
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
John Lyon
Emily Holden
Jose Garcia

Mayor
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3

CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER**March 10, 2025****CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

The following members were present: Mayor Mike Odman, Councilors Jose Garcia, Wes Koklich, John Lyon, Emily Holden, Steve Irving and Destiny Jensen arrived at 7:05 p.m.

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, Fire Chief Shane Garner, Engineering Technician Steven Patten, Public Works Supervisor Nathan Lyon and Public Works Assistant Project/Aid Krista Gannon.

Guests and citizens present were: Suni Danforth, Elizabeth Fouste, Donna Sheridan, Paul Seaquist, Tammy Seaquist, Kay West, Sherry Rowan, Terry Rowan, John Wells, Peter Mitchell, Kate York and Laurie Gordan and Rachel VanWoert from Department of Environmental Quality.

Representing the news media was: Sherrie Widmer of the Valley Herald.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Councilor Irving motioned to approve the council minutes from February 10, 2025. Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Councilor Jensen was not present for vote.

Councilor Irving motioned to approve the executive session minutes from February 10, 2025.

Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Councilor Jensen was not present for vote. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:**UPDATE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND RECYCLING MODERNIZATION ACT (RMA)**

Laurie Gordan and Rachel VanWoert both of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provided information on the Oregon Recycling Laws which included the history of recycling. The Opportunity to Recycle Law in 1986 required establishment of monthly curbside recycling programs in cities with population over 4,000, general recycling education, established solid waste hierarchy and required permitted disposal site. The Recycling Opportunity Act in 1991-2015 required the establishment of Statewide Recovery Goals, Watershed Recover Goals, created 13 Recycling Program Elements and created 7 Waste Prevention and Reuse Program Elements. The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA), passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2021, aims to modernize Oregon's recycling system by requiring producers of packaging, paper, and food service ware to share responsibility for their products' end-of-life management, with program implementation beginning in July 2025. There will be additional responsibilities that the city will need to implement, in summary, offer curbside recycling, implement contamination reduction programs, expand

recycling service, maintain existing responsibilities, track and report, education and outreach. Cities will have opportunities for funding for transporting recycling long distances, expanding recycling services, obtain new collection containers, new equipment, etc. On July 1, 2025, producers start paying fees for the covered products, the Uniform Statewide Collection list goes into effect, local governments will need to at least continue to collect the materials they currently collect until funds become available and DEQ will work with local governments to meet the requirements until their expansion funds become available.

A discussion ensued regarding the expansion of recycling, the consequence of citizens not paying their recycling charge, timeline of when the city could expect to see funding to implement the new requirement, the location of the proposed processing facility and the amount of funding proposed that the city would receive.

There were follow-up items, being the draft agreement for the formula used for cities, a copy of the power point that was used and the number of producers that have signed Participant Producer Agreements (PPAs). Once these are received, they will be passed onto the council.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

BID AWARD – FREEWATER PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Staff advertised a request for proposal for park improvements which include the removal of the old tennis court and installing a new multisport court and a new walking path at Freewater Park. There were five companies that submitted proposals. Staff recommended awarding the bid to Don Jackson Excavation as they were the apparent low bidder.

Councilor Holden motioned to award unit prices as bid for the Freewater Park Multisport Court and Walking Path to Don Jackson Excavation in the amount of \$60,915. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2562, AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES TO FINANCING DOCUMENTS FOR \$120,000 FORGIVABLE LOAN FOR A PFAS FEASIBILITY STUDY THROUGH THE STATE OF OREGON

The city has been awarded a \$120,000 forgivable loan through the State of Oregon to conduct a feasibility study that will evaluate if there is a presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances in the drinking water sources. The Environmental Protection Agency through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has allocated Federally authorized funding directly to states to address emerging contaminants in drinking water. During this study, all city wells will be tested.

Councilor Lyon motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2562, Resolution Authorizing Signatures to Financing Documents for a Forgivable Loan, Planning Award Only, for a PFAS Feasibility Study through the State of Oregon, acting by and through its Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority of the Oregon Business Development Department, Project No. EC2502. Councilor Jensen seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Youth Representatives Rodriguez and Lamb were in favor.

AWARD OF ENGINEERING FIRM – WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN AND WATER SYSTEM MODELING

Oregon state law requires municipal drinking water systems to have an up-to-date Water System Master Plan (WSMP). The City's WSMP is not due for an update for a few years, but staff recommended moving forward with a new plan early due to all the identified water infrastructure

projects. Staff advertised for Request for Qualifications to develop a new Water System Master Plan and Water System Model. There were three submittals that were scored and staff recommended Anderson Perry and Associates, Inc. as the most qualified firm.

A brief discussion ensued regarding proposed water projects.

Councilor Lyon motioned to award Anderson Perry and Associates, Inc. of LaGrande, Oregon as the most qualified firm to meet the needs of the City for the development of a new Water System Master Plan and a hydraulic water model of the City's water system, Contract 315, and direct the City Manager or their representative, to negotiate with Anderson Perry and Associates for engineering services to develop a new water system master plan and hydraulic model for a reasonable timeline and payment. 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, 684 College - shared that she and Paul met with the College Place, Washington City Manager regarding graffiti and cameras they have in place. She stated that the City of College Place was able to purchase these cameras through grant money received from Wildhorse Casino and State of Washington through the Washington Auto Theft Prevention. She shared that the cameras are working in College Place, not solving the problems, but reducing it. She would like to see something done in the city, as she doesn't like to see the city covered in graffiti.

Manager Morris stated he has also spoke with the College Place City Manager in regards to their camera systems.

Mayor Odman stated graffiti was going to be an agenda item at the council work session.

Elizabeth Fouste, representing the M-F Senior Center, asked for a donation to go towards their Hawaiian Luau on April 26, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

City Manager Morris stated he could take care of the donation.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Morris reported the aquatic center manager position closes soon, so far there have been no applications received. A certified pool operator certificate (CPO) is a requirement for the operation at the facility and there is staff currently interested in getting their certification. Advertisement for lifeguards will go out this week or the first of next week. He reported that funding was still being sought for the tennis courts project and is hoping that local citizens will commit to funding, time and equipment. Work is planned after the tennis season this year. The audit is complete and there are no findings, copies of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was provided to the city council and the document is available on the city website. He announced the police station ribbon cutting was scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. The "old" police department, city hall basement, will also be available for a tour. He stated he planned to contact the Chamber Ambassadors.

Councilor Holden asked about the time of the ribbon cutting ceremony as that time was during the day when most citizens are working.

Manager Morris stated it would go on for several hours. Next, he reported on insurance plan concerns. He stated Regence is currently in negotiations for reimbursement rates with Providence, the current contract expires March 31, 2025. He will be traveling out of town beginning on March 12th meeting with local delegates in Salem. The last item reported on was the council work session scheduled for March 24th and he stated for now, work sessions will be scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Odman stated another agenda item for the March 24th council work session was to work towards an overall mission statement and vision statement for the city.

Councilor Koklich stated that in 1960 the City of Milton-Freewater was the All-American City and had the best floats and they were invited to other cities.

The council adjourned to executive session at 9:02 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 9:52 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Mike Odman, Mayor