
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

January 9, 2023

OATH OF OFFICE

At 6:45 p.m. John Lyon – City Councilor Ward 1, Steve Irving – City Councilor At Large Position #2 and Wes Koklich - City Councilor At Large Position #3, were sworn into their respective offices by City Recorder and Notary Public Leanne Steadman.

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on January 9, 2023 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 John Lyon, Wes Koklich, Damien Reino, Jose Garcia, Steve Irving and Brad Humbert.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman, Public Works Engineering Technician Steven Patten, Public Works Supervisor Matt Chesnut, Public Works Supervisor Nathan Lyon, Police Sergeant Joe Shurtz, Municipal Court Clerk Tracy Legore and Conservation Specialist Ryan Westman.

Guests and citizens present were: Jack Ferrise, Cindy Timmons, Steve Timmons, Suni Danforth, Ann Jolly, Paul Seaquist and Parks and Recreation Committee members Kate Winters, Carl Wheeler and George Gillette.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council minutes from December 12, 2022
- Accounts Payable December 6, 2022 – December 28, 2022
- Accounts Payable December 29, 2022 – January 4, 2023

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

COMMUNITY INPUT:

PARKS AND RECREATION – PRIORITIES AND GOALS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman and Public Works Engineering Technician Steven Patten presented a brief overview of the past community parks and recreation priorities which was the result of a community meeting when the citizens passed the first local option tax in May of 2018. With the passing of another 5-year local option tax, staff is seeking community input on recreation priorities to accomplish over the next 5 years. Those in attendance were given colored dots which indicated whether they lived inside or outside city limits and each dot had a dollar value which could

be placed on any proposed project which were listed on sheets of paper and taped to the walls, or they could write down a project they wanted if it was not already listed. Staff will take this information and summarize the results of the community's top priority projects.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The City's Charter requires the election of a Council President from their membership at the first council meeting of each odd-numbered year. Councilor Irving has served since January 2021.

Councilor Lyon nominated Councilor Steve Irving to be the Council President. Councilor Humbert seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations, Mayor Key closed the nominations. Councilor Lyon made a motion to elect Councilor Steve Irving as Council President. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously with Councilor Irving abstaining.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES; PLANNING COMMISSION AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Key stated he was recommending Myra Sherwin and Mary Ward be reappointed to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term and Kate Winters be reappointed to the Recreation Committee for a 4-year term.

Councilor Irving commented the appointments looked good to him.

Councilor Lyon motioned to appoint Myra Sherwin and Mary Ward to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term and Kate Winters to the Recreation Committee for a 4-year term. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

REQUEST – KIWANIS CLUB OF MILTON-FREEWATER REQUESTING AN EXEMPTION TO ALLOW ALCOHOL IN THE PARK

Kiwanis Brewfest Chairman Ryan Westman requested an exemption to City Code 8-2-19 to allow alcohol in Yantis Park for their 2nd annual Kiwanis Summer Kickoff Brewfest. He stated their first Brewfest was a success, which raised \$15,000 for the benefit of the youth in the community. The event is scheduled for May 20th from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at Yantis Park and they were once again striving for a family friendly event. He said that Kiwanis was asked to also help with the Weekend @ the Blues event schedule for July 28-29, 2023 for a similar venue. He was requesting an exemption for both the events scheduled.

Councilor Irving commented that his observation in the past were positive and he supported the exemption.

Councilor Irving motioned to allow the Milton-Freewater Kiwanis Club request for an exemption to City Code 8-2-19, allowing them to lawfully sell and consume alcohol in Yantis Park for their 2nd Annual Kiwanis Summer Kickoff Brewfest in May and Weekend @ the Blues in July of 2023. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER SAFETY OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION

Manager Hall presented a job description for a Volunteer Safety Officer with the Fire Department. This position and job description was at the recommendation of the insurance carrier which will

allow long-tenured volunteers to remain on the department to help mentor and train new firefighters.

Councilor Lyon motioned to approve the Fire Department Volunteer Safety Officer job description. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall gave an update on the new police station. She said the contractor has been struggling with mud on the work site but they are moving forward. They are scheduled to pour the concrete slab towards the end of the month. A new roof material has been selected due to the original roof selection projected shipping schedule showed delivery in December of 2023, which was not conducive to the building schedule. The original electric transformer ordered for the project was shipped to another community that suffered a catastrophic storm event but she said the replacement unit was still on the priority list and should be delivered very close to the original ship date. She commented that she is enjoying working with the project's owner representatives, general contractor and architects.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the recent vandalism on substations in other communities.

Councilor Irving stated that if you see suspicious activity say something.

Manager Hall agreed with Councilor Irving and encouraged anyone who sees suspicious activity to call the non-emergency police department phone number to report it.

Mayor Key congratulated Cindy Timmons on her new appointment as a County Commissioner with Umatilla County.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor