



CITY OF SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

March 26, 2024, 5:30 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.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Susan Coleman
President Pro Tem Greg Mahler
Councilor Dylan Richards
Councilor Angelita Sanchez
Councilor Josh Thorstad
Councilor Dave Trask

ABSENT

Councilor Lisa Gourley

STAFF

Kelcey Young, City Manager
Megan Dazey, Library Services Director
Levi Gideon, Engineering Technician II
Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director
Adam Leisinger, Communications Manager
Sean Morgan, Community Services Officer
Jason Ogden, Police Chief
Cecily Hope Pretty, Administrative Services Director
Greg Springman, Public Works Director

GUESTS

Frank Gallagher, Public & Traffic Safety Committee Chair
Joe Graybill, Public & Traffic Safety Committee Vice Chair
Bud Mather, Public & Traffic Safety Committee Member

Traffic Safety Workshop

City Manager Young stated that the workshop would focus on proposed stop signs and options for 1st Avenue, with the option to discuss additional traffic safety measures following staff presentations. She acknowledged the attendance of Public & Traffic Safety Committee Members and their work to develop the recommendations that would be considered during the workshop.

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.

City Manager Young presented the following stop sign recommendations of the Public & Traffic Safety Committee:

- Addition of two stop signs at Sweet Home High School to create a four-way stop
- Addition of two stop signs at Oak Heights Elementary School (Elm Street and 6th Avenue) to create a four-way stop
- Addition of one stop sign at Sweet Home Junior High (Mountain View and 22nd Avenue) to create a three-way stop
- Addition of two stop signs at Hawthorn Elementary School (Clark Mill Road and Long Street) to create a three-way stop
- Addition of two stop signs at Poplar and 54th Avenue to create a four-way stop

City Manager Young stated that the Public Works Department would perform the sign installations and add any necessary striping with existing staff in order to minimize costs.

Director Larsen noted that the addition of stop signs at Mountain View and 22nd Avenue would enhance the City's application for a Safe Routes to School grant in the future. He added that staff were looking at potential modifications to the existing delineators due to complaints.

There was consensus to bring these locations back to City Council for consideration and approval at a future meeting.

Councilor Sanchez suggested a four-way stop at Long Street and 23rd Avenue. There was consensus to bring this location to the Public & Traffic Safety Committee for consideration.

Councilor Sanchez asked of the cost and benefits of stop signs compared to speed humps. City Manager Young replied that speed humps were significantly more expensive and they posed concerns related to public safety operations.

President Pro Tem Mahler suggested a three-way stop at Long Street and Terrace Lane. There was consensus to bring this location to the Public & Traffic Safety Committee for consideration.

Mayor Coleman suggested the addition of one stop sign at Live Oak Street and 44th Avenue, a four-way stop at Airport Road and 44th Avenue, and additional stop signs at Airport and 46th Avenue or 47th Avenue. There was consensus to bring these locations to the Public & Traffic Safety Committee for consideration.

President Pro Tem Mahler requested that the Public & Traffic Safety discuss the addition of stop signs on Long Street east of Hawthorne Elementary and the addition of stop signs at Mountain View Road and Elm Street. There was consensus to bring these locations to the Public & Traffic Safety Committee for consideration.

City Manager Young stated that the stop signs discussed so far would be considered the first phase of stop sign review and would be brought back to the City Council for consideration at a future meeting following review by the Public & Traffic Safety Committee.

City Manager Young stated that staff had received a high volume of complaints related to speeding and commercial truck volume on First Avenue. She invited the Public & Traffic Safety to discuss their findings and recommendations.

Chair Gallagher stated that he was a long-time resident on First Avenue and had collected traffic data. He noted that at least 50% of the vehicles he observed were speeding at least five miles over the speed limit. He stated that large trucks utilized First Avenue as a shortcut between Highways 20 and 228. He noted that he surveyed approximately 90% of the residents and they were in favor of a partial street closure. He added that staff would place a traffic counter to gather additional data.

City Manager Young stated that the committee's recommendation was to close First Avenue at Clover Memorial Park for six months while traffic impacts could be studied. She noted that the closure would make Clover Park far more accessible to the community and visitors. She stated that she was not in favor of a permanent closure at this time until additional data could be gathered. She noted that the Fire District did not see an issue with neighborhood access if the road was closed. She added that an alternative could be to change First Avenue to a one-way street but park access would be impacted compared to a closure.

President Pro Tem Mahler suggested the addition of traffic controls on Highway 228 to reduce speeds. City Manager Young replied that Highway 228 was under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) so they would need to agree to it. Director Larsen added that it could be proposed as part of the City's next Transportation System Plan to encourage ODOT's approval.

Councilor Sanchez asked of the goal for First Avenue and whether traffic calming devices could be utilized instead of a closure or change in traffic direction. Chair Gallagher replied that the goals were to improve traffic calming and reduce commercial traffic. Councilor Sanchez expressed concern that a closure would not resolve the issue citywide but rather move the traffic issues into other residential areas.

Mayor Coleman stated that the road had previously been closed during ODOT construction and she was interested to hear any issues that occurred as a result.

City Manager Young stated that staff would prepare options for a temporary closure, one-way traffic, and traffic calming.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder