



City News

Summer 2014

City of Milton-Freewater – PO Box 6 – 722 S. Main, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 – www.mfcity.com

NEW BUDGET YEAR

By: City Manager Linda Hall

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

For the local government at the City of Milton-Freewater, the “new year” begins in July, not January! This is because our “budget year” begins in July, not January. We run on a fiscal year not a calendar year, so our accounting and budgetary processes run July 1st through June 30th.

I have tagged this budget year, FY 2015, to be “THE YEAR OF THE UNKNOWN”. To a certain extent, every year holds a lot of unknowns for us that we do our best to anticipate—the same with you and your personal household budget. Even though we all do our best to anticipate what will cost us money and what we will earn, we can never know for sure. Cars break down suddenly, jobs are lost, or a child needs braces.

At the City, it's no different, except the unknowns usually come on a slightly larger scale. This year, instead of our “usual” unknowns such as insurance rates, weather patterns (which affect utility costs and sales), and equipment failures, we have had some additional “unknowns” that have never happened to our city before.

For example: Our Electric Utility, which is the oldest municipal electric utility in the State of Oregon, is one of the original developers and interest holders in the Priest Rapids and Wanapum Hydro Dams on the Columbia River. Our City committed to assisting in the original funding of the construction of both these dams in 1956 and 1959, respectively, and began getting a share of this inexpensive and safe source of electricity in 1959 and 1963, respectively. This is a primary reason why we have been able to keep our electric utility rates so very low. For example, our electric rates are approximately half the cost of one of our neighboring utilities—Pacific Power!

This past winter, however, we learned that there had been a large structural crack discovered in one of the spillways of the Wanapum Dam. This was an example of one of those “unknowns” that we did not anticipate! The repairs on this Dam are estimated to run into the \$61 million range! Our city will have a share of the cost of these repairs. It will be a small share, but still, it will definitely have an impact on our budget.

Another example of a circumstance that our City has never before faced is the retirement of our Urban Renewal Agency taxing authority. For 27 years our City has benefitted from a special taxing district within the City that reaped a portion of the total taxes to be dedicated toward economic development and support for our businesses. This will no longer exist. This has an impact on the budget as we will have to either find other funding sources for these important activities or cut them from the budget permanently.

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Photos from Grant PUD.com

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LOCAL CITIZENS APPROVE LOCAL OPTION TAX

Message from City Manager Linda Hall & Human Resource Officer Teresa Dutcher

CITIZENS, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! Thank you for approving our local option tax on Tuesday, May 20th for the purpose of supporting the City's two Public Transportation programs. These programs provide nearly **14,000** rides every year to citizens of all ages who depend on these programs to get to doctor's appointments, grocery stores, business offices and to see their families and friends!

These dollars are essential to the survival of these services as they provide matching funds to leverage much larger federal and state grant funds to support the city's bus and taxi programs. These programs provide transportation three-times daily, Monday through Friday to several stops between Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla using a bus with a wheel chair lift and two tie-down stations, and a demand-response taxi program for seniors 60 years of age and older, and persons of any age with both temporary and permanent disabilities within a five-mile service area of the city center. The taxi driver also has access to a van with a wheel-chair lift and 2 tie-down stations. Both programs are heavily used. Our senior and disabled taxi service has been continuously provided in our city since 1971.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call City Hall at 541-938-8243 Monday through Friday, 7am to 4pm. Check out our website at www.mfcity.com for a current bus route for Milton-Freewater and College Place/Walla Walla, Washington. Using your smart phone, you may also scan the QR code in this article or you may find the QR code located at City Hall and each passenger shelter in Milton-Freewater. QR codes link directly to the city's website and current bus route.

Again—we want to thank you so very much for your support of the city's public transportation programs! These programs provide the freedom of independence for many of our citizens.



NEW BUDGET YEAR

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I want to assure you though, that even through all these scary "unknowns", I am confident that the City of Milton-Freewater is and will continue to be in sound financial shape. We will continue to provide our citizens with the exemplary levels of service and benefits that have come to be expected and enjoyed. We will still have 24/7 police and fire protection coverage. We will still provide 24/7 public safety dispatching and 911 response. We will still have our parks and recreational facilities open and well maintained. We will continue to provide clean, safe and abundant electricity and water. We will be on the job to be sure that solid waste and sewer systems are up and running and worry-free for our customers.

Together we will ride out the bumps in the "Year of the Unknown" and do our collective best to be sure that we turn all these challenges into opportunities to improve and thrive.

Linda Hall, City Manager

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Independence Day

07/04/14

Observed:

Friday, July 4th

City Offices Closed

Refuse & Recycling

Pick Up Day: Monday, July 7th

Pool – OPEN regular hours

Labor Day

09/01/14

Observed:

Monday, September 1st

City Offices Closed

Refuse & Recycling

Pick Up Day: Tuesday, September 2nd

Pool – CLOSED

TREE TRIMMING

Vision clearance and right-of-way tree trimming is an ongoing program. If you do not want us to trim your bushes and trees please keep them trimmed to where they are 12 inches (12") minimum distance behind curbs and sidewalks as well as having a minimum eight foot (8') height clearance.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Stay cool and save energy in your home this summer!

- Start your air conditioning before your house gets hot and close all windows.
- Use ceiling and/or floor fans to help move air around your home. Moving air feels cooler than still air.
- Close blinds and shades on the south and west sides of your home when the sun shines on them.
- Turn off the air conditioner and open windows at night when the temperature drops.
- Make sure your attic ventilation is working properly. This lets hot air out of the attic.

Come by and talk to the energy conservation office about installing a new central air or ductless heat pump and/or new vinyl windows with "Low E" glass or call Pat Didion at 541-938-8237.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Update from Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw

Avoid inaccessible meter fees!
Keep water and electric meters
clean and accessible at all times.

What's happening with the multi-million dollar wastewater treatment facility improvements?

Since last quarter's update we have hired Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) of Pendleton, Oregon as our grant administrator. As grant administrator GEODC will oversee the myriad of grant and loan requirements and ensure compliance of such requirements as well as serve as our liaison between funding agencies.

As mentioned last quarter by City Manager Hall, funding has been successfully secured in the amount of a \$2 million dollar grant with the remaining \$1.305 million to be paid with a low interest loan. Sources of funding are through our State of Oregon Lottery Fund and Oregon Community Development Block Grant Program.

Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc. of La Grande, Oregon has been hired to complete our design and construction engineering portions of this comprehensive project. Currently design engineering is underway on the repairs and improvements. This includes preliminary site evaluation and testing.

We are currently on target for construction of the facility to begin this summer and take approximately a year to complete. We are quite optimistic that this project will result in a successful and timely upgrade to our Wastewater Treatment Facility within budget (total \$3.305 million) making it more efficient to serve the residents of Milton-Freewater far into the future.



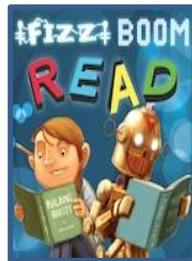
BURN BAN IN EFFECT 7/1/14. - No burning allowed!



CHECK IT OUT!

Not just books!

Our library offers so much more than books. We offer a great summer reading program for youth FREE, story time, activities, Oldies Night, genealogy, internet and so much more! Stop in and check it all out!



LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon-Wed 12 p.m. (noon) – 8 p.m.
Thur & Fri 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

PH: 541-938-8247

SUMMER GOLF SPECIALS

Our 18-hole executive municipal golf course provides panoramic views of the valley. The course is enjoyable for novice to experienced players with the majority of the holes being a par 3 or par 4.

Twilight Rates

Monday thru Thursday
(unlimited play during special hours)

START TIME TO DARK AFTER:	MONTH
6:00 P.M.	JULY/AUGUST
5:00 P.M.	SEPTEMBER

COST: \$16.50 (adults) \$12.00 (seniors, students & active military)

Saturday Morning Special

Saturday 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. ONLY

15% off green fees

10% off food @ "Shelly's Last Shot"

COST:

9 holes: \$14.25 (adults) \$10.50 (seniors, students & active military)

18 holes: \$21.75 (adults) \$15.00 (seniors, students & active military)

Tee times are available by calling 938-7284.
The course is open for play daily from dawn to dusk.

COOL OFF AT THE POOL!

Open 7 days per week.

- Session 1 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Session 2 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Session 1 daily admission gets you in to both sessions on the same day.

Youth (17 & under) \$3.50
Adult (18 & over) \$5.00

Rentals, season passes, lessons, Thursday BBQ nights and more!

Come visit our family-friendly facility at 200 DeHaven, call 541-938-9166 or visit us online at www.mfcity.com for more information.



Milton-Freewater
FARMER'S MARKET

Wednesday's in June through September from 4 – 7 p.m. @ Orchard Park. www.mffarmersmarket.org

City of
Milton-Freewater

PO Box 6
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

Aquatic Center 938-9166
 City Manager 938-8242
 City Recorder 938-8233
 Community Development 938-8236
 Conservation 938-8237
 Electric Department 938-8231 or 938-8232
 Engineering 938-8230 or 938-8238
 Finance Department 938-5531
 (utility bill payments/taxi tickets)
 Fire Business 938-8256
 Golf Course 938-7284
 Human Resources 938-8243
 Library 938-8247
 Municipal Court 938-8203
 Planning & Zoning 938-8234 or 938-8235
 Police Business 938-5511
 Public Works 938-8270, 938-8272 or 938-8274

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Meetings & Events

Meetings & Closures

July 2014

- 7 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY – offices closed**
- 14 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
- 28 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room ***
- 31 Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – Monahan Room

August 2014

- 4 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 11 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
- 25 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room ***
- 28 Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – Monahan Room

September 2014

- 1 **LABOR DAY – City offices closed**
- 2 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 8 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
- 22 **City Council – 7 p.m. – Albee Room ***
- TBA Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – Monahan Room
*** TENTATIVE MEETING**

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall at 541-938-5531, or write the City of Milton-Freewater, PO Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 if you will need any special accommodations or an interpreter to attend or participate in the meeting.

Events

July 2014

- 6/30-7/11 **Session 2 swim lessons**
Milton-Freewater FARMER'S MARKET
- 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 **Pool BBQ Night 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 **Firefighters Breakfast – Henry's Ace Hardware parking lot 7 to 10:30 a.m.**
- 4 **Session 3 swim lesson sign ups**
- 7 & 8 **American Legion Golf Tournament**
- 12 **Session 3 swim lessons**
- 14-25 **Session 4 swim lesson sign ups**
- 21 & 22 **Session 4 swim lessons**
- 7/28-8/8

August 2014

- 2 **American Legion Golf Tournament**
- 7 & 14 **Pool BBQ Night 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
Milton-Freewater FARMER'S MARKET
- 6, 13, 20, 27 **The Annual Milton-Freewater Muddy Frogwater Country Classic Festival**
- 15 – 17 **P.E.G Cross Country Scramble Golf Tournament**
- 16

September 2014

- 3, 10, 17 & 24 Milton-Freewater FARMER'S MARKET

Next issue: October 1st

City Manager – Linda Hall / Publisher/Editor – Krista Gannon