
CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER GOVERNING BODY

Damien Reino At Large, Position 1
Steve Irving - Council President At Large, Position 2
Wes Koklich At Large, Position 3

Lewis S. Key Mayor
John Lyon Ward 1
Bradley J. Humbert Ward 2
Jose Garcia Ward 3

**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES****December 13, 2021**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, December 13, 2021 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 Brad Humbert, Steve Irving, Jose Garcia, Damien Reino, Wes Koklich and John Lyon.

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

Citizens and guests present were: Lynn Birdwell, Sharee LaRue, Suni Danforth, Ryan Westman, Rob Corbett, Liz Corbett, Douglas Keltner and Miss Meadow, Miss Olivia and Miss Sierra of the Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse Court.

Representing the news media was: Sheila Hagar of the Walla Walla Union Bulletin.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council Minutes from November 8, 2021
- Accounts payables from November 3, 2021 through November 15, 2021
- Accounts payables from November 16, 2021 through December 7, 2021
- Approval of Liquor License Request for lola Wines, located at 101 W. Broadway, Suite B

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

PRESENTATION ITEM:**INTRODUCTION OF THE PIONEER POSSE COURT**

Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse Court Advisor Sharee LaRue spoke about the Milton-Freewater Celebration 5-year plan. She stated it has been discussed with the City Manager along with the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance. The plan includes rodeos, parades, soccer tournaments, softball/baseball tournaments and concerts this only names a few of the events planned for the last weekend in July. More events are planned to be added each year. She then introduced the Pioneer Posse Court, Miss Meadow, Miss Olivia and Miss Sierra. The Court introduced their self and handed out the Celebration 5-year Plan to each council member.

Mayor Key presented the Pioneer Posse Court with a \$750 Community Support check to help with their travel expenses while representing Milton-Freewater.

Councilor Garcia stated he was looking forward to working with Ms. LaRue and being part of the celebration program.

MANAGERS REPORT

GOALS UPDATE

Manager Hall gave an update on the new police station building progress. She reported the design team from FFA Architecture and Interiors, Inc. was on site last week to meet with staff to go over the latest building design and layout and to get their input. The project is currently under budget and on track with a final design in the process to go out to bid in the spring of 2022. There is concern on what the impact of COVID-19 will have in regards to the building material supply chain. She stated there is a 15-foot easement on the subject property that has had to be worked around as the easement dates back to the late 1800's. She credited the Public Works and Electric Department for their knowledge which so far has saved the project approximately \$400,000. She shared carpet samples for the building and noted there were other building material samples presented by the FFA team last week but they had to take them back with them.

A discussion ensued regarding the flooring types for the new building and material warranties.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Humbert gave an update on the Milton-Freewater Water Control District which he is a board member of. He stated the District is refinancing the bond to a lower interest rate which will save the tax payers approximately \$1.4 million dollars over the life of the bond. The District is also planning to bring back the Governors representative to help with new issues going on with the channel.

Councilor Koklich asked what Manager Hall meant by saying, "it's beginning to happen". Manager Hall stated what she meant by that was that Milton-Freewater was starting to see more activity in the area directly related to the "Rocks District". There have been two new liquor license requests just in the last two months and the Foremans and Browns are working on a crush/wine production facility. They have doubled their staff in the last year. She noted exciting things are happening.

Councilor Reino stated that the clean up on NE 2nd looked amazing.

Manager Hall stated the credit was due to the police and code enforcement along with Don Jackson Excavating.

Councilor Humbert asked if the Willamette project out on the highway was still happening.

Manager Hall stated it was still in the works but they are working on finishing some of their other projects they have going on in other communities.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor