

SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2016

Mayor Gourley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Staff Present: City Manager Craig Martin, City Attorney Robert Snyder, Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque, Public Works Director Mike Adams, Officer Jason Ogden, and Recording Secretary Julie Fisher

Registered Visitors: Marty Cahill and Doug Boysen Executives of Samaritan Health, Vince Adams, Rhonda Prichard, Donna and Sam Lucontro, Monica Sanders, Kathy Horn, Wendi Melcher, Ruthanne and Ron King, Joe Graybill, Mariann Biteman, Trina Field, Marjoire Hare, Pam Barbee, Julie Dedman, Roger Williams, Kay Chenoweth, Jeri Dodge, Kyle Sullens, Heather Search, Claire Henthorne, Lori King, Janey Smith, Lori Sharp, Elenore Phillips, Travis Frick, Katrina Crabtree, Tom Hammons, Lindsey Haggens, Rachel Kittson MaQuatish, Jo Ann McQueary, Gene (unknown last name)

Media: Alex Paul, Albany Democrat Herald
Scott Swanson, The New Era

Roll Call:	Councilor Angulo	P	Councilor Mahler	P
	Councilor Goodwin	AB (Ex)	Councilor Trask	P
	Mayor Gourley	P	Councilor Underwood	P
	Councilor Hobbs	P		

The purpose of the meeting was to address concerns of the Council to Samaritan Health on the recent announcement of the closure of Wiley Creek Community and the conversion of the facility to a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. Samaritan Health cancelled those plans after receiving community input.

Mayor Gourley stated the meeting would be a positive conversation on where to go from here. Mayor Gourley addressed Marty Cahill and Doug Boysen of Samaritan Health asking for community involvement and better communication of future projects.

Councilor Trask stated he appreciated Samaritan Health attending the Council Meeting.

Councilor Mahler also commended Samaritan Health and noted the passion of the citizens and community pride. Councilor Mahler stated residents of Sweet Home are resilient and forgiving. Councilor Mahler asked from Samaritan for better communication in the future. Councilor Mahler stated he is concerned that Sweet Home is in need of a new urgent care facility and expanded physical therapy facility that would provide stroke therapy. Councilor Mahler agreed that there is a need for a drug rehab facility in Linn County and thought all of those mentioned services could be added to the property across from Wiley Creek Community. Councilor Mahler added that many investors look to relocate to Sweet Home, but we do not have the infrastructure in place that they are looking for. Councilor Mahler felt adding services to Sweet Home would be attractive to new businesses. Councilor Mahler finished by again thanking Samaritan Health for coming and added that he appreciated their change in decision.

Mayor Gourley added that having a new facility sends a big message to Sweet Home residents that Samaritan Health is willing to invest in Sweet Home.

Councilor Angulo stated she knows firsthand the need for an expanded physical care facility and the importance of patient access to those services. Councilor Angulo noted that urgent care and physical therapy services are very limited in Sweet Home.

Councilor Underwood thanked those of the public who have reached out to him during this issue. He agreed with Councilor Mahler that Sweet Home has a great need for essential services. Councilor Underwood added that he does not see the need to focus on drug and alcohol rehabilitation as great here in Sweet Home as those needs of essential services. Councilor Underwood stated Samaritan Health just put 6.9 million dollars into the Corvallis facilities.

Councilor Hobbs stated he is glad about the decision to keep Wiley Creek open and asked if there were other locations in Sweet Home available for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility.

Mr. Cahill answered that they were looking at property that Samaritan already owned and had access to, and the decision was based upon those additional costs.

Mr. Boysen stated another factor in their decision was that there are other assisted living facilities in the region, but there are only 2 very small drug and alcohol treatment centers. He added there is not an emphasis on need for drug and alcohol treatment in Sweet Home, but all three counties.

Mayor Gourley read a letter from Wiley Creek Community thanking Council and the community for the outpouring of support.

Mr. Boysen thanked everyone for attending and stated we all have a shared goal of healthier communities. He stated he has learned the passion of the community and the need for better communication. He agreed with the need for essential services.

Mr. Cahill stated he has heard the community and has heard the Council. He agreed essential services are vital and understands the necessity for services and the access to care.

Mr. Boysen apologized to Council for the poor communication stating they should have communicated better.

Councilor Trask felt communication is important. He added that people's feelings were hurt and they are passionate about what they have to say.

Mayor Gourley asked the public to submit written comments to the City Manager's office if they have suggestions to Council or Samaritan on how to move forward.

Sam Luontro stated that Samaritan Health and Sweet Home are both here to stay.

Ron King asked if there was any information that Sweet Home could provide to Samaritan Health.

