

**SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

May 14, 2019

Mayor Mahler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Sweet Home Police Department. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Staff Present: City Manager Ray Towry, City Attorney Robert Snyder, Public Works Director Greg Springman, Police Chief Jeff Lynn, Library Services Director Rose Peda and Recording Secretary Julie Fisher.

Visitors Registered to Speak: Charlene Adams, Don and Marilyn Schlim, Gary Jarvis, Roger White, Sheila Kent, Chase Boyd and Bonnie Neal.

Media: Sean Morgan, The New Era and Alex Paul, Albany Democrat

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Councilor Coleman	P	Mayor Mahler	P
	Councilor Gerson	P	Councilor Nash	P
	Councilor Goble	AB	Councilor Trask	P
	Councilor Gourley	P		

**Motion to excuse Councilor Goble (Trask/Gerson). Motion passed with 6 Ayes, 0 Opposed and 1 Absent (Goble)**

**Consent Agenda:** Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted (Gerson/Coleman). Motion passed with 6 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 1 Absent (Goble).

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:  
Approval of Minutes: April 4, 2019 Special Meeting  
April 9, 2019 City Council

**Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of Petition:**

**If I Were Mayor Contest Winners:**

Payton Lindsey  
Payton Messmer

Mayor Mahler awarded both Payton Lindsey and Payton Messmer for winning the If I Were Mayor local contest. Their entries have advanced to the statewide contest.

Sheila Kent  
1874 Grape Loop  
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Sheila Kent addressed the Council on the condition of Grape Loop which she would like improved. Council directed her to meet with staff.

Youth Advisory Council

Members of the Youth Advisory Council reported of recent activities to the Council.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Public Hearing: 2019-2020 City of Sweet Home Budget**

Mayor Mahler opened the Public Hearing at 6:40pm. Mayor Mahler explained the Public Hearing Process.

Personal Bias  
Conflict of Interest  
Ex-parte Information

Mayor Mahler asked each Councilor if they had any Personal Bias, Conflict of Interest, Ex-parte Information. Diane Gerson stated she is on the Library Board.

### **Staff Report**

Finance Director Neish presented Council with an overview of the budget process and explained Internal Service Funds.

### **Question of Staff:**

Kristen Adams  
Bob Burford  
Bonnie Neal  
Darren Shultz  
Marilyn Schlim  
Trisha Van Eck  
Larry Angland

There were many members of the Public with questions regarding Internal Service Funds. The questions included process, including payroll and voucher process for the police and library, clarification on Internal Service Funds, methodology for calculating charges to the police and library, additional cuts or other options. It was clear the comments were opposed to the Internal Service Funds being charged toward the levies.

### **Testimony in Favor**

Dave Holley  
607 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Budget Committee Chairman Dave Holley, in favor of the proposal, spoke towards misconceptions regarding the Budget, specifically addressing the Internal Service Fund.

### **Testimony in Opposition**

Lois Jarvis  
Roger White  
Charlene Adams  
Gary Jarvis

Members of the Public spoke in opposition of Adoption of the 2019-2020 Budget which includes Internal Service Fund charges to the Police and Library. There was a concern from the public that the levies might not pass again as voters may feel the charges are a misuse of levied funds. It was suggested to not make the changes until the next election and add language to the ballot that notifies voters that administrative fees will be charged to the levies. It was also suggested to charge a flat percent like that of many nonprofit agencies.

### **Neutral Testimony**

Bonnie Neal  
Susan Coleman, Councilor  
Bob Burford  
Geoff Hamlin  
Unknown Person  
Brandon Neish, Finance Director  
Dave Trask, Councilor

Comments neither for nor against the matter included members of the Council, staff and members of the Public. Members of the Council and staff thanked the public for their comments and participation noting that their comments have been heard and are being considered.

Public comments suggested Council and staff address the perception of fund misappropriation and better inform the public and voters on how Internal Service Funds work. It was noted by the public the funding method was poorly presented, and during a time of increased utility rates, wage increases, and City Hall renovation, gave the public a "money trap" perception.

### **Close Public Hearing:**

### **The Public Hearing was closed at 8:10 pm**

Discussion Only: Water Rates

Finance Director Brandon Neish presented for information only annual review of the utility rates. FD Neish proposed modest increases. A Public Meeting Notice for May 28<sup>th</sup> will be published to review and potentially adopt new water rates.

Discussion Only: Storm Utility Rate Fee

Finance Director Brandon Neish introduced Storm Utility Fees noting rates have not been revised since 2006. Staff proposed a

\$2 per EDU increase, which was the increase suggested but not implemented in 2006.

**Request for Council Action and First Reading of Ordinance Bills:** None

**Second Reading:** None

**Third and Final Reading of Ordinance Bills:**

Ordinance Bill No. 1 for 2019 – City Attorney Robert Snyder read by title only Ordinance No. 1 for 2019 – Ordinance Bill No. 1274 - Sweet Home Ordinance Pertaining to Dissolution of Public Safety and Traffic Committee.

Ordinance Bill No. 1274 - Sweet Home Ordinance Pertaining to Dissolution of Public Safety and Traffic Committee.

**Motion to approve Ordinance No. 1 for 2019 – Ordinance No. 1274 - Sweet Home Ordinance Pertaining to Dissolution of Public Safety and Traffic Safety Committee. (Trask/Gerson)**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Councilor Goble</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilor Gourley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Mahler</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilor Nash</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilor Trask</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilor Coleman</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilor Gerson</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Motion passed with 6 Ayes, 0 Opposed and 1 Absent (Goble).**

**Reports of Committees:**

Administration & Finance/  
Property Committee No Report

Park & Tree Commission No Report

Youth Advisory Council Councilor Gourley reported Senator Jeff Merkley will be the keynote speaker during the YAC Leadership Summit.

Chamber of Commerce No Report

Council of Governments (COG) No Report

Area Commission on Transportation No Report

Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) No Report

Ad Hoc Committee on Health Councilor Gourley reported the Committee will meet on May 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss committee goals.

Legislative Committee

No Report

**Reports of City officials**  
Mayor's Report

The Mayor made the following Council Representative appointments:  
Administrative, Finance and Property – Goble (Chair), Trask, Mahler  
Park and Tree Committee - Trask  
Youth Advisory Council – Gourley, Mahler  
Chamber of Commerce - Coleman  
Council of Governments - Gerson  
Area Commission on Transportation - Mahler  
Solid Waste Advisory Council - Goble  
Ad Hoc Committee on Health – Gourley, Trask, Mahler  
Legislative Committee - Gerson

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ray Towry reported on the OCCMA NW City Manager's Conference he recently attended.

Department Directors Reports

Written reports were submitted by the following Departments: Library, Community and Economic Development and Public Works. There were no questions from Council.

City Attorney

No Report.

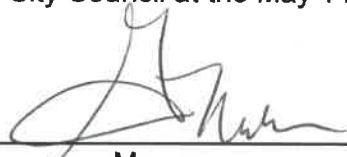
Council Business for Good of the Order:

Councilor Trask reported that Walmart will be closed for a few days due to a fire.  
Councilor Coleman stated she valued City staff and leadership.

Adjournment:

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

The foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of the City Council at the May 14, 2019 regular City Council Meeting.

 5-28-19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder