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**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER GOVERNING BODY**

Verl Pressnall At Large, Position 1  
Steve Irving At Large, Position 2  
Edwin E. Chesnut (CL President) At Large, Position 3

Lewis S. Key Mayor  
John Lyon Ward 1  
Bradley J. Humbert Ward 2  
Jose Garcia Ward 3

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**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES****June 8, 2020**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via virtual platform “Zoom” due to COVID-19 and practicing social distancing to stay in compliance with the Executive Orders Issued by Governor Kate Brown.

The following City Council members participated: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors John Lyon, Ed Chesnut, Verl Pressnall, Jose Garcia, Steve Irving and Brad Humbert.

Staff members participating were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Public Works Superintendent Brian Steadman, Public Works Technician Steven Patten and Engineering Technician Tina Kain.

Citizens and Guests participating were: Lindsay Windsor of the Budget Committee and Steven Duh of Conservation Technix.

Representing the news media were Sherrie Widmer of the Valley Herald and Sheila Hagar of the Walla Walla Union Bulletin.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Council Minutes from May 11, 2020
- Accounts payables from May 5, 2020 through May 18, 2020
- Accounts payables from May 19, 2020 through June 2, 2020

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

**PRESENTATION ITEM:****PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Steven Duh of Conservation Technix gave a presentation on the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He started out by stating the mission of the plan was a 10-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. The process included comprehensive review of the existing parks and assessment of those parks and open spaces. The plan shows goals and policies, service standards, future improvements and strategies to implementing the recommendations. The Plan was developed with input and direction of Milton-Freewater residents with community engagement by an online and mailed out survey. There were approximately 230 responses from the survey. There were two separate open houses where the public was invited, there were stakeholder discussions and there was a discussion with the Recreation Committee. From the survey nearly everyone, 99%, who took the survey stated that parks and recreation are an important part of quality of life. There were 70% that

stated they visit a park or recreation facility at least once a month so he stated, to him, that showed strong support of the services that are being provided and there is high usage of the facilities. The plan also outlines the needs assessment, capital planning and implementation.

Mayor Key stated he enjoyed reading through the document.

Councilor Chesnut asked about the Walla Walla River Trail mentioned in the plan. He stated there was no discussion that the levee surface didn't come close to any retail or commercial space which seems a common trait of other river walks. It comes to a contiguous location with more or less public properties like Frazier Farmstead and Gib Olinger Elementary School. All the rest of the levee trail is mostly private back yards.

Mr. Duh stated the intent of the language suggests that the river corridor is a strong asset that the community has. It's the city's river front, even though it might not directly relate to a commercial zone or major destination. He stated that the corridor could be one segment of what could be a much larger system as noted in the regional trails plan.

Councilor Humbert stated he was not in favor of the Walla Walla River Trail corridor. He said it's his back yard. The majority of the levee corridor is private property. The only reason why there is a flat surface is for flood control.

Councilor Chesnut said there are many property owners that own from the back of their house to the middle or across the river which makes it even more difficult.

A discussion ensued.

Councilor Humbert stated he liked the plan but was not in favor of the Walla Walla River corridor.

Engineering Technician Steven Patten stated at both the community meetings there were multiple individuals who brought up this idea of the river front walking path on the levee. It was discussed that it was private property and there were easements for the flood control and levees and that was the extent of it. A lot of people showed interest in that happening and a desired outcome but how likely is that it would actually happen is a different story.

Councilor Humbert stated he understood what Mr. Patten was saying but there is no interest by the property owners.

Mr. Patten stated as long as he has been a member of the Milton-Freewater community there has been a push for walking paths along the river. There has not been any momentum to it because it is all private property.

Councilor Chesnut asked if it was within Mr. Duh expertise to provide case studies or give advice on how to address the situation of the public wanting one thing but the likelihood of it happening is extremely remote because of the private property issues combined with how well does the trail meet normal river walk standards of where there is a loop or where there are commercial or retail outlets to stop at. He asked if Mr. Duh as the consultant could provide any aid in regard to the plan.

Mr. Duh stated the scope of which they worked under to develop the plan, they were not in a position to provide additional information about best practices or what has worked in other

communities. He was willing to give additional information to Mr. Steadman or Mr. Patten to give them additional context of what has worked in other communities. He spoke about a project in Utah. He said part of having it in the plan was to acknowledge what was heard from the public and the other part is part aspirational and something to work towards. He stated he could provide some examples in other communities.

Councilor Irving asked if there were statistics of having a walking trail versus not having one.

Mr. Duh stated he assumed that information was available but he did not have that information.

Councilor Lyon suggested looking at how the Mill Creek levee project was resolved.

Manager Hall stated often the property gets purchased so it's in a public domain and not private. It's quite common that private property owners don't want that development in their back yard. Everything is possible it's just some projects cost more than others.

Councilor Chesnut stated he sent an email to Manager Hall asking if the parks staff that would be in charge with maintaining these parks and recreational facilities had a chance to review the document.

Manager Hall, Mr. Steadman and Mr. Patten all stated they had not received any comments.

Councilor Chesnut stated he would be in favor of tabling the adoption of the document until each parks staff member had a chance to review and comment on the plan.

Manager Hall asked Mr. Patten if by tabling the adoption of the plan if it would jeopardize the grant deadline.

Mr. Patten stated the plan must be approved by October so holding off one more month would be fine.

Manager Hall stated there was a good selection of community outreach with two open houses, community survey, and input by the school district personnel, Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance (MFDA), recreation committee, and some one on one city councilor interviews and staff.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to table the consideration of adopting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the recommendation that each of the city parks line staff be introduced to the document and give them a chance to review it and bring comments forward. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Councilor Humbert stated he felt the document was very well prepared and suggested not removing the river trail portion but that it may need added verbiage that the river walk might be a hurdle.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2423, TRANSFER FUNDS DUE TO UNFORESEEN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

Finance Director Dave Richmond explained that during the current budget year there were events that occurred that were not foreseen at the time of preparing and adopting the budget. He then

reviewed the adjustments for those departments that needed to be made in order to stay in compliance with the local budget law.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2423, Resolution to make appropriations due to unforeseen expenditures and revenues. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2424, RECEIPT OF STATE REVENUE SHARING FUNDS**

Mayor Key opened and summarized the rules for a public hearing held for the purpose of gaining citizen input towards the receipt and use of State Revenue Sharing funds in the amount of eight-two thousand nine hundred dollars (\$82,900).

No member of the Council declared ex parte contact and no audience member challenged any Councilor's right to participate in the hearing.

The City Recorder reported the hearing had been published according to law and there were no written comments on file.

Mayor Key opened the floor to citizen comments. There being no citizen comments, the Mayor declared the hearing to be closed. He then opened the floor to the entire Council. There were no Council comments regarding the State Revenue Sharing funds.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2424, Resolution Electing to Receive State Revenue Sharing Funds for Public Safety Purposes. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2425, ADOPT FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)**

Mayor Key announced the public hearing rules read earlier would remain in effect. He said the public hearing was being held for the purpose of gaining citizen input towards the proposed city budget for fiscal year 2021.

No member of the Council declared ex parte contact and no audience member challenged any Councilor's right to participate in the hearing.

The City Recorder reported the hearing had been published according to law and there were no written comments on file.

Mayor Key opened the floor to citizen comments. There being no citizen comments, the Mayor declared the hearing to be closed. He then opened the floor to the entire Council. There were no Council comments regarding the budget.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2425, Resolution Adopting the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in the sum of \$36,065,133 levy taxes at the rate of \$3.7499 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operations, \$60,000 Local Option Tax for Senior Transportation, \$100,000 Local Option Tax for Parks and Recreation and make appropriations as listed on the Resolution. Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**AUTHORIZATION – TO ADD KRIVOSHEIN FINANCIAL AS A 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN OPTION FOR EMPLOYEES TO CONTRIBUTE TO**

Mr. Richmond stated there had been a request to add Krivoshein Financial, their office is located in Walla Walla, to the options of a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan that employees can contribute to. Employee contributions would be made through payroll deductions and are 100% made by the employee. There is no financial impact on the city other than minor impact on the payroll clerks work load to set up an employee on payroll deduction if they so choose to contribute. Krivoshein Financial would manage the accounts and Aspire would be the custodian of the accounts.

Councilor Irving stated Krivoshein Financial was offered through his place of employment and he uses their services.

Councilor Chesnut stated he assumed the request was partially due to them being local.

Mr. Richmond replied, yes and those who have used their services have been happy with them.

A brief discussion ensued regarding what a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to authorize the addition of Krivoshein Financial of Walla Walla, with Aspire as the custodian, to the options of 457 Deferred Compensation Plans that employees can voluntarily contribute to. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Hall gave an update to the Covid-19 pandemic and that Umatilla County was authorized by Governor Kate Brown to enter into Phase 2. She stated she still was recommending not opening public office buildings or the community building to the public. Phase 2 does allow for ballfields, park shelters, tennis courts and outdoor activity that didn't involve physical contact. The Farmer's Market has started back up at Orchard Park. The municipal court has started back up with special protocols and procedures. The library has started back offering curb side pickup and a scaled down version of their reading program offered outside where social distancing is much easier to obtain. The city crews are starting to work on more projects and firefighter training has resumed with social distance spacing.

Mayor Key stated it has been really good that no one from the City has come down with the virus.

Councilor Humbert asked if the pool was going to open.

Manager Hall stated staff was moving forward with preparations to open July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. She stated she learned that Pendleton will not be opening their pool but Walla Walla will be.

Councilor Humbert stated that the city pool was not cost effective but he strongly suggested that it open and that priority be given to patrons in the 97862 zip code.

Manager Hall stated she agreed, and it would give the community something to look forward to. She stated that it has been a challenge to complete the pool repair since there needs to be five consecutive days of nice weather for the paint to cure.

Councilor Chesnut agreed with Manager Hall in that we have not had good weather. He asked how staff was going to mitigate risk.

Manager Hall stated that the number of patrons will need to be limited and extra sanitary measures would need to be taken along with social distancing rules.

Councilor Irving stated the Farmer's Market opened back up and it was a little light on attendance. He stated there was no advertising that it was opening back up. They have set up the area with a clear entrance and exit and have vendors 6 feet away from each other to stay in compliance with social distancing protocols.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Lewis S. Key, Mayor