
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**

December 11, 2017

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, December 11, 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: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Ed Chesnut, Verl Pressnall, Steve Irving, Brad Humbert and Orrin Lyon.

Councilor Jeff Anliker was absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman, Heavy Equipment Mechanic Ben Silva and Communication Specialist Megan Hoel.

There were no citizens or guests present.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council Minutes from November 13, 2017
- Executive Session Minutes from November 13, 2017
- Accounts payables from November 9, 2017 through November 17, 2017
- Accounts payables from November 18, 2017 through December 5, 2017

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

PRESENTATION ITEM:**RECOGNITION – DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – BEN SILVA – HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC**

Councilor Irving, on behalf of the City Council and staff, recognized Ben Silva as the December employee of the month. Ben started with the city in October of 2016, in our mechanic shop. In that time here, he has definitely worked hard to be a productive and valued member of the team. Ben has the shop sparkling clean and has brought a great deal of assistance and support to our Lead Mechanic Bryon Carson. These two are currently working on rehabbing our “new to us” CAT scraper for the landfill which is a very tough and laborious job.

Mr. Silva said thank you and he said he appreciated the help of fellow co-worker Nathan Lyon on the scraper as well.

Manager Hall said she wanted to give the rest of the council an update on a question she received from Councilor Chesnut regarding an accounts payable item. He asked what the item was from vendor Anixter, Inc. and the item description was #4 ACSR Swante Reel. The answer was that it is primary wire for the electric department. The linecrew is redoing some primary lines on North Fork Walla Walla River Road for a customer who has recently planted a vineyard and has drilled a

basaltic well. Manager Hall stated she learned while attending meetings with the Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD) that there have been thirteen basaltic well permits drawn, but to her knowledge they have not been filled or approved as of yet. OWRD was holding a meeting the same night as the council meeting and Public Works Technician Steven Patten was attending the meeting. There was also a meeting scheduled in Weston, Oregon for the next day.

Councilor Chesnut stated he attended the OWRD meeting prior to coming to the council meeting and he said his impression was that OWRD has not approved any additional wells.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

UPDATE/PROGRESS REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL 5 YEAR 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 five (5) year goals every other month. She then reviewed all the goals that have had further progress since her last update in October. Some of the goals reported on had additional comments. One of the goals is on-going succession planning for retiring staff and to evaluate departmental organizational structure. She reported that at the November 13th council meeting council approved the job description for an Electrical Groundman. An internal recruitment was posted and Troy Turner who was working in the Parks Department has accepted the position. Also at the November 13th council meeting council approved a new, full-time position in the Public Works Department who would rotate between the water, streets, parks, recreation and sewer and landfill crews. She reported staff was working from the eligibility list from the most recent recruitment process. She explained that an eligibility list is kept for eighteen to twenty-four months of those qualified applicants who have gone through all the screening and interviewing process. This position should be filled by the end of December. She reported on the goal of continuing to partner/cooperate/collaborate with Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance (MFDA)/Chamber and stated that these two agencies just recently hired new directors, Luke Hegdal for the MFDA and Jennifer Korland for the Chamber of Commerce. Manager Hall stated she plans to re-start hosting meetings between MFDA, Chamber of Commerce, Milton-Freewater Unified School District, Community Development Partnership and the City every month after the first of the year to get back to communicating and collaborating. Staff is continuing to work with Golf Pro George Gillette with the goal of implementing a point of sale program for the Golf Course that would include reports for the city and for his pro shop. The goal of exploring the possibility of placing a Parks and Recreation Local Option Tax on a future voters' ballot was discussed. Manager Hall stated she was planning to present to council at the January 2018 meeting the idea of placing a local option tax for Parks and Recreation capital asset improvements on the May 2018 ballot. She stated she will be presenting two difference options for council to consider. One being for \$100,000 which equates to \$.37 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and the other being \$125,000 which equates to \$.46 cents per \$1,000 and she would also be suggesting to go out for a five year local option tax even though local option taxes can be for up to ten years. Along with this, she will be providing a project list at the meeting. She said the list will certainly be longer that what could potentially be collected for funding. Her first priority suggestion would be improvements to the aquatic center. She stated that this will be scheduled and the meeting will be advertised for the January 8, 2018 council meeting so the public can have input on the projects as well.

There was discussion regarding the transportation local option tax and Manager Hall said she would need to crunch some numbers and see if that would still be needed in the future.

Manager Hall reported that the city was unsuccessful in obtaining a federal grant to aid in funding a School Resource Officer. She said staff would apply again next year. In keeping with the goal

of continuing commitment to increase drug/crime enforcement, staff has asked for a representative of the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team (BENT) to give an update to council at the January or February council meeting. David Shannon of the MFDA has been working on the Neighborhood Association plan for the community policing efforts. The council adopted a resolution in August of 2016 which supported this program when it was first presented to council. The last update was the elevator project for city hall. Manager Hall reported that staff had recently received an engineers updated estimate cost for the project. Staff is currently getting examples of model Request for Proposals.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall reported that staff has met with the new director of MFDA, Luke Hegdal, regarding the Neighborhood Association program. As she mentioned while presenting the update on the goals, the council adopted a resolution which supports this program. David Shannon and Luke Hegdal are working on a map that will outline the boundaries of the different neighborhoods. She reported on the request for a stop light on 10th and S. Main for the new school being built. She stated the city gave a notice of intent in September 2016 and is now being told that was not enough notice. Oregon Department of Transportation runs on a biannual budget year and the earliest it could be considered would be in the 2021 – 2024 cycle. The stop light is estimated to cost \$2,000,000. It has been suggested to install a rapid flashing beacon at that intersection instead of a stop light but that is not what the council wants or the Milton-Freewater School District. A request for a meeting with Representative Greg Smith and Senator Bill Hansell has been made to see if they can assist in the request.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Key stated that Representative Greg Smith has indicated he would be willing to meet to discuss water issues in our area as well as the stoplight for the school.

A discussion ensued regarding public records and the cost that can be assessed to try and recoup staff time and expenses to provide the records. Effective January 1st there will be greater restriction on Oregon cities in that staff has five days to acknowledge a public records request. Currently the law says, “within a reasonable amount of time”.

Councilor Pressnall asked if there could be extra police patrols on Columbia Street where the school zone is. He stated he has witnessed speeding through that area.

Manager Hall stated she would pass that onto the police department.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor