
CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER GOVERNING BODY

Verl Pressnall At Large, Position 1
Steve Irving At Large, Position 2
Edwin E. Chesnut At Large, Position 3

Lewis S. Key Mayor
Orrin Lyon (CL President) Ward 1
Bradley J. Humbert Ward 2
Jeff Anliker Ward 3

**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

August 14, 2017

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, August 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library, 8 SW 8th Avenue, Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

The following City Council members were present: Council President Lyon, Councilors Steve Irving, Verl Pressnall and Ed Chesnut.

Council members absent were: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Brad Humbert and Jeff Anliker.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Police Sergeant Joe Shurtz and Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman.

Citizens and Guests present were: Steven Patten, Thomas Beechinor, Austin Braendlein, Kandy Pressnall, Clive Kaiser and Wes Koklich.

Representing the news media was Sherrie Widmer of the Valley Herald.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council Minutes from July 10, 2017
- Accounts payables from July 4, 2017 through July 18, 2017
- Accounts payables from July 19, 2017 through August 7, 2017
- Resolution No. 2350, Authorizing Signature to Special Transportation Fund Service Grant Agreement Formula Grant with Umatilla County

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt the consent calendar items. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

**INFORMATION FROM OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, COLUMBIA BASIN
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER REGARDING THE FORMATION OF A NEW
EXTENSION SERVICE DISTRICT IN UMATILLA COUNTY**

Clive Kaiser, Associate Professor of the Oregon State University Extension office gave a presentation centered around the programs and services they currently provide in Umatilla County. He stated their goal was to continue to bring excellent science based solutions to build strong farms, families and food for Umatilla County. By allowing for these continued services he stated they are inviting cities to be included in the formation of a new Extension Service District, and allow the citizens to participate in the decision of whether to form and fund the new district.

Tom Beechinor, 5323 Cottonwood Road, Walla Walla – stated he has benefited from the extension office. He stated he and his wife have completed the Woodland Program and they were required to give back ninety (90) hours, which over the years they have volunteered for many

more than that. He said that twenty six (26) out of thirty six (36) counties in Oregon have this type of service districts in place and he hoped for the consideration.

Austin Braendlein, 53001 Appleton Road – stated he farmed one hundred fifty (150) acres of apples. He said he appreciates the immediate contact of Clive Kaiser of the extension office and sees him as a liaison between the County and City. He also asked for the consideration of the new district.

Councilor Lyon asked what the tax impact would be.

Mr. Kaiser stated they were proposing a tax impact of (thirty-three cents) \$0.33 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed value, which would raise approximately one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) and would fund the operations budget for the entire extension district in Umatilla County.

Councilor Lyon asked what would happen if the formation of the new district failed.

Mr. Kaiser stated then the only way for citizens to then receive the services would be to pay for them on a per encounter basis.

Councilor Chesnut asked if the proposed one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1, 500,000) was to maintain the current programs.

Mr. Kaiser stated there was talk about increasing the programs and that if Councilor Chesnut wanted more information about the budget then his regional administrator would have to answer those questions.

A discussion ensued regarding Measure 5 from 1990 and that the tax rate ceiling for local governments is set at ten dollars (\$10.00) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed Real Market Value.

Mr. Kaiser stated that some cities have asked for more information and if all cities say no, then it would revert back to the original way with the possibility of having to cut jobs.

Councilor Chesnut requested additional information on what the additional funds raised by the proposed new taxing district, Extension Service District, would be used for and what would the risk be if the new district was not formed.

Mr. Kaiser stated he would pass this additional information request onto his Regional Administrator.

UPDATE – REGARDING THE WALLA WALLA BASIN INTEGRATED FLOW ENHANCEMENT STUDY

Steven Patten, Senior Environmental Scientist with the Walla Walla Basin Watershed gave an update on the Walla Walla Basin Integrated Flow Enhancement Study Project Pairing Alternatives. He explained there were two main projects out of five that are being explored. One of the projects is a 46,000 acre or a 31,000 acre Pine Creek Reservoir and the other project is the Columbia River Pump Exchange project. A draft report will be available mid to late September with a final report being available at the end of September. Mr. Patten went into great detail about the projects and provided a written summary of each of the five projects which was provided to the councilors, staff and made available to citizens.

Councilor Irving asked if the reservoir project would have a greater benefit since it could potentially provide added recreation.

Mr. Patten stated that the reservoir could provide additional recreation.

A discussion ensued regarding the process of the Columbia River Exchange project and how it would technically work.

Councilor Pressnall asked if there would be an issue with the Confederated Tribes if the reservoir option was chosen.

Mr. Patten stated the Confederated Tribes is a partner in the process.

A discussion ensued.

The council thanked Mr. Patten for his update on the project.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE TWO NEW MOWERS FOR USE ON THE GOLF COURSE AND BALL FIELDS

Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman stated staff was proposing the purchase of two new mowers that would be used on the golf course and ball fields. One of the mowers would be a Greens Mower which would be used to manicure and stripe the greens efficiently with precise cutting and is specifically designed for use on golf courses. The other mower would be a Trim Mower which would be used to trim around tees, fronts, sand traps and other tight areas on the golf course and would also be used on the ball fields. The mowers currently in service are twenty one (21) and nineteen (19) years old. Parts are becoming obsolete and unavailable. Staff did locate used mowers similar to what they would like but they are on the East Coast, so the true condition is questionable and the shipping costs would run approximately eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) each resulting in making the purchase of used less justifiable. He stated that all the parks staff and the mechanics weighed in on the recommendation and are in agreement with the Toro brand and proposed models.

A discussion ensued.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to authorize staff to purchase one new Toro Greensmaster 3250D from Western Equipment Distributors, Incorporated in the amount of thirty three thousand eight hundred fifty two dollars (\$33,852.00) and one new Toro Groundsmaster 3500 from Western Equipment Distributors, Incorporated in the amount of thirty one thousand nine hundred thirty one dollars and fourteen cents (\$31,931.14). Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE NEW CHEVROLET TAHOE 4WD POLICE PURSUIT VEHICLE

Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman stated staff was proposing the purchase of one new 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe 4-wheel drive (4WD) Police Pursuit Vehicle. The new vehicle will replace a 1998 Chevrolet Lumina police car. He stated after consulting with Police Chief Boedigheimer and Sergeant Joe Shurtz that a full size 4WD sport utility type vehicle would best fit their needs.

A discussion ensued regarding the budgeted amount for the new police vehicle and Mr. Steadman stated after discussing this with the Finance Director and City Manager it was determined to take

the difference of four thousand twenty dollars and thirty six cents (\$4,020.36) from the Vehicle Replacement Contingency.

A discussion ensued regarding the equipment and options of the new vehicle.

Manager Hall stated that she believes the primary reason that these purchases are higher than the budgeted amounts is that the budgeted estimates were unusually low.

Mr. Steadman stated staff was proposing the purchase of one new Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Police Pursuit Vehicle from Hubbard Chevrolet in the amount of thirty four thousand twenty dollars and thirty six cents (\$34,020.36) which is thirty five hundred dollars (\$3,500) below state bid pricing.

Councilor Pressnall motioned to authorize staff to purchase one new Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Police Pursuit Vehicle from Hubbard Chevrolet in the amount of thirty four thousand twenty dollars and thirty six cents (\$34,020.36). Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

UPDATE/PROGRESS REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL GOALS ADOPTED JANUARY 9, 2017

City Manager Linda Hall stated Council has requested that she give a progress report to the council on their adopted goals every other month. She stated she gave an update at the budget meeting in April before the Budget Committee but she will be giving updates every other month as requested. She then read each goal and reported on the progress of each one.

Manager Hall reviewed the progress as complete for “Explore re-establishment of Parks and Recreation Supervisor position” as she reinstated and promoted from within the department the employee who was the current lead on that crew to the Parks and Recreation Supervisor position. She stated she felt it was working well. The supervisor has more accountability and purchasing rights within the scope of the city’s purchasing and procurement authority. She also promoted within the department the lead to a Supervisor position on the Utility Department crew.

Councilor Chesnut stated he disagreed that this goal was complete. He stated the goal may have been met by name only but his understanding of the goal was to explore the re-establishment of the Parks and Recreation Supervisor position with someone who had training and experience and knowledge in that role. He stated there has been nothing done in that there is someone with that title.

Manager Hall asked for more detail so she could understand.

Councilor Chesnut stated there has been no change to the capabilities of knowledge, training and experience in taking care of parks and recreation other than the same people with different titles. He stated he believed that was not the intent of the goal and admittedly that goal was to explore that idea. If that has been fully explored and a decision has been made that we don’t need that then he stated he was still unsatisfied. He stated he believed the goal was to explore and believed it was stated that we needed to get back to the position with training in horticulture, turf management and parks and recreation, someone with qualifications to maintain the fifty (50) to sixty (60) acres of parks that we manage. He stated the reorganization is understandable but the goal is not met.

Manager Hall stated she was hearing that Councilor Chesnut’s understanding of the goal was someone with more training and emphasis in horticulture and turf management. She stated she agreed. It’s an understandable target. She said with that position in a city our small size it can be challenging to find credentials that fit the widely diverse duties of a crew that is responsible for

not only parks and golf course, but public buildings, aquatic center, playgrounds, restroom plumbing, carpentry projects, etc.

Councilor Chesnut stated it was not the time to debate those issues. He stated he wanted his comment registered that the goal is not met. He asked the rest of the council if he was the lone voice in the understanding that the goal was looking for someone with education and experience relating to parks and recreation and whether or not a title change was adequate, which he is not in agreement with.

Councilor Pressnall stated he understood the goal as being someone who was qualified to handle the greens and turf, someone who had education in that department.

Councilor Chesnut stated he would like the goal to be reclassified as goal not met, progress being made. He stated he understood the moves that were made and he understands why but the goal has not been met in his opinion.

Manager Hall stated she realized that it is important for her to understand Council's expectations.

Councilor Chesnut suggested they should meet privately because he didn't see how they could be so far apart when it was exceedingly clear to him at the time what that goal meant.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall stated the League of Oregon Cities was looking for a designation of a voting delegate and alternate for their annual membership meeting during the League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference. She stated those members attending this year were Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Chesnut and Anliker.

Councilor Irving made a motion to elect Mayor Key as the voting delegate and Councilor Chesnut as the voting delegate alternate. Council President Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Manager Hall reported that well #6 by Morello Park went down and it has been determined to have a broken shaft. She stated there seems to be something else going on with this well as it had a broken shaft approximately four years ago. She will update council as she learns more. She reported that the Public Works building HVAC system went out. Staff has gotten estimates between eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) and twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) for a new unit. The current unit has been determined to be undersized for the size of the building it is now since the installation of the original unit was approximately twenty five (25) to thirty (30) years ago and there have been some additions to the building since then. To have an adequate sized unit for the building it will require some additional wiring. Conservation Specialist Pat Didion is researching rebate options to help with the cost.

City Recorder Leanne Steadman updated the council on recreational immunity. She stated at the last legislative session, the Senate passed Senate Bill 327 which restores Recreational Immunity. What this means is that employees, volunteers and other agents who are acting in the course of their job duties on city property are immune from tort liability. This wasn't recently the case. There was a lawsuit filed in the City of Portland where city employees were name individually in that lawsuit and they were not covered under the city liability insurance. This is good news for our employees.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Chesnut stated he attended the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance (MFDA) Board meeting and reported that David Shannon is the Board President through December 31, 2017. Rob Clark will be the new Board President beginning in 2018. MFDA was gifted the building on Broadway which is the old Decadence Building by Sam's Corner Market. MFDA is refocusing on the Main Street program and they were possibly getting another Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) student. He stated he also learned that Main Street project funding was funded by one third sponsors, one third fund raising, and one third cities.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Lewis S. Key, Mayor