

SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2016

President Pro Tem Mahler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Jim Riggs Community Center at 880 18th Avenue, Sweet Home. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Staff Present: City Attorney Robert Snyder, Public Works Director Mike Adams, Library Services Director Rose Peda, Finance Director Pat Gray, Police Chief Jeff Lynn, and Recording Secretary Julie Fisher

Registered Visitors: Linda Ijlin, Sheila Kent, Pamela Barbee, Hank Berg, Don and Glenda Hopkins, Dennis Cook, Robert Burford, Jeani West, Mary Boyd, Rich and Charlene Adams, Tony and Donna Avila, Gary and Louis Jarvis, Theresa Brown, Vince Adams, Eva Journey, Jane Hazen, Sharon Kanareff, Tim Swanson, Lisa Gourley, Mike and Danette Speck, Cheryl Wilson, Jan Hufford, Ken Bronson, Katie Wilcox, Dick Knowles, Shawn Anderson, Dave Erickson, Cindi Pichardo, Jim Morris, Trish Rice, Mike Remesnik, Angie Helliwell, Tim and Gina Riley, Theresa Howard, Vince Adams, James Cook,

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

Roll Call:	Councilor Goble	P	Councilor Mahler	AB EX
	Councilor Goodwin	P (7:31pm)	Councilor Trask	P
	Mayor Gourley	P	Councilor Underwood	AB
	Councilor Hobbs	P		

Approval of Minutes: **Councilor Hobbs made a motion to approve the April 19, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2016 City Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes, and the May 02, 2016 City Council Special Meeting Minutes with Councilor Trask seconding. Question was called and the motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Goodwin, Mahler).**

Old Business:

New Business:

If I Were Mayor Contest

Mayor Gourley asked each Councilor to choose a finalist for the If I Were Mayor Contest from the local entries.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of Petitions

City Attorney Robert Snyder made a statement and addressed questions from a letter submitted by Hank Berg. City Attorney Snyder stated that City Manager Craig Martin and the City have entered into an Agreement and Release. That Agreement states the position of the City Council and Craig Martin on the separation of employment. The topic of direction of the city is a good one. It can be

discussed by using ideas of the public and ideas of the Council, but comparisons will not be made by the Council between what Craig Martin would or would not do. The Council and Craig Martin entered into the agreement, and both I am sure, will try their best to honor it.

City Attorney Snyder addressed a question on the City Manager position and what was happening with it stating the City has contacted the League of Oregon Cities for information about hiring a City Manager and conducting interviews. City Attorney Snyder stated the interview panel could consist of City Council, employees and citizens. The final decision would be made by City Council and that is by Charter.

City Attorney Snyder stated the City has been taking resumes for a City Manager Pro Tem and stated there will be a meeting on May 17th to conduct interviews.

The last questions addressed Union Negotiations. City Attorney stated the City has a negotiation team comprised of a City Negotiator, Finance Director and the Public Works Director all whom had been in negotiations numerous times before.

City Attorney Snyder stated that the concerns brought up during the Special Council meeting could not be addressed during that meeting due to the issue not being on the Agenda.

Mayor Gourley invited anyone who wanted to address the Council to come forward.

Theresa Brown
Riggs Hill Road
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Theresa Brown stated she was concerned that the Council did not have a plan in place prior to termination of the City Manager. Theresa Brown asked if the Council has a process for their decision to terminate, an understanding of that position, and know who is available to cover for that position before making that decision. She also was concerned that the Council has a plan and vision before hiring a City Manager so they will know their directions are the same.

Mayor Gourley replied that an interim clerk will be appointed to fill in for the City Managers duties until a Pro Tem is in place. For direction, Mayor Gourley stated the Council will have to come together to decide.

City Attorney Snyder stated he already addressed that question on direction.

Ms. Brown stated there is a perception of lack of forethought from the Council and she wanted to see a change in the way the Council communicates and the

process that led to making their decision.

Councilor Goodwin agreed that the Council needs better processes and the Council is not as organized as it should be. Councilor Goodwin stated that there is a point when the public just has to trust the Council. That each member of Council has been elected for different reasons but ultimately because the public trust them. Councilor Goodwin stated the Council has goals for the future of the City.

Theresa Brown stated that trust has to be earned and just because the Council has been elected does not mean the public will automatically trust them.

Mayor Gourley stated a few months ago the Council had a goal setting session and he felt there is another step beyond adopting those goals which is vetting those goals with the community. He suggested a community goal setting session.

Councilor Goodwin stated he feels the public is not involved until something sparks their interest. He added the Council will listen and encouraged the public to be involved at all times.

Councilor Trask stated he personally did not take the decision lightly and the Council is bound by process by the Charter.

Gary Jarvis
PO Box 284
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Mr. Jarvis spoke about lack of transparency and lack of trust. He stated the Council has not made it public who on the Council was in favor of the termination of the City Manager. He also asked for a general reason other than the vague "change of direction" and thought that would ease a lot of frustration. He stated the timing of the decision could not be worse with negotiations. Mr. Jarvis was concerned with police negotiations stating Sweet Home is one of the lowest paying cities for officers and Sweet Home is known for training new recruits who eventually leave for better paying jobs in other cities.

City Attorney stated that is where that comment should be left. Mayor Gourley asked the public who would attend by show of hands many stated they were interested. Mayor Gourley stated he would set something up for an evening at 6pm.

Jan Hufford
4106 Hwy 20
Sweet Home, OR

Jan Hufford stated any City Manager serves at the will of the Council.

Tim Swanson
450 10th Avenue
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Tim Swanson stated he is not satisfied with the answer the past is the past. He stated he is not happy with the decision of forcing the City Manager to retire early without giving any reason. Mr. Swanson stated he feels like there are collations among Council and the Council is hiding. Mr. Swanson believes the Council should be up front, honest and transparent. Tim Swanson called out the Council to stand up like men and explain themselves and let the truth be known. He stated the Council hides behind Executive Session.

City Attorney Snyder stated there is an Agreement and labor law issues and that is what the Council is going to stick with.

Jeannie West
Birch Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Jeannie West stated her understanding is that Craig Martin was not willing to go forward with the Council's direction, however the Council has stated that they have not even set goals yet, so how does the Council know if Craig would go forward with them or not? She questioned the reason for the meeting if the Council will not discuss the reason for the decision stating that is why the public came, to find out what is going on and what went on.

Mayor Gourley stated this discussion should have happened during the first meeting.

City Attorney Snyder explained it was a Special Meeting and by law the items discussed needed to be on the Agenda.

Mary Boyd
1828 Fir Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Mary Boyd stated she has been concerned about the account of why Councilor Angulo resigned and why the Council didn't have to answer for that. Now she feels again, Council is not giving answers. Mary Boyd stated she was concerned about the closed meeting that was reported by the paper between the Council and Samaritan Health.

Mayor Gourley responded that Samaritan has asked for that meeting which never happened. The meetings that Council had with Samaritan Health were all open public meetings.

Councilor Hobbs stated Samaritan is a private organization and the City cannot compel them to have public meetings. Currently Samaritan is open to public meetings.

Lois Jarvis
PO Box 284
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Lois Jarvis introduced herself and wanted to know if each individual member or the Council could reveal who voted in favor of the early retirement of the City Manager. Ms. Jarvis stated that information would be important in her voting decision at the next City Council election.

City Attorney stated the vote was not taken in Executive Session and that the final decision was made during an open forum. City Attorney stated the vote is on the record and the Agreement and Release was what was voted on.

Vince Adams
809 Mountain View Road
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Vince Adams introduced himself and stated he was concerned on two issues; one was the Craig Martin issue. He stated he understands the Council is not allowed to discuss issues where Craig Martin is concerned. The second item of concern was that of commercial vehicles in residential areas. He wanted to get on the record that he is researching the issue with the Traffic Safety Committee to stop commercial vehicles from parking in residential neighborhoods.

Councilor Goble explained the difference between Executive Sessions and regular open meetings. He directed a question to the rest of the Council asking why are we here tonight if we are not going to give some sort of answer.

City Attorney Snyder stated labor law requires the Council to not discuss the issue. City Attorney stated the public has good ideas and the Council has good ideas that they can discuss during the public goal setting session.

Councilor Hobbs asked City Attorney Snyder if the Council could discuss on how each felt about retaining or releasing Craig Martin.

City Attorney Snyder stated no. City Attorney added there was an open vote, in an open meeting, and the vote is there. That was not the issue before Council.

Jim Morris
1084 38th Avenue
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Jim Morris asked if the City has a plan or a vision. He asked what we are doing to bring business to Sweet Home.

Mayor Gourley replied that the City does have goals in place in the Strategic Plan that the entire community had been involved in.

Shawn Anderson

Shawn Anderson stated there are many ways to get the community involved and suggested the City use Facebook to announce hot topics.

Shawn Anderson stated the explanation for releasing Craig Martin has been about a difference in the Vision of Craig and the Council. Mr. Anderson asked each Councilmember what their vision is.

Councilor James Goble

Councilor James Goble stated his vision is to capitalize on recreational potential and bring in tourism and business.

Mayor James Gourley

Mayor Jim Gourley stated the City needs to stay involved in Tour Oregon, Cycle Oregon and the Forest Service Programs. He added that regional economic development helps Sweet Home. Mayor Gourley stated the importance of keeping children involved in sports and school which helps them become leaders.

Councilor Trask

Councilor Trask rejected the idea that we are a recreational community and stated we have failed miserably to bring new business to Sweet Home. He added he wants to see Sweet Home put more money into our parks, especially Sankey. His main vision is to bring business to Sweet Home.

Councilor Hobbs

Councilor Hobbs stated he believes his job is not to push his vision, but to allow business to move forward with their goals while the City provides the services they need.

Councilor Goodwin

Councilor Goodwin stated he had a 5 point vision for Sweet Home: clean, safe, prosperous, beautiful and healthy.

Lisa Gourley

Lisa Gourley announced volunteers are needed to sort 40,000 books on May 20th at the Sweet Home High School.

Request for Council Action – City
Manager Pro Tem

City Attorney Snyder introduced the Request for Council Action for selection process for City Manager Pro Tem. City Attorney Snyder's recommendation was for Council to schedule a night time Special Council meeting for May 17, 2016 to interview candidates. The Council set a meeting for May 17th at 5pm. Councilor Goodwin stated that he was interested in filling this position with current staff and suggested talking to Public Works Director Mike Adams. Council also requested any additional staff who may be interested to contact the City Attorney. The Council noted the City Manager Pro Tem would be a part time position during the recruitment of a permanent City Manager. The Council set an additional meeting for May 18th at 6pm to make their decision on an interim.

Request for Council Action – City Attorney Snyder introduced the Request for Council Action stating as per Charter, in the absence of a City Clerk of the Council Pro Tem
Clerk of the Council Pro Tem – City Attorney Snyder introduced the Request for Council Action stating as per Charter, in the absence of a City Manager and City Manager Pro Tem, the City shall appoint a Clerk of the Council. City Attorney Snyder confirmed that an employee can serve in two positions and recommended appointing Pat Gray as Clerk of the Council.

Councilor Goodwin made a motion to appoint Patricia Gray, Finance Director of the City of Sweet Home, as Clerk of the Council Pro Tem with Councilor Hobbs Seconding. With no objections, the item will move to legislation where it will be handled as Resolution No. 4 for 2016.

Request for Council Action – City Attorney Robert Snyder stated that former Planning Services Manager LaRoque prepared the Request for Council Action to negotiate and execute a contract with a Planning Director Pro Tem to provide land use planning Selection.
Planning Director Pro Tem – City Attorney Robert Snyder stated that former Planning Services Manager LaRoque prepared the Request for Council Action to negotiate and execute a contract with a Planning Director Pro Tem to provide land use planning services for the City of Sweet Home. City Attorney explained that Land Use Planning is a service required by the State. It is expected that the Land Use Planning Services Director will be as needed on a negotiated hourly rate.

Councilor Goodwin made a motion to authorize city staff to execute a professional services contract with a Planning Director Pro Tem to provide land use planning services as needed based on an hourly rate with Councilor Hobbs Seconding and the motion passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Opposed and 2 Absent (Mahler, Underwood)

Request for Council Action – Finance Director Pat Gray introduced the Request for Assisted Housing Programs
Assisted Housing Programs – Finance Director Pat Gray introduced the Request for Council Action supporting assisted housing programs as required by the City's 2013 Oregon Community Development Block Grant (OCDBG) Grant. The City is a pass through for \$400,000 in grant monies. The City will be making a \$300 donation, print a notice in the local paper, and pass a resolution to support fair housing laws.

Councilor Goodwin made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 5 for 2016 with Councilor Trask Seconding. With no objections the item was moved to Legislation where it would be handled as Resolution No. 5 for 2016.

Y.A.C

Mayor Gourley appointed Councilor Goble to the Youth Advisory Council.

Regional Boards/ Committees:

Area Commission on
Transportation (ACT)

None

COG

None

Solid Waste Advisory
Council (SWAC)

None

Ad Hoc Committee/
Community Health Care

Mayor Gourley announced a the next public meeting of the Community Health Care Committee will be held on June 13, 2016 in the City Hall Annex at 6:30pm.

Mayor's Report

None

City Manager's Report

None

Department Directors Reports:

Finance Director

Finance Director Gray reminded everyone of the Budget Committee meeting set for May 11, 2016 at 7pm in the City Hall Annex.

Library Director

Library Services Director Peda announced sign up begins on June 13, 2016 for the Summer Reading Program "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read".

Planning Services
Manager

None

Police Chief

None

Public Works

None

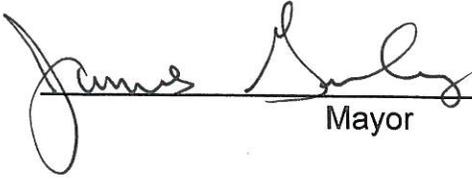
City Attorney

None

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm.

The foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of the City Council at the May 10, 2016 regular City Council Meeting.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Council Pro Tem – Ex Officio City Recorder