



Public & Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

October 11, 2023, 4:00 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.

Meeting Information

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Frank Gallagher
Committee Member Bud Mather
Committee Member Vince Adams

ABSENT

Committee Member Bonnie Neal
Committee Member Ryan Paul

COUNCIL

Councilor Josh Thorstad, Council Liaison

STAFF

Kelcey Young, City Manager
Jason Ogden, Police Chief

Approval of Minutes

City Manager Young stated that minutes would be reviewed at a future meeting.

No action was required. Old Business was heard at this time.

Old Business

1st Avenue

Committee Member Adams stated his opposition to closing 1st Avenue. He noted observations of heavy traffic traveling at high speeds. He expressed concern with establishing a precedent for future street closures.

Chair Gallagher stated he surveyed his neighbors on 1st Avenue and the majority were in favor of a temporary or permanent closure.

City Manager Young stated that 1st Avenue was unique due to its intent as a residential, low-volume road being used incorrectly as a connection between two highways. She expressed that the closure would redirect traffic to a more appropriate route designed for higher traffic volume. She noted that it would be

possible to establish a temporary closure followed by public input regarding permanent closures. She added that traffic studies could be performed.

Committee Member Adams expressed support for temporary solutions and investigation. He noted concerns that the closure would impact residents attempting to access other areas of Sweet Home.

Councilor Thorstad asked of the ownership of traffic counters in Sweet Home. Chief Ogden replied that they were owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation. Councilor Thorstad suggested leasing one to monitor 1st Avenue.

Committee Member Mather moved to request staff development of a plan for a temporary closure with a future recommendation to City Council. Committee Member seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Stop Sign at 15th Avenue and Long Street

City Manager Young stated that a motion had been made at the previous meeting for this item and no further action was required.

New Business

Stop Sign Placements

Committee Member Adams expressed concern with traffic patterns near Sweet Home Junior High School and recommended a three-way stop at 22nd Avenue. The committee supported improved safety around schools was a priority.

Committee Member Adams moved to request staff investigation of a three-way stop at 22nd Avenue and Mountain View with a future recommendation to City Council. Committee Member Mather seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Chief Ogden stated that he received an email from the principal of Oak Heights Elementary School regarding safe crossing concerns for students at Elm and 6th Avenue. He added that the principal requested a four-way stop at the intersection. He noted his support for the request and stated that currently, police officers were posted in the area to enforce traffic laws during high-volume times.

Committee Member Adams expressed support for the proposal. He requested additional citations and warnings from police officers in the area. Chief Ogden replied that officers were already issuing citations, particularly in school zones.

City Manager Young suggested looking at the addition of four-way stops at multiple schools to support enhanced safety district-wide. She added that staff could collaborate with the School District to present a package to City Council.

Committee Member Mather moved to request staff investigation of a four-way stop at Elm and 6th Avenue with a future recommendation to City Council. Committee Member Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Committee Member Adams moved to request staff investigation of a comprehensive school safety package to include the addition of stop signs and other traffic safety measures district-wide with a future recommendation to City Council. Committee Member Mather seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Traffic Concerns

Chair Gallagher noted concerns on 12th and 13th Avenues regarding cars crossing into the oncoming lane and recommended additional striping. Committee Member Adams expressed agreement with the recommendation.

City Manager Young stated that improvements in the area, including sidewalks, were forthcoming. She stated she would investigate the details of future plans and staff could potentially include striping in those improvements.

Chief Ogden stated that the road may be too narrow to stripe the middle of the lane. City Manager Young stated that staff would investigate and report back to the committee.

No action was required.

Good of the Order

Chair Gallagher suggested acquiring a new radar trailer. City Manager Young stated that staff would investigate their financial options to do so.

Councilor Thorstad requested traffic enforcement data that could be shared with the public monthly.

No action was required.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Chair

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder

DRAFT