
CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER GOVERNING BODY

Verl Pressnall At Large, Position 1
Steve Irving At Large, Position 2
Edwin E. Chesnut At Large, Position 3

Lewis S. Key Mayor
Orrin Lyon (CL President) Ward 1
Bradley J. Humbert Ward 2
Jeff Anliker Ward 3

CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 9, 2017

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, October 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library, 8 SW 8th Avenue, Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

The following City Council members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Orrin Lyon, Ed Chesnut, Verl Pressnall and Brad Humbert.

Councilors Jeff Anliker and Steve Irving were absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Library Director Erin Wells, Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman, Payroll Clerk Laurie Bubar, Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon, Library Associate Sandy Nelson, Library Associate Donna Sheridan, Lineman Rich Gannon, Heavy Equipment Mechanic Ben Silva and Utility Worker Nathan Lyon.

Citizens and Guests present were: Mary Corp, Clive Kaiser, Paul Chalmers, Kandy Pressnall, Charlee Gannon, Maximus Gannon, George Murdock, Wes Koklich, Linda Miller, Cindy Timmons, Steve Timmons, Vern Rodighiero, Tamara Reeves, Nathan Rea, James Reese, Carolyn Stone, Austin Braerdkein and Paul Seaquist.

Representing the news media were Sherrie Widmer of the Valley Herald and George Plaven of the East Oregonian.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council Minutes from September 11, 2017
- Executive Session Minutes from September 11, 2017
- Accounts payables from September 6, 2017 through September 19, 2017
- Accounts payables from September 20, 2017 through October 3, 2017
- Approval of Liquor License Request, Relative Insanity Bar and Grill located at 1004 S. Main Street (formally known as Tony's Bar & Grill)

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt the consent calendar items. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

RECOGNITION – SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – SANDY NELSON, LIBRARY ASSOCIATE

Mayor Key, on behalf of the City Council and staff, recognized Sandy Nelson as the September employee of the month. He relayed the nomination. Sandy works in our City library and has been a member of that team since September of 2006. As Library Director Erin Wells explains, Library staffers are called upon by patrons to come up with a variety of interesting and sometimes unusual information. Everything from “Hey I read a book awhile back and it had a blue cover— can you help me figure out who the author was??” ...To other requests about how to file your divorce petitions or get a death certificate. Recently, Sandy was working the desk when a lady

called the library, asking for help in finding a lost relative they believed had once lived in Milton Freewater. Sandy could have easily just said that this is not what libraries are for and politely turned the lady down, but instead, she tracked down every lead and avenue until she eventually found this person's relative. It turns out, the missing relative was one of our library patrons, and had been separated from her family as a child. Thanks to Sandy's "Go the Extra Mile" customer service, the lady called back to thank Sandy, saying "Because of you, I have my family again!" Sandy frequently goes the extra mile to assist our library patrons and we are very proud of her and the work she does at our library. Congratulations Sandy and thank you.

RECOGNITION – OCTOBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – KRISTA GANNON, PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT/PROJECT AIDE

Councilor Chesnut, on behalf of the City Council and staff, recognized Krista Gannon as the October employee of the month. He relayed the nomination. Krista has been the go-to person in the office at Public Works since June of 2000. In that time Krista has taken great pride in working on many huge and critical projects as well as taking care of daily tasks such as helping her co-workers with questions and forms and paperwork, and handling 100's of phone calls a day from customers, some of which are not so friendly. It seems no matter what the issue; Krista either has the answer or finds it. Her newest boss, Brian Steadman has told us how extremely important Krista is to the smooth operation of a very busy department and he is most grateful to have her on his team. Congratulations Krista and thank you.

OLD BUSINESS ITEM:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – FROM UMATILLA COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR, PAUL CHALMERS, REGARDING TAX COMPRESSION AND THE EFFECTS OF AN ADDITIONAL TAXING DISTRICT BEING PROPOSED BY OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, EXTENSION SERVICE DISTRICT IN UMATILLA COUNTY

At the previous council meeting there were questions that centered around tax compression. Due to the complexity of the issue it was then decided to invite Umatilla County Tax Assessor Paul Chalmers to the next meeting to give a presentation. Mr. Chalmers accepted the invitation and was present at the meeting where he gave a detailed presentation on how his department calculated assessed value and real market value of property. He used Mayor Lewis Key's property as the example to illustrate the calculations. During his presentation he stated that each property, individually, could hit tax compression. He gave the dollar amount tax limits for each taxing category of education and government, with bonds being separate from either of those two. He explained that local option taxes were also separate but they are reduced first before the other taxing districts get their share if there is compression on that tax account.

A discussion ensued regarding the possible impact to the City of Milton-Freewater if another taxing district was approved. Mr. Chalmers stated that would be hard to know due to the software they use which uses past data and not projected or future data.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2352, A RESOLUTION APPROVING UMATILLA COUNTY ORDER TO INITIATE FORMATION OF NEW UMATILLA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

Mary Corp, Regional Administrator of the Oregon State University Extension office stated there were people in the audience that wanted to speak to their experience with the local extension office.

James Reese, 53862 Hwy 332 - gave his testament of how Clive Kaiser, who is a local representative of the Oregon State University extension office, has helped him. He referred to all the knowledge Mr. Kaiser has brought back to this area from his worldly travels to Norway, New Zealand and Australia. Mr. Reese was in favor of the new taxing district.

Nathan Rea, 84894 Hood Rd. – stated he was a fourth generation farmer of Milton-Freewater. He stated he was in favor and encouraged the council to pass the resolution to allow voters to decide on the new taxing district.

Councilor Humbert said he spoke to two different sets of five individuals and asked them what the local Oregon State University (OSU) extension office has done for them. He stated they said OSU has good seed and programs. Some of them used OSU's online services but the majority said they didn't get a whole lot of use from the local office. Councilor Humbert asked Mr. Rea what OSU has done for him.

Mr. Rea stated if it wasn't for OSU and their planting of wheat plots they wouldn't know what seed would grow best in this area. He shared a story of calling Mr. Kaiser out to help identify a bug problem they encountered while doing harvest.

Councilor Humbert stated agriculture was one of the most valuable resources for the Milton-Freewater area.

Mr. Kaiser stated he wanted to be clear that his travel to other countries was funded through grants and private funding.

Wes Koklich, 2088 S. Walnut Street – asked how the extension has been operating and where does the funding come from.

Ms. Corp stated the extension has been operating for one hundred (100) years and the salary, agents and researchers funding comes from the state and federal government with the support staff and supplies being funded from Umatilla County's general fund.

Mr. Koklich asked where did the funding go.

Ms. Corp stated that the federal and state funds were declining. She said the new tax is a new funding request and it would allow for additional programs such as, youth development for 4th grade to high school, more after school programs, sewing, and creative arts.

Councilor Humbert asked if the state funding cut was a percentage or a specific dollar amount.

Ms. Corp stated the bulk of cost is staff and it would take seven percent (7%) to make them balance.

Councilor Humbert asked if the new tax was passed by the voters, would Umatilla County continue with their funding to the OSU extension program.

Ms. Corp stated she has not asked that question.

Councilor Pressnall asked if the grant funding for Mr. Kaiser's travels were government based.

Mr. Kaiser stated some of them were and some were also private.

Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock spoke about the action that the commissioners took which was approving the process to start the formation of a new special district. He stated he was the Chief Budget Officer for Umatilla County Commissioners. He said he could not allocate additional funds but he stated the funding that OSU extension was receiving would continue. He was not aware of that funding to be going away for that use.

Manager Hall asked why it had been stated in the written responses to Council questions that the Umatilla County funding would be eliminated.

Ms. Corp stated it was her assumption that funding would go away.

A discussion ensued regarding the questions Manager Hall had submitted to Ms. Corp.

Mayor Key stated he noticed in one of Ms. Corp's answers that the Oregon Wheat Commission funding was going away and he asked why that was.

Ms. Corp stated the Oregon Wheat Commission will still be paying \$.05 per bushel.

Linda Miller, 53307 W. Ballou Rd. – stated she disagreed with Council Humbert and she believed children were the most valuable resource. She spoke about the 4H program as being a valuable program in the community and part of the OSU extension as it offered many opportunities such as sewing, cooking, speaking in public, how to raise animals, proper showing of the animals to name just a few. She was in favor of the new taxing district.

Councilor Chesnut asked how many Milton-Freewater kids were enrolled in a 4-H program.

Ms. Miller stated not as many as there should be. They would like to see more volunteers and leaders.

Ms. Corp responded by saying there were nine active clubs, nine active leaders with sixty-four members signed up. There were one hundred seventy five (175) 4-H kids that showed at the Milton-Freewater Junior Show this past year.

Vern Rodighiero, 83903 N. Main – gave testament on his experience with the OSU local extension service and stated he was in favor of allowing the voters to decide if they want a new taxing district and encouraged the council to pass the resolution to let them do so.

Councilor Humbert said he believed it would be fair to let the voters decide if they want a new taxing district. He asked for Councilor Lyon's opinion.

Councilor Lyon said he felt it would be the right thing to do by letting the voters decide for themselves.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2352, A Resolution Approving Umatilla County Order to Initiate Formation of a New Umatilla County Extension Service Special Taxing District. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2353, DECLARING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT SURPLUS

Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman presented a list of vehicles and equipment staff was proposing to be deemed surplus. He stated the plan was to garner as much revenue from the surplus items as possible by advertising and accepting bids.

Councilor Humbert motioned to Adopt Resolution No. 2353, A Resolution Declaring Property to be Surplus as outline on "Exhibit A". Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE – 1991 CAT 623E FOR USE AT THE LANDFILL

Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman stated the current 1979 John Deere Landfill scraper has experience engine failure. This scraper was purchased in 2007 for thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) and is fully depreciated. The current landfill cell #5 has not been fully excavated with approximately twenty eight thousand (28,000) cubic yards that currently needs to be excavated. He stated staff explored the possibility of renting a scraper and received a quote of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per hour and a quote of eight dollars \$8.00 per cubic yard for contracting the excavation, with both of these options being too costly. Staff has searched the west coast and believe they have found a good replacement, which is a 1991 CAT 623E in Apple Valley, California for twenty seven thousand dollars (\$27,000). It's reported as having sixty five hundred (6,500) hours on it which is low hours for one of this age. It also has a higher haul capacity of twenty three (23) cubic yards whereas the current scraper only hauled fifteen (15) cubic yards. Staff also sought several shipping quotes with the lowest being Redmond Heavy Haul from Portland, Oregon for the amount of five thousand nine hundred ninety five dollars (\$5,995).

Councilor Humbert stated he believed Mr. Steadman did his research well. He said he wouldn't be surprised if the mechanic inspection came back with some issues and there might be some repairs that are needed due to its age.

Manager Hall asked what the cost would be to dig a full cell.

Mr. Steadman stated it could run up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) easily.

Councilor Lyon said it would be a benefit too that it has the capacity to haul more.

Councilor Humbert motioned to authorize staff to purchase the 1991 CAT 623E from Long Construction of Apple Valley, California in the amount of \$27,000, contingent upon the inspection by the CAT Certified Mechanic coming back satisfactory. Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Councilor Humbert motioned to authorize staff to approve the shipping of the equipment by Redmond Heavy Haul out of Portland, Oregon from Apple Valley, CA to Milton-Freewater, OR in the amount of \$5,995. Councilor Pressnall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

**UPDATE/PROGRESS REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL 5 YEAR GOALS ADOPTED
JANUARY 9, 2017**

City Manager Linda Hall stated Council has requested that she give a progress report to the Council on their adopted five (5) year goals every other month. She then reviewed all the goals that have had further progress since her last update in August. One of the goals is on-going succession planning for retiring staff and to evaluate departmental organizational structure. She stated she was currently studying the feasibility of adding a floater position for the Public Works crews. This position would be a new, full-time position, and would rotate between the water, streets, parks, recreation and sewer and landfill crews. She said she would bring back to council the position description, title and salary scale for approval at a future meeting.

Councilor Humbert motioned to allow the City Manager to proceed with the Public Works floater position and bring back at a later date the job description and salary scale. Councilor Pressnall seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

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

Carolyn Stone, 910 S. Mill Street – reported speeding on Mill Street and people running stop signs on the corner of 9th and Mill Street. She said she was new to the area and suggested speed bumps for that area.

Mayor Key said he has seen in other towns a raised area to the roadway in the intersections but not necessarily speed bumps that make cars slow down.

Manager Hall thanked Ms. Stone for reporting the speeding and stated she will pass the concern onto the police department where they can do extra patrols in that area.

Councilor Chesnut describe a speed bump he saw that was being used in Europe.

Councilor Lyon said Manager Hall could add N. Elizabeth to the report of speeding to the police department.

Manager Hall replied she would.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall reported she has reviewed the grant application for the extended water infrastructure to Locust Mobile Village and there is some question regarding the size of water main. Staff and council required twelve (12) inch and the grant application shows eight (8) inch. She said she would keep council updated.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Chesnut said he got the sign put up in the parking lot across from the Community Building, a project he said he has worked on for over a year. He reviewed his League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Annual Conference trip and said one of the seminars he attended was on Leadership Across the Generation. He stated he picked up a book from the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) that he will share after he is done reviewing it and he reported that one of the items is that the City Manager of John Day is lobbying the Oregon Legislature for Dynamic Boundaries for Urban Renewal Agencies.

Mayor Key reviewed his LOC Annual Conference trip and said one of the seminars he attended had to do with making more connections with Spanish people before the next U.S. Census. Some other seminars he attended were earthquake preparedness where he learned you should have at least three days' worth of everything you would need in the event and having workplace kits for employees. He stated that October 19, 2017 was the great shake-up and on that day you're supposed to practice for an earthquake event.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.



Lewis S. Key, Mayor