
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**November 12, 2024****CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 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, Steve Irving, Damien Reino, Wes Koklich and John Lyon.

Councilor Jose Garcia was absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Chad Morris, Assistant City Manager/City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Finance Director Laurie Bubar, Police Chief Joe Shurtz, Fire Chief Shane Garner, Conservation Specialist Ryan Westman and Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon.

Guests and citizens present were: Patty Key, Kay West, Carol Irving, Emily Holden, Paul Seaquist, Tammy Seaquist, Mike Odman, Lore Azahares, Dennis Styer, Donna Styer, Ron Wolfe, Julie Wolfe, Zak Lamb, Norma Rodriguez, Kenneth Jenkins and Destiny Jensen.

Representing the news media were: Sherrie Widmer of the Valley Herald and Sheila Hagar of the East Oregonian.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council minutes from October 14, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes from October 14, 2024
- Accounts Payable October 8th – October 23, 2024
- Accounts Payable October 24th – November 4, 2024
- Liquor License application from Antonio Gonzalez for restaurant/bar located at 1004 S. Main known as Tony's Place

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

PRESENTATION ITEM:**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES – NORMA RODRIGUEZ AND ZACHARY LAMB**

Norma Rodriguez shared her reasons for wanting to serve as the youth representative on the city council which included to be an advocate for kids and youth groups in the community. Zachary Lamb shared his reasons which include to have a positive impact for the youth, to get youth active in the community.

Councilor Reino motioned to appoint Zachary Lamb and Norma Rodriguez to the city council as the youth representatives. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2552 – MAKING APPROPRIATIONS DUE TO UNFORESEEN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Manager Morris reported public works staff had budgeted for a large area mower in the FY24 budget. The mower was expected to be received by June 30, 2024. The mower was delivered in July 2024 which moved the expense to FY25. The mower expense was not included in FY25 therefore, an adjustment is necessary to stay in compliance with local budget law.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2552, Resolution Making Appropriations due to Unforeseen Revenues and Expenditures. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2553 – AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO GRANT AGREEMENT WITH OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT FOR THE MARIE DORIAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Manager Morris stated staff applied for a rehabilitation grant for Maire Dorian Park improvements with the State of Oregon through it's Parks and Recreation Department. The grant request was successful. The grant agreement is for the amount of \$77,500, with the City committing to provide \$51,750 in match funding either through cash contributions or in-kind work. The grant requires at least a 40% match based on the population of Milton-Freewater. The total project cost was estimated to be \$129,250. Improvements to the park included building upgrades, playground area with fall protection, ADA sidewalk and parking upgrades, security cameras, benches and signs.

Councilor Irving motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2553, Resolution Authorizing Signature to Local Government Grant Program Agreement No. LG24-051 – Marie Dorian Park Upgrades with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Councilor Reino seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2554 – AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES' LEGAL ADVICE PROGRAM

Manager Morris stated the LOC (League of Oregon Cities) offers a legal advice program. The program provides cities located in Regions 11 and 12, Milton-Freewater is located in Region 11, with a population of 7,500 or less, with 15 hours of free legal advice per fiscal year, under certain terms and conditions for the next two years. The program is covered by the LOC annual membership. One of the LOC's requirements were that the city attorney review the agreement which has been done with Mr. Blanc having no issues with the city participating in this program.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2554, Resolution Authorizing the City's participation in the League of Oregon Cities' Legal Advice Program Providing Limited Free Legal Advice to Oregon Cities Located in LOC's Region 11 and 12 – Eastern Oregon. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**ADOPTION – STRATEGIC GOVERNMENT RESOURCES (SGR) FINAL REPORT
FROM WORK SESSION ON STRATEGIC VISIONING**

Manager Morris stated staff contracted with SGR – Strategic Government Resources for the service of providing an elected officials retreat (work session) for strategic visioning with the goal of creating a shared vision for the future of Milton-Freewater. As part of this professional service, a community engagement event took place as an opportunity for the community to give input. The community meeting was held September 18th at the Community Building. The council work session was held on September 19th. His recommendation was for council to adopt the final report so that he has guidance during the budget process.

Councilor Irving motioned to adopt the SGR City Council Retreat Final Report. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

Sheila Hagar – 704 College Street, approached the council and stated her comments were of a private citizen. She shared stats from the last census regarding the population by race/ethnicity. She shared she was pleased to see the youth representatives reinstated. She requested that the council consider providing information in both English and Spanish to lower the barriers so people could feel more included. She referenced other cities websites and shared that they offer a button to select a different language. She asked if that was something the city could look into.

Manager Morris stated that the Library Director has applied for a grant that would translate City forms into Spanish. He also shared that he and Ms. Steadman have discussed the need of refreshing the city website for appearance and ease of use.

Ms. Steadman stated that the city website currently has a button that will change the language on the website, she did note that any document that is uploaded, i.e., city council minutes does not convert.

Lore Azahares – 910 Cowl Street, stated that Cowl Street was divided by a fence. She asked if one section of Cowl Street could be renamed, “Cowl Street Court” to help people find the addresses better and reduce the amount of traffic that find they are not in the right location. She shared her concern regarding a sound variance that was approved for October 19th for the Freewater Cider location. She stated she believed the music was extremely loud and went on way too long. She stated she called the police department and they informed her that they had an approved sound variance until 1:00 a.m.

Manager Morris stated he also got a call about 10:30 p.m. regarding this and that he intended taking a temporary change to the council in December. Currently, the variance is allowed to go that late.

Ms. Azahares next shared her concern regarding loose pets in the city. She asked what the process was for reporting.

Manager Morris stated to call the non-emergency police department phone number to report those pets at large.

Council Humbert then shared the non-emergency phone number with Ms. Azahares.

Ron Wolfe – 910 Cowl Street, also shared his concern regarding the sound variance approval and that the music was so loud it rattled the picture frames in his house. He shared a situation with his sister, which lives across the street, and that he had to help calm her down because it was affecting her physiologically. He stated that he also called the police department and was told they had an approved sound variance.

A discussion ensued regarding the sound variance/code and decibel levels.

Manager Morris stated the sound variance and code relating to sound was old, 1972-1973. He stated he believed the intent of the variance was not to be in an area that was highly populated, but more for music in a park as part of a festival.

Mr. Wolfe asked that when considering changes to the code, all new technology is taken into consideration. Next Mr. Wolfe shared his concern regarding two German Shepherds in the area of Raspberry Loop and NE 11th. He stated the yard is fenced where the two dogs are, but they keep getting out and they are not very friendly dogs. He stated his friend was just bit by one of these dogs. He asked if there was something the city could do to make the home owner provide a better fence or a way of keeping the dogs from getting out. He also wanted to know if they were licensed and vaccinated.

Dennis Styer – 910 Cowl Street, stated he was the one that got bit. He also asked what could be done to make sure the owner keeps the dogs inside the fence. He stated he reported the dog bit to the police department. The police department responded.

Councilor Humbert shared his experience of his wife being bitten in the face a few years ago. He shared Oregon State Law and the requirement for insurance for dogs.

Mr. Styer stated he didn't want the owner to lose their dogs, but they need to stay inside secured fencing.

Donna Styer – 910 Cowl Street, shared her husband stepped in front of her and he got bit otherwise it would have been her that was bitten. She also shared she would like for the property owner to be required to build something to keep the dogs in as they are not friendly. She stated her husband did report the dog bit to the police department. She said the owner of the dogs said he keeps the dogs on chains inside another enclosure inside the fence. She shared that the owner said he believed his son comes home and lets the dogs off the chains. She then shared an incident where the dogs were loose and were up on her neighbor's front porch barking and showing aggressive. She said the police have talked to the owner and that she believed the owner will abide by what the police say. She also requested to know if the dogs were licensed and vaccinated.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Morris reported SAIF, the City's Workers' Compensation Insurance provider, just completed their survey that is required every three years. Everything looked good, once the final report comes in there may be a few items that can be improved. Next, was that he and Councilor Irving attended the (LOC) League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference in Bend, Oregon. He stated it was a good conference and he attended a session on property taxes in Oregon. The last item reported on was the Elected Essentials Workshop being offered to current and newly elected council members by LOC. Region 11's workshop is being offered December 19th and 20th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in Pendleton, both nights are required and dinner will be provided. Those interested

can also attend any other workshop if a different date works better. The only other location close is Baker City scheduled in January 2025. The LOC will also be offering a virtual option for February 5th Catch-All training. Registration is required for the workshop, if interested contact Leanne Steadman.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor