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**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER GOVERNING BODY**

Destiny Jensen At Large, Position 1  
Steve Irving - Council President At Large, Position 2  
Wes Koklich At Large, Position 3

Mike Odman Mayor  
John Lyon Ward 1  
Emily Holden Ward 2  
Jose Garcia Ward 3

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**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER**

**February 10, 2025**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 2025 in the Albee Room of the City Library, 8 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Mike Odman, Councilors Emily Holden, Steve Irving, Jose Garcia, Destiny Jensen, Wes Koklich, and John Lyon.

Youth Representatives Norma Rodriguez and Zachary Lamb were present.

Staff members present were: City Manager Chad Morris, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Finance Director Laurie Bubar, Police Chief Joe Shurtz, Fire Chief Shane Garner, Library Director Lili Schmidt, Court Clerk Tracy Martinez and Conservation Specialist Ryan Westman.

Guests and citizens present were: Suni Danforth, Ann Jolly, Tami Sloan, Heather Estrada, Caty Clifton, Paul Seaquist, Tammy Seaquist, Chris Marks, Laura Prado, Arlen Calley, Cindy Boen, Kate York, Danny Sanchez and Markie McRae.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

The consent calendar item consisted of Council minutes from January 13, 2025.

Councilor Irving motioned to approve the council minutes from January 13, 2025. Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

**PRESENTATION ITEMS:**

**UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT DIRECTOR HEATHER ESTRADA**

Director Heather Estrada shared that the District was established in 1986 by the voters of Umatilla County. She stated the purpose of the district was to provide library and information services to persons within the District. The Library District retains 20% of all tax revenue received for administration costs and with those funds pays for membership to the SAGE Library system, Interlibrary Loan Courier and membership to the Oregon Digital Library Consortium/Libby. Some of the services and programs offered were listed as courier services between the libraries, Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) program, early literacy training, support and education to name a few. The District is supported by taxes collected in Umatilla County and then funds are dispersed to the participating cities by a formula. A formula was implemented three years ago that now accurately represents each library's actual service population and the funding is based on population within a zip code.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2559 – AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT AGREEMENT**

Councilor Lyon motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2559, Resolution Authorizing Signature to 2025 Agreement with Umatilla County Special Library District. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

**REQUEST FROM MILTON-FREEWATER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT FOR FUNDING TOWARDS OREGON SOLUTIONS FACILITATION SERVICES**

Tami Sloan, Milton-Freewater Water Control District (MFWCD) Board Chair shared that the MFWCD was seeking the City of Milton-Freewater's support in cost-sharing for Oregon Solutions facilitation services, which are crucial for a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Milton-Freewater Water Control District and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). This MOU is central to addressing key issues such as community safety, flood mitigation, irrigation, and fish passage as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Investigation (GI) study. The partnership aims to bring together public and private stakeholders to identify sustainable solutions that will have lasting benefits for the community. Facilitated discussions will ensure that all parties are actively engaged and that agreements are reached collaboratively to advance the GI study's objectives, including enhanced safety and infrastructure resilience. The estimated cost for Oregon Solutions facilitation services is approximately \$59,000 with an anticipated 50% reduction (\$29,500) pending a Governor's designation of the project, for which they have applied. She reported that Umatilla County Commissioners have committed \$10,000 to ensure efficient and effective collaboration between the Water Control District and CTUIR on these shared concerns.

Chris Marks and Cindy Boen also shared the importance of this collaboration and the impact of having a GI study done. They explained that there will be town hall meetings and encourage public involvement in the process to help develop the scope and express what citizens want to see, i.e. possible recreation features. Once the GI study is done, and repairs have been identified, the Corps of Engineers will partner and contribute funds to the repairs, but that the MFWCD is charged with maintaining the levee.

Ms. Sloan reported the MFWCD receives approximately \$23,000 in tax revenues with approximately \$14,000 of that going towards weed abatement. This collaboration, MOU, and the GI study will play a vital role for the MFWCD and citizens by enhancing safety and infrastructure resilience.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Walla Walla 2050 project.

Councilor Lyon motioned to contribute \$5,000 towards Oregon Solutions facilitation services for a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding between Milton-Freewater Water Control District and Confederated tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2560, AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES TO THE CITY'S BANKING AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS**

With a new Mayor, Mike Odman, effective January 13, 2025, it is necessary to change the authorized signatures on the City's banking accounts. The only change was that of the Mayor, all

other signatories listed on the proposed resolution remained the same. The change affected the banking and investment accounts.

Councilor Lyon motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2560, Resolution Authorizing Signatures to the City of Milton-Freewater Banking and Investment Accounts. Councilor Jensen seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2561, CALLING AN ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING A FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX MEASURE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ORS 280.060 TO SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE**

The City of Milton-Freewater has been providing senior and disabled transportation by way of taxi service since April 1971. The program allows patrons within city limits to purchase an unlimited number of tickets for \$1.00 a-piece. Those who are located in a 5-mile radius (from City Hall) outside of city limits, \$2.00 a ticket. This tax measure renews current local option taxes. The first year proposed assessed rate per thousand is 27 cents per thousand, down from 37 cents per thousand due to the increase in assessed property values. Staff's proposal was to levy \$100,000 annually for five years beginning in fiscal year 2026. The tax measure would be placed on the May 20, 2025 ballot.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the number of patrons that use the service, the effort of advertising the program would be increased and the total number of employees charged to the program.

Manager Morris stated he had a draft copy of an RFP (Request for Proposal) on his desk as it was time to go back out for bids for this service. He stated he may look at doing something different in the future.

Councilor Lyon motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2561, Resolution Calling an Election for the Purpose of Approving a Five-Year Local Option Tax Measure under the Authority of ORS 280.060 to Support Public Transportation Service. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

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

Tammy Seaquist shared there was graffiti all over town and asked what was being done about it. She reported the Hansen Building and the fence across the street from where Grove School used to be had graffiti.

Manager Morris said for Ms. Seaquist to report the graffiti to him and he would look into it.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Morris reported he has asked Laurie Gordon with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to attend the March council meeting, weather permitting, to present an overview of the new recycling mandates as a result of the Recycling Modernization Act. The effective date of this new requirement has been changed from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. He met with CAA, the organization that DEQ has hired to collect the funds from producers. He stated that DEQ understands that the city can't start curb side recycling until all the equipment needed is in place. The next item reported on was the aquatic center. He had a meeting with Jennifer Riley who shared with him some historical information of how the aquatic center was operated when she was the manager. He stated

his plan was to advertise, this week, for a pool manager and to recruit lifeguards and concession workers. He will be contacting the YMCA for lifeguard services only. He stated having the YMCA run the pool was not a longtime solution. School is out June 10<sup>th</sup> this year so that would be the soonest that the aquatic center could open or possibly a few days after that if training was needed.

Councilor Koklich referred to an article that was in the East Oregonian and asked what the status was of the police station.

Manager Morris stated he wanted to do an open house the middle of March for the new police station. He also wants the basement opened so people can see where the police department was located. He reported the protest, "Justice for All Immigrants" held on Sunday at 2<sup>nd</sup> & S. Main, was peaceful and resulted in approximately 30 people attending. The financial audit was received. There are no findings and copies will be available in approximately a week. There were a couple suggestions that were made by the auditor which will be addressed. Letters received from Calvin Garton and Common Sense 4 All were passed out to the council as received and instructed to pass onto other staff as well as the Mayor and City Council.

### **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Jensen asked about the water survey that staff submitted to the League of Oregon Cities survey request. She asked why it was submitted as a "security".

Manager Morris explained water resources are considered a security risk and it can also mean "quality". He said he would look at what was submitted again.

Councilor Irving reported the Friends of the Library held another successful book sale. He appreciated the Library Director's participation as well as Ryan Westman's help with the heavy lifting of moving the boxes of books.

Councilor Koklich reported that Williams was replacing a section of gas pipeline at the end of Walnut Street which involved a section that runs under the river and a section at the city boundary. He stated that he talked to them about the mud tracking onto the city street. They do have a street sweeper that they are trying to keep up with keeping the street clean.

Manager Morris stated he was aware of this as he had to sign some permits for this project.

The council adjourned to executive session at 8:15 p.m. pursuant to 192.660 (2) (d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

The council returned to open session at 9:03 p.m.

Councilor Irving stated they would leave it up to the city manager.

Councilor Holden stated no decision was made during the executive session.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

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Mike Odman, Mayor