
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****April 10, 2023****(beginning at 6:30 p.m.)****ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING LED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

City Manager Linda Hall introduced Interim Police Chief Joe Shurtz and Detective James Farr who presented information on active shooter training to the city council, staff and audience members that were present.

(regular City Council meeting began at 7:03 p.m.)

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on April 10, 2023 in the Albee Room of the City Library, 8 SW 8th Avenue at 7:03 p.m.

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

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Interim Police Chief Joe Shurtz and Fire Chief Shane Garner.

Guests and citizens present were: Patty Key, Sheila Hagar, Tammy Seaquist, Paul Seaquist, Ryan Westman, Bill Saager, Marlene Saager and members of the Volunteer Fire Department Steven Patten, Levi Nored, Nathan Lyon, Hunter Bamford, Tandy Bamford, Crystal Daggett, Dave Hinton, Rob Aguilar, Jerrod Propeck and Travis Rakestraw.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council minutes from February 13, 2023
- Accounts Payable February 7, 2023 – February 21, 2023
- Accounts Payable February 22, 2023 – March 6, 2023
- Accounts Payable March 7, 2023 – March 20, 2023
- Accounts Payable March 21, 2023 – April 4, 2023

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

**RECOGNITION GIVEN TO BILL SAAGER FOR YEARS OF SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER**

Fire Chief Shane Garner presented Bill Saager with a plaque along with recognition for his 64 years of volunteer service on the Fire Department. Mr. Saager expressed his sincere appreciation of the plaque and recognition.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

ORAL PRESENTATION OF CITY AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

City Manager Linda Hall stated the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report also referred to as the ACFR, was an annual document that shows a true reflection of the City's financial health. She highlighted some of the facts from the ACFR for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. She stated overall the City received a clean audit. The financial statements are true and accurate. The City's financial net position reflects a healthy increase of \$953,441 mainly due to grants and increased state revenue sharing. The city has cash investments of \$20,709,407 which reflects an increase of \$9,026,763 mainly due to unspent general obligation bond proceeds for construction of the new police station. The golf course continues to struggle to stay in the black, with a loss of \$26,658. Although, in fiscal year 2021 the golf course had an operating income of \$25,172 which was mainly due to the COVID pandemic and more people being outside playing golf. Manager Hall explained that franchise fees are a huge part of the city's general fund funding source. The city controls all utilities with the exception of natural gas. City utilities pay 8% of gross revenues and without those fees it is highly likely that the city would not have police or dispatch. There were no rate increases in any utility fund last year, but she warned the council that this was not sustainable going forward. She said without giving away too much information on the next budget, it will look a little different than the current one.

Councilor Humbert commended Manager Hall and previous Finance Director Dave Richmond on changing the city's investment policy which has benefited the city greatly.

RESOLUTION NO. 2510 - TRANSFER FUNDS DUE TO UNFORESEEN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Manager Linda Hall stated during the current budget year events have occurred that were not foreseen at the time of the budget being prepared. She then summarized the transfers needed which were listed on the resolution.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2510, Resolution to make appropriations due to unforeseen expenditures and revenues. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2511 - AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO AMENDMENT NO. 1 OF THE LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR 2017 OREGON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING WITH STATE OF OREGON, THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Manager Hall presented an amendment to the Local Agency Agreement for 2017 Oregon Transportation Funding with the State of Oregon through its Department of Transportation for reason of extending the deadline for an additional year, now being August of 2024. The agreement is from House Bill 2017 which award the city \$3 million dollars for street and pedestrian improvements. Manager Hall listed some of the projects completed as being sidewalks along north Elizabeth, sidewalks and paving along SW 8th, chip sealing and improving the city's arterial street system, renovated and widened Powell Road, replaced Powell Road bridge and many other projects. The supply shortage due to the pandemic has played a part in some of these project's timelines of completion.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the College Street project which is not part of this funding source.

Councilor Reino motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2511, Resolution Authorizing Signature to Amendment No. 1 of the Local Agency Agreement for 2017 Oregon Transportation Funding. Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2512 – WITHDRAWING FROM THE WALLA WALLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Manager Hall stated that the city was mandated to join the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) after the 2010 census data was formulated. The city complied with this mandate for over 10 years paying dues and operations cost sharing. It has now been determined from the 2020 census that the Milton-Freewater area is no longer included as part of the existing multi-state Walla Walla small Urbanized Area (UZA). This was communicated through a letter to the city from the Federal Transit Administration dated March 10, 2023. Manager Hall stated that Federal Funds, \$230,000, were received through the MPO that helped fund the city hall elevator.

A brief discussion ensued.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2512, A Resolution Authorizing the Withdrawal of the City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon from the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

Paul Seaquist, 684 College – thanked Manager Hall for keeping track of what’s going on at the city and that she does an outstanding job with a few things that he disagrees with. Mr. Seaquist stated he and his wife used another five gallons of paint on the Hansen Building, Senior Center and the overpass covering up graffiti. He made the comment that it would be nice to curb the problem or catch the people doing the graffiti.

Councilor Humbert asked Mr. Seaquist if he heard back from the Umatilla County Corrections work program supervisor.

Mr. Seaquist stated he did not.

Manager Hall said she has asked Chief Shurtz to increase patrols in the hardest hit areas.

Mr. Seaquist announced there was a clean up day planned for Saturday, April 15, 2023 meeting at Freewater Square at 7:45 a.m. He stated the city was donating 30 yard drop boxes on NW 8th and North Main for the event.

Ryan Westman announced that Kiwanis Club was spearheading the painting of graffiti at Marie Dorian Park on Saturday meeting at 9:00 a.m. The city has provided the paint and volunteers need to bring their own paint brush or paint roller.

A brief discussion ensued regarding graffiti and whether or not to approach a person if they were caught in the act.

Councilor Koklich stated graffiti seems to be a growing problem, which causes other crime. He suggested contacting the state senators to encourage them to make changes.

Sheila Hagar, 704 College – offered to contact experts in community graffiti and put together a list along with their fee, possibly connect via Zoom.

Councilor Humbert, who also serves on the Milton-Freewater Water Control District Board, said that Milton-Freewater has done a good job of addressing transients. He said he personally patrols the levee to help with that as well.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Humbert announced there was a Water Control District Board meeting April 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Court Room of City Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor