
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****October 10, 2022**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on October 10, 2022 in the Albee Room of the City Library, 8 SW 8th Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Brad Humbert, John Lyon, Wes Koklich, Damien Reino and John Lyon.

Councilor Steve Irving was absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman, Electric Superintendent Mike Watkins and Public Works Technician Steven Patten.

Guests and citizens present were: Sheila Prock, Dave Prock, Kay West, Tim Sanchez, Robin Sanchez, Paul Seaquist, Tamara Seaquist, Kenny Jenkins, Ryan Westman, Gordon Hall, Joe Loiacono, Kasia, Loiacono, Tina Reidel, Gail Beeson and Mike Beeson.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council minutes from September 12, 2022
- Accounts Payable September 8, 2022 – September 19, 2022
- Accounts Payable September 20, 2022 – October 3, 2022

Councilor Humbert motioned to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS:**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE TWO NEW PICKUP TRUCKS FOR ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT**

Electric Superintendent Mike Watkins requested to purchase two new pickup trucks for the electric department. These trucks will replace a 1994 Chevrolet 4x4 pickup and a 1994 Ford Ranger pickup. With the high demand and low stock of vehicles, staff recommended purchasing these vehicles through a local dealer, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram of Walla Walla (CDJR of Walla Walla), that has these vehicles in stock at a slightly higher price. The total difference was less than \$1,700 dollars from the other two quotes. This difference will be well made up with not having to send staff to travel and pick up the trucks from out of area. Mr. Watkins stated the two trucks were included in this fiscal year's budget.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the motor pool.

Councilor Lyon motioned to approve the purchase of Vehicle 199, one new white 2022 Dodge Ram 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4 pickup truck from CDJR of Walla Walla in the amount of \$56,028 and Vehicle 202, one new silver 2022 Dodge Ram 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4 pickup truck from CDJR of Walla Walla in the amount of \$56,728. Councilor Reino seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2499, DECLARATION OF SURPLUS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman requested that vehicle V2, 1984 GMC Dump Truck; V94, 1994 Chevrolet 4x4 pickup; and V119, 1980 Ford Fire Truck along with a plate compactor and fire hose washer be declared surplus. These vehicles and pieces of equipment have been tagged out of service or are no longer needed. Staff's intent is to recover as much funding as the market will allow.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the government auction site.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2499, Resolution Declaring Property to be Surplus as outlined on Exhibit A. Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO 2500, ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM RESPONSE PLAN

Public Works Technician Steven Patten presented the City of Milton-Freewater Community Water System Emergency Response Plan which is due to a legislative update in 2018. The US Congress updated the Safe Drinking Water Act as part of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. Since the City's water system has more than 15 connections and services more than 3,300 people it is considered a community water system. As an owner of a community water system, a Risk and Resilience Assessment is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1433. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the community water system to use the Risk and Resilience Assessment to create an Emergency Response Plan. This plan is a proactive approach in case of an emergency. The new requirements state that the risk assessment and the response plan must be reviewed and, if needed, modified once every 5 years.

Councilor Lyon motion to adopt Resolution No. 2500, Resolution adopting the City of Milton-Freewater's Community Water System Emergency Response Plan, dated September 2022. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

CONTRACT AWARD – FIBER OPTIC NETWORK EXPANSION

Public Works Technician Steven Patten shared that the city owns and operates a fiber optic network to connect various City owned buildings and infrastructure. The current fiber network connects City Hall, Public Works Shop, Wastewater Treatment Plant, both electric substations and two well houses. Some of the locations proposed for the expansion included the North Fire Station, the Community Building, Aquatic Center and the City's Radio Tower above the middle reservoir. The city just upgraded its phone system and it requires internet access to function instead of a traditional phone line. The phone system committee recommended that the city investigate extending the fiber network to all City buildings except the South Fire Station which is planned to be connected via a wireless network bridge. This would allow for phone system integration, access to network drives/files and the ability to integrate security systems such as building alarms, fire alarms, video surveillance, etc. Staff contacted four companies and only one indicated their ability to do the job and submitted a quote. Staff recommended awarding the bid to Blue Mountain Telecommunication Service, Inc.

A discussion ensued regarding the route of the fiber and that it would take approximately two to four weeks to complete once the contractor starts.

Councilor Reino asked if the new Police and Dispatch Center was included in the expansion.

Mr. Patten stated that it wasn't because, as he understood it, it was already in the construction plans to be included in the building.

Manager Hall stated it was recommended and part of the construction plans that the Police and Dispatch Center have a dual communication system because copper does fail.

Councilor Humbert disclosed that he was related to the owner of Blue Mountain Telecommunication Services, Inc. but that he has no financial gain or financial interest in the company.

Councilor Reino motioned to award contract for construction of fiber optic network expansion project to Blue Mountain Telecommunication, Inc. of Walla Walla, WA in the amount of \$61,016.38. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2501, AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO WENEHA GROUP INC. AGREEMENT FOR THE POLICE AND DISPATCH CENTER

City Manager Linda Hall reported at the September Council meeting the bid for construction of the new Police and Dispatch Center was awarded to S & K Mountain Construction. The timeline of the project will be established soon. She stated this is the largest Bond construction project that the city government of Milton-Freewater has ever taken on. With this large of a project, it is in the City's and taxpayers' best interest to have an experienced owner's representative on the job along with the architect engineer and general contractor. These services usually range up to 5% of the total cost of the project, which for this project would be around \$412,000. Weneha Group has submitted a proposal for \$198,244 which is less than half the going rate. Part of the reason why this bid is lower than the average cost of these services is that normally the owner's representative has been on board and doing the work of promoting the bond, seeing the city through the sale of the bonds if they pass, securing the procurement of a design team, overseeing the design process, analyzing the bids, and seeing the city through the bid opening and award. Manager Hall stated that staff has already done all this work, saving the city approximately \$212,000. The Weneha Group performed this service for the Milton-Freewater Unified School District when they were building Gib Olinger School and come highly recommended.

Councilor Humbert stated he was all for hiring an owner's representative and didn't recommend putting this liability on city staff.

Manager Hall stated the Weneha Group would be watching the construction side of the new building and she would be watching the financial side very closely.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the \$3,000,000 dollar grant that Manager Hall wrote and that a portion of that will be used towards this contract.

Councilor Lyon motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2501, Resolution Authorizing Signature to Professional Services Agreement with the Weneha Group Inc. for Construction Management Services for the Police and Dispatch Station Project. Councilor Reino seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

Paul Seaquist, 684 College Street – provided some follow-up from last council meeting on properties that he believed needed to be cleaned up. He named some areas and their status. He then gave Mayor Key a copy of more properties that he felt needed attention. He stated the overpass has been the responsibility of the City of Milton-Freewater and there is a contract with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), which ODOT at the time he said paid the City \$150,000 when it was put in.

Councilor Koklich stated he believed the local Jaycees group originally planted ivy along the overpass.

Mr. Seaquist stated the clean-up needed to continue.

Manager Hall stated the city has an agreement with the Umatilla County Community Corrections which she contacted and was told they were not doing the program. The program consisted of work crews being hired for the cost of \$180.00 per day.

Councilor Humbert stated he contacted them as well in his role as a board member on the Milton-Freewater Water Control District to use their services and he was also told they were no longer doing the program.

Mr. Seaquist stated he spoke to Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer and he put him through on the phone with the person in charge of the program.

Manager Hall and Councilor Humbert both stated they were unaware the program had been started back up.

Mr. Seaquist stated the homelessness problem in town needed to be addressed. He said you can't close your eyes and assume it's going to go away, there needs to be a plan.

Councilor Koklich stated that Umatilla County received up to \$1,000,000 from the State of Oregon for a homelessness camp.

Manager Hall stated that land was proposed but there was opposition from abutting property owners.

Tammy Seaquist, 684 College Street – shared her memories of Halloween. She thanked Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman and Manager Hall for looking at the hillside by her house.

Sheila Hagar, 704 College – shared that she was thankful for the returned phone calls after the last council meeting with regards to the hillside by her house. She also thanked Mr. Steadman and public works crews for placing sand bags along the curb/street across from her house. She stated the flower show at Yantis Park was very nice this year and that there needed to be more of that. She thanked Councilor Garcia for the offer for his soccer team to help. She then shared information regarding paint that helps with graffiti and stated she would like to see the city as a whole explore a proactive approach to graffiti.

Manager Hall said that the business in the old PGG Building, Black Forest Auto Repair, uses the paint that Mrs. Hager referenced.

Gail Beeson, 718 College Street – thanked Mr. Steadman for talking with them to help come up with solutions to their water problem when it rains. She suggested that the trees on the hillside across from her house be considered to be trimmed. That the trees/limbs block out all sunlight that would help vegetation grow that would help secure the hillside. She thanked everyone for their time.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Manager Hall reported the Police and Dispatch Center ground breaking ceremony was Friday, October 14, 2022 at 9:11 a.m. Speakers arranged to speak were Representative Greg Smith, Mayor Lewis Key, Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer and Police Association President Danny Lackey.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Koklich stated the graffiti in the alley by Stitch Nitch had been cleaned up. He also announced the city sponsored fall clean-up was at the end of the week.

Mr. Steadman stated it was October 14th and 15th.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor