authorize the City Manager to work to negotiate a contract with Linn County for the use of their property. A work session was scheduled for September 9th. The item will return to the regular Council meeting agenda on September 14th.

- b) Proclamation of State of Emergency

City Manager introduced a draft resolution and proclamation regarding the State of Emergency due to the effects of COVID as requested by the Mayor during the August 10, 2021 City Council meeting.

Motion to move the item to a work session for edits and review made by Councilor Sanchez, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

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

Roll Call Voting Nay: Councilor Trask, Councilor Gourley

Mayor Mahler scheduled a Work Session for the first available date. The meeting was set for August 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

### **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) Request for Council Action - Ordinance No. 6 for 2021 - Ordinance No. 1298 - Zone Map Amendment.

City Manager Towry read Ordinance No. 6 for 2021 - Ordinance No. 1298 - An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map, by title only.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 6 for 2021 made by Councilor Gourley, Seconded by Councilor Richards.

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

### **Reports of Committees:**

Mayor Mahler stated there would be some changes to committee assignments. Councilor Gerson was assigned to the Chamber of Commerce, Councilor Coleman was assigned to the Legislative Committee. Mayor Mahler asked Councilor Richards to focus on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and some upcoming important issues.

Legislative Committee

Councilor Richards reported that HB 5723 has been signed and 7M has been allocated to the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

City Manager Towry added that he received an email this morning stating the funds will be distributed as a reimbursement.

### **Reports of City Officials:**

Mayor's Report

No Report

City Manager's Report

City Manager Towry announced a partnership between the Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Jamboree, and the City of Sweet Home, to bring Tune It Up Tuesday events to our downtown. Downtown businesses are staying open late and artists are being brought in for live music. The events are from 6pm - 8pm in the parking lot behind the Rio Theater.

City Manager Towry reported City staff has been working with Business Oregon, who is the Economic Development Department at the State. Yesterday staff stepped up and showed their true professionalism during a site visit. Staff performed well and handled the unexpected questions with ease. City Manager Towry read quotes from Business Oregon related to the professionalism of staff and the sophistication of city facilities.

Mayor Mahler added that he attended part of the site visit and was also impressed with staff and commended the hard work from Lagea Mull, Communication Specialist.

City Manager Towry announced that he will be out of the office Thursday and Friday.

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

Finance Director

- a) July 2021 Monthly Report

A written report was included in the packet. There were no questions of the Council. Finance Director Neish added that ARPA funds had been received and will be used towards the water main project as Council has directed. Staff is still finalizing costs to present regarding generators at the WTP and City Hall.

Police Chief

- a) Police Department Monthly Report

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

City Attorney

No Report

**Council Business for Good of the Order**

Councilor Trask voiced his displeasure with comments made by Councilor Richards during the August 10, 2021 City Council meeting. Councilor Richards rebutted that he only spoke his opinion of what he feels is being perceived by the community.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.



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Mayor

ATTEST:



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City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder