
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****January 8, 2018**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, January 8, 2018 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 Steve Irving, Brad Humbert, Orrin Lyon, Ed Chesnut and Verl Pressnall.

Councilor Jeff Anliker was absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, City Planner Laurel Sweeney, Community Development Supervisor Mike Watkins, Building Specialist Pat Didion and Emergency Communication Specialist Megan Hoel.

Citizens and Guests present were: Suni Danforth, Wes Koklich, Andrea Moore, Delores Alden, Bryan Zessin, Fara Zessin, Kathy Davis, Aaron Davis, Makenzie Zessin, Meredith Moore and Alexis Davis.

Representing the news media were Sherrie Widmer of the Valley Herald and Antonio Sierra from the East Oregonian.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council Minutes from December 11, 2017
- Accounts payables from December 6, 2017 through December 20, 2017
- Accounts payables from December 21, 2017 through January 2, 2018

City Recorder Leanne Steadman stated there was a correction needed in the minutes under the employee of the month section. It was noted that Ben Silva was the November employee of the month and it should read December employee of the month.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt the consent calendar items with the noted correction to the minutes. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ITEM:**RECOGNITION – JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – LAUREL SWEENEY –
CITY PLANNER**

Councilor Lyon, on behalf of the City Council and staff, recognized Laurel Sweeney as the January employee of the month. He relayed the nomination. Laurel joined our team as a planning assistant in November of 2015. We were amazed and very grateful to have someone with her credentials and education including a Master's Degree in Planning. And no doubt about it, Laurel has brought a great deal to our Planning and Community Development Departments. In September of last year, she was promoted to City Planner. But the reason for Laurel being nominated and honored as our Employee of the Month has way more to do with her amazing attitude, calm and

always positive, that her co-workers and boss have come to value above all. She has also endeared herself to co-workers both within and outside her home department for her willingness to jump in and help with sticky problems and intimidating projects.

PIONEER POSSE – INTRODUCTION OF THE 2018 COURT

Pioneer Posse Court Advisor Delores Alden introduced the 2018 Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse Court; Queen Makenzie Zessin and Princesses Meredith Moore and Alexis Davis. Each girl gave some background on themselves and the activities they are involved in. They thanked the council for the past community support of the court and invited them to their annual coronation potluck dinner on January 27, 2018 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Building.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES; PLANNING COMMISSION, LIBRARY BOARD, AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mayor Key reported he had reviewed the applications submitted for the various advisory committees. He suggested appointing the following citizens to the various committees as follows; to the Budget Committee – Wes Koklich for a 3 (three) year term, to the Planning Commission – Frank Millar for a 4 (four) year term and Wes Koklich for a 4 (four) year term and to the Library Board – Laurel Estes for a 4 (four) year term.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to approve the recommended appointments to the various committees as suggested by Mayor Key along with a big thank you for those who have stepped up to volunteer. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 988, AMENDING CITY CODE TITLE 8 POLICE REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 14 CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS

City Manager Linda Hall reported the police department has used a state Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) for the past 30 (thirty) years. As a user of the system we are subject to periodic audits by a LEDS Auditor of the Oregon State Police. During the most recent audit it was determined that we needed additional language in the city code in regards to conducting criminal history background checks on non-public safety employment applicants, such as individuals applying for general city employment, city business licenses, or those applying to be a volunteer for the city. The additional language is needed to stay in compliance with the LEDS requirements. There were also changes to reflect the current Oregon Revised Statute reference numbers since some of them have changed through legislation since the last update to this chapter.

Councilor Chesnut motioned that Ordinance No. 988 be introduced by title only and full reading waived. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The City Manager then read the ordinance by title. The council then introduced the first reading of Ordinance No. 988, An Ordinance Amending Title 8 – Police Regulations, Chapter 14 – Criminal History Checks.

The second reading will be held at the next council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2354, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION AND APPROVING A BALLOT TITLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING A FIVE YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX MEASURE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Manager Hall stated one of councils' adopted goals was to explore the implementation of placing a local option tax on the ballot for improvements to the parks and recreation facilities. With property taxes capped, and the city nearing tax compression on many individual properties in our

district, our revenue stream is limited. She stated she had three proposals for council to consider. One was to do nothing, one was to approve a ballot measure for \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) annually for five years and one was to approve a ballot measure for \$125,000 (one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars) annually for five years beginning in fiscal year 2019. She explained staff's list of projects far outweighed the funding source to do all the repairs needed to the city's facilities. She listed just a few of the recreational facilities as being the aquatic center, golf course, golf course club house, 52 (fifty-two) acres of parks spread out in 10 (ten) locations, skate park, tennis courts in two different parks and several ball fields. Staff drafted a preliminary list of the items in the parks and facilities that need repairs. Manager Hall read the list. She also stated that staff would be presenting the list at the next council meeting and that she would be asking the public for their input on projects as well.

Councilor Irving stated the playground equipment at the parks was out of code and needed replaced.

Councilor Humbert stated the aquatic center was costing more money to maintain and operate with the huge leak it has and thousands of gallons lost each season. He said something needs to be done to repair it.

Manager Hall stated one of the constant complaints at the aquatic center each year is that the water is so cold. She said it's hard to keep the water at a warmer temperature when you're constantly adding water to it and the heat pumps are worn out and in need of replacing.

Councilor Lyon asked if other proposed taxes were to pass if that would throw the city into tax compression.

Manager Hall stated yes it could, as we learned from Tax Assessor Paul Chalmers presentation a few months ago during a council meeting. She stated that local option taxes like the parks and recreation along with the public transportation local option tax would be the first ones to be eliminated.

Councilor Irving stated he was in favor of asking the voters what they wanted and he suggested proposing the minimum amount of \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) annually over the five year period.

A discussion ensued regarding the 5 (five) year local option tax of \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) or \$125,000 (one hundred twenty five thousand dollars) annually and the permanent tax being proposal from Oregon State University.

Wes Koklich, 2088 S. Walnut – stated the community should have a say in where they want their money to be spent and they need to decide if they want it to stay local or be spread out across the county.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2354, A Resolution Calling an Election for the Purpose of Approving a Five Year Local Option Tax Measure, Under the Authority of ORS 280.060 to Maintain and Improve Parks and Recreation Facilities for \$100,000 annually at \$.37 cents per one thousand. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Manager Hall stated if the local option tax was passed by the voters she and staff would be completely transparent and would get as much as possible completed with the funding received.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall reported she was meeting with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) officials to discuss the school crossing at 10th and South Main Street. She stated staff and council want a traffic signal at that location but the cost of that would be around \$2,000,000 (two million dollars). The last time she met with ODOT there was conversation regarding a rapid flashing beacon instead but she understands that they were patented and the patent has expired so ODOT is currently not funding any rapid flashing beacons even if they had been previously approved. ODOT has suggested "traffic calming" in that area which is a reduction of lanes from four to three lanes to slow the traffic down.

Councilor Chesnut stated South Mains sight line was like a freeway. He suggested dividing the four lanes with something to slow traffic down.

A discussion ensued.

Manager Hall stated she would pass the ideas onto ODOT but stated it was their road and jurisdiction not the city's.

Manager Hall then presented staffs proposal for taking over the recycling program since Horizon Project has given notice to the city they will no longer be providing the service effective March 1st. She stated recycling is a state mandate and a specific condition of the city's landfill permit. Without the city owned landfill, garbage would have to be transported to Arlington and it would be very expensive, causing the cost of garbage service to citizens to increase substantially. She stated staff will be presenting the program at the February 2018 council meeting so the public has a chance to comment on it. Some of the details of the new program included that there would be two separate sites to drop off specific recyclables. There would be a site off County Road and another site behind the South Fire Station located at 13 SE 9th & Mill Street. Curb side pickup would no longer be offered as it is not a requirement of the state and is too expensive. Each site would have their specific day and times they would be open and they would be manned by a city employee, which would be a new position of a 29 (twenty-nine) hour a week employee, to ensure only those items on the recycle list are being deposited. The two areas would be fenced for security. There would be some initial cost to getting set up for the program.

Councilor Chesnut said he was wondering what staff was going to do and he stated he saw one of the values of encouraging recycling was reduced garbage in the city landfill.

A discussion ensued regarding the cost of lining a landfill.

Manager Hall stated staff will be presenting the program in detail at the next council meeting.

Suni Danforth, 225 Maple Avenue – said she was dropping off some cardboard at the Horizon Project facility and there were three college students from Walla Walla dumping glass off. She asked how was that going to be controlled with Washington residents dropping off their recycling in Oregon.

Manager Hall stated staff may have to check identification if it becomes an issue.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Irving stated the operator of the Golf Course Restaurant seems to be doing well. She has put in some new equipment in the kitchen and has done some painting in the restaurant.

Councilor Chesnut stated the new president for the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance was Rob Clark.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor