

# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 28, 2026  
**TO:** Milton-Freewater Mayor/City Council  
**FROM:** Tim Johnson, Interim City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Report, Feb. 16-28, 2026

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## MEETINGS

- Mayor, weekly meetings, Wednesday morning
- Due to flu, missed appointments with some council members. However, did meet with Council President Irving, council members, Lyons, Koklich and Holden before I got sick.

## INTERNAL MEETINGS/ACTIONS

### Budget

Work is Beginning on the budget. Research has begun through collection of data from both the state and federal government. However, this material will in part become dated as the war in Iran and subsequent impacts from it change economic conditions.

Also, I am recommending temporary assistance with the budget to help enhance the product through forecasting. This should last no more than 60 days.

### Public Works

Interviews for Park Supervisor took place on February 27. No decision has been made pending further reviews.

Meanwhile, temporary short term clerical assistance (through Express Employment) has been brought on at Public Works to offset work with reception, dump box orders, invoicing, filing, and the need for support of grant administration due to recent increase in applications for water wells, storage and distribution. Should it exceed Interim City Manager sole source contract limitations, a Fact Sheet will be provided in advance for review and approval by City Council. This will also open up the opportunity to work and achieve implementation by the city of the Oregon Recycling Modernization Act.

An inspection of the swimming pool on Thursday, February 19, 2026 found a variety of issues that need immediate attention. There are several seals, and gaskets that need replacement. Additionally, a valve is stuck that needs replacement. Further analysis is needed on the equipment as heaters were not tarped. I inquired with the City Manager of Pendleton to ascertain their specialist. I contacted SR Pool to schedule an appointment to ascertain an inventory of repairs.

Also, spoke with the city's seasonal pool operations manager about the process moving forward. HR will have a FACT Sheet before you in the second meeting of the month. This should provide insight on the number of returning lifeguards and the number of positions that we need to fill.

## RECRUITMENT of CITY MANAGER

Work continues related to negotiation on pricing and timing.

## STATE OF CITY ADDRESS

On Tuesday, February 24, the inaugural State of the City Address was presented. The event had an estimated 325 in attendance. Big thanks to all that assisted. All I can say, is that you now know what it entails. See articles attached.

## FLEET MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Approval of day travel for Lead Mechanic and Supervisor of Solid Waste to inspect a used Telehandler for sale in Pasco. The use intended for both the landfill and trimming park and street trees. It is in the budget and is expected to be on the agenda in March for Council approval.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

On West Broadway, just south of Northwest 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, a small barn was tagged. Interim City Manager directed Code Enforcement to talk with owner to resolve. The owner used the City's Graffiti abatement program and as can be seen in the photo below, it was quickly resolved as can be seen in the photo below.



Additionally, an unfortunate phrase on a Union Pacific rail car degrading police was brought to my attention by Council President, Irving on Wednesday February 18, 2026. See photo below.

Police Chief Shurtz provided insight on actions that he was provided by a shipper. Additional information was provided to switching service. After evaluating options, I reached out Alan Hunt, Public Affairs for Union Pacific in Portland. It was their railcar. I sent the photo to him on Thursday morning, and by Friday morning there was a painting crew that arrived and painted out the information. See photos below.



Photos of railcar located on spur off of NW 3<sup>rd</sup> as can be seen from N Main St.

