
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
Jose Garcia Ward 3

**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES****July 8, 2019**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, July 8, 2019 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 Orrin Lyon, Councilors Ed Chesnut, Steve Irving, Jose Garcia and Verl Pressnall.

Mayor Lewis Key and Councilor Brad Humbert were absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall and City Recorder Leanne Steadman.

Citizens and Guests present were: Dan Kilmer, Janice Holden, Lora Zink and Ben Currin.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council Minutes from June 10, 2019
- Executive Session Minutes from June 10, 2019
- Accounts payables from June 5, 2019 through June 18, 2019
- Accounts payables from June 19, 2019 through July 2, 2019

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:**REQUEST FROM HARVEST FESTIVAL COMMITTEE FOR EXEMPTION OF CITY
CODE PROVISION WHICH PROHIBITS ALCOHOL IN CITY PARKS FOR BEER
GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Manager Hall stated the Harvest Festival Committee was requesting an exemption to City Code 8-2-19, which prohibits the consumption of alcohol in City parks in order to allow a beer garden during their festival on August 17, 2019 at Yantis Park. A similar request has been granted in the past for The Rocks Festival which was also held at Yantis Park. City staff has had no reports of incidents of over-service, fighting or any minors being involved or served.

Lora Zink, Harvest Festival Committee representative submitted a letter detailing their plans for the festival and the dedicated area for the beer garden and how it would be monitored. She was in attendance to answer questions that her letter did not already address.

Councilor Chesnut stated he has attended the festivals in the park in the past and upon review of the letter submitted by the committee, he was in favor of allowing the exemption.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to allow the Committee's request for an exemption to City Code 8-2-19, allowing them to host a beer/wine garden during specific hours of the 2019 Milton-Freewater Harvest Festival. Councilor Irving seconded the motion, the motion passed with Councilor Pressnall being the dissenting vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2398, AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND SERVICE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH UMATILLA COUNTY

City Manager Linda Hall stated the Senior and Disabled Taxi Program has been a successful program for forty-six (46) years. The service provides one-way, door-to-door, dial-a-ride taxi service to seniors sixty (60) years and older and all disabled citizens within the city limits, including a five-mile radius from city center. The Special Transportation Fund (STF) Service Grant Agreement is a biennium agreement with a total amount of \$57,821 and is through Umatilla County. The grant funds are to be used for Senior and Disabled Transportation services in both the taxi program and bus program. No matching funds are required to receive these grant dollars. Manager Hall credited City Planner Laurel Sweeney for managing these programs.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2398, Resolution Authorizing Signature to the Special Transportation Fund Services Agreement-Formula Grant with Umatilla County. Councilor Pressnall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2399, AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO ODOT GRANT NO. 33553 AND GRANT NO. 33638 FOR OPERATING FUNDS FOR THE CITY'S SENIOR & DISABLED TAXI-TICKET PROGRAM

Manager Hall stated she was requesting authorization to sign Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Operating grants for the City's Senior & Disabled Taxi-Ticket program and for the City's fixed-route bus program. There were two grants, number 33553 and 33638, both of which the funds would be used for operating both transportation programs. The funds are Federal 5310 grants that pass through the State of Oregon on a biennial basis. The total project costs for the two 5310 Operating grants is \$254,592 with funding from the pass-through totaling \$224,593 in reimbursable grant monies. She explained since the grants were reimbursable, the city pays for the expenses up front then asks for reimbursement. Staff is very timely in requesting the reimbursement, but reimbursement from the State has not always been timely coming back to the City. The City auditors have not like the fact that funds have been spent in one fiscal year and then reimbursement shows up in the next fiscal year. The Operating grant requires a match of \$29,999 which the City will use monies from the Local Option Tax revenue and also the Special Transportation Fund Grant as matching funds. Manager Hall credited City Planner Laurel Sweeney for managing these programs.

Councilor Chesnut asked if the auditors got grumpy with the State or the City.

Manager Hall replied, the City.

Councilor Pressnall motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2399, Resolution Authorizing Signature to ODOT Grant Agreement No. 33553 and 33638, two agreements between ODOT – Public Transit Division and the City of Milton-Freewater to receive reimbursable grant funds up to \$224,593. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO APPROACH THE COUNCIL WITH ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Janice Holden and Dan Kilmer both representing the Milton-Freewater Ambulance Board stated they were asking for the councils' support in establishing a new Milton-Freewater Ambulance

District. They stated they need the council's support in order to place the measure on the ballot for the voters to decide. They stated that the ambulance district was struggling with the current tax amount they are receiving. There would be three items on the ballot, one being to dissolve the current district, one being the formation of a new district and one being the dollar amount per \$1000 of assessed value to be assessed on property taxes. The current Ambulance District tax levy is \$.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which was passed in 2011, and the new proposed rate would be \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value. They passed out a hand-out of the Milton-Freewater Rural Run Report which listed their 2018 and 2019 call for service to date, monthly run totals for M-F EMS, rural area and city area broken out. They also passed out a hand-out that listed the Milton-Freewater Rural Fire Department Expense Account Listing dated June 20, 2019.

Councilor Irving asked if the levy were not to pass, where does that leave the ambulance service.

Mr. Kilmer stated there would be language in the ballot measures, if it were to fail, then it would revert back to the current taxing district in place.

Ms. Holden stated that Walla Walla Ambulance service providers were not interested in coming over to Milton-Freewater and Athena would be at least 15 minutes away. She said wages is a big factor and having to provide a paramedic 24/7 was tough to do with the funds it's receiving.

Manager Hall stated she had a lot of questions and would like to see additional information. A few of her questions included; where did the \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value come from, what are the other revenue sources, what would be the impact on the City's own tax revenues and how would this additional tax effect taxing compression limits. She stated the City has helped supplement the ambulance service by never charging for the dispatching service they receive. The City's dispatch center is funded by the tax that could be thrown into compression, and thereby reduced.

Mr. Kilmer asked if Manager Hall had factored in the \$25,000 that was donated to the dispatch center.

Manager Hall stated the \$25,000 received was specifically for an upgrade to the dispatch center console and was a one-time contribution, not to aid in the annual operation costs of the dispatch center.

Mr. Kilmer stated the proposed rate of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value would be what it would cost to run the program. He stated that all city entities didn't fall into compression rates.

Manager Hall stated the formula for compression was very complicated and the County Assessor Paul Chalmers would be the best to explain it. It would be a question for him on the affect of an increased tax levy and how that effected compression.

Councilor Chesnut asked Ms. Holden and Mr. Kilmer what their timeline was.

Ms. Holden and Mr. Kilmer stated there was a Special Session with the Umatilla County Commissioners on July 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. and another hearing on August 16, 2019.

Councilor Chesnut stated he was interested in showing support of the ambulance service. He stated the projected expenses were handed out but he would need to see the revenue side to show a real budget. He requested that they come back and keep them up to date.

Ben Currin, 1025 SE 2nd Avenue – thanked staff for all their work on the golf course, the course is in great shape he said. He stated the Golf Club has raised grant funds to help with some of the improvements that have been made along with the help of city staff. He stated the deck was a great edition and there has been compliments made to the golf pro regarding the ADA ramp making it easier to get into the building with wheelchairs. The Golf Club is working with staff on replacing the sand bunkers with grass and he said it was not going to reduce the challenge of the course. They are also working on finding the right solution to the hole on the upper nine that needs repaired with staff. He said the golf club along with working with staff has replaced some arborvitae and plan to do more in the future. He thanked the council and city manager for supporting the golf course. In closing he stated that this is the first time in sixteen years that the average number of players has gone up. He said more people are starting to play golf.

The council and staff thanked Mr. Currin for the update.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall reported the water line extension project to the North has run into some minor glitches. There has been an issue in obtaining signatures for easements. Construction may not be done now until September. The city hall elevator project was still on schedule. McCormack Construction has set up a construction trailer in the lot behind city hall and they are in the process of submitting all the required paperwork to BOLI.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Chesnut asked if the meeting schedule had been set up to meet about the golf course.

Manager Hall stated a specific date has not been set up but that Councilors Pressnall, Humbert and Chesnut would be notified.

Councilor Irving stated the farmers market was doing well and the melons were coming.

Councilor Pressnall stated he helps manage the apartments he lives in and what they are having issues with is with multi-family housing situations, people smoking marijuana and the smoke going into another apartment. He stated the State says they can post and have a no smoking rule but he said that doesn't help for those that are under contract. When people move out and then new tenants move in it could be written into their agreement. He said it was a tough situation and is concerned because there are children that could be affected.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor