
CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER GOVERNING BODY

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| Destiny Jensen | At Large, Position 1 |
| Steve Irving - Council President | At Large, Position 2 |
| Wes Koklich | At Large, Position 3 |

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| Mike Odman |
| John Lyon |
| Emily Holden |
| Jose Garcia |

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| Mayor |
| Ward 1 |
| Ward 2 |
| Ward 3 |

**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES****March 24, 2025**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in a work session on Monday, March 24, 2025 in the Albee Room of the City Library, 8 SW 8th Avenue at 6:00 p.m.

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

Youth Representatives Norma Rodriguez and Zachary Lamb were absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Chad Morris, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Finance Director Laurie Bubar, Police Chief Joe Shurtz, Library Director Lili Schmidt, Fire Chief Shane Garner, Police Sergeant Anthony Martinez, Police Officers Tate Lightfoot, Craig Robinson, Kevin Cuellar, Code Enforcement Officer Jason Schaffner and Municipal Court Clerk Tracy Martinez.

Guests and citizens present were: Paul Seaquist, Tammy Seaquist, Kay West, Martha Odman, Carol Irving, Bub Makhno, Tim Sanchez, Robin Sanchez, Mari Meza-Quezada, Peter Mitchell and Kate Winters.

Representing the news media were: Sherrie Widmer of the Valley Herald and Sheila Hagar of the East Oregonian.

GRAFFITI

A discussion ensued centered around graffiti. There were several ideas brought forward by council and those in attendance, some of those suggestions were: update the city's code regarding graffiti, provide a list of legislature contact information for citizens to do a letter campaign to encourage changes to the law regarding graffiti, have a designated area in town where artists can express their art, have an artist competition, paint most graffitied locations with special paint that makes it easier to clean up when graffitied, start an adopt a fence program, institute more youth programs for after school and on the weekends, encourage chalk paint usage rather than the more permanent paint, provide an information sheet on what cleaning products work best on the different surfaces, compile a list of citizens that have pressure washers that can be used by others to clean up graffiti, install cameras in locations where most graffiti seems to happen, install street lights in the darker areas of town, citizens can request a rental light be installed for more light, provide an information sheet on the best practices for security lights and security camera installment around homes and place solar powered security lights around town and residences.

Another discussion ensued regarding the process of when the police arrest an individual for graffiti. It was explained that it's processed through Umatilla County Circuit or Juvenile Court. The City's Municipal Court does not process felony charges, only misdemeanor charges. Manager Morris stated he was planning to have a meeting with the District Attorney's office as well as with the City's

Municipal Judge to discuss the process. A brief discussion ensued regarding when a parent or guardian can be cited for a juvenile's actions that result in a conviction.

Councilor Holden asked for statistics on how many graffiti artists have been arrested in Milton-Freewater in the last 3 – 5 years and of those arrested, how many have plead guilty or been convicted, what were the sentences they received and have they been completed.

Mayor Odman reported he organized a graffiti cleanup event to cover up graffiti on a fence. He stated there were more volunteers than paint rollers. He stated there were people that are willing to help along with paint professionals willing to donate their time and resources.

CITY'S MISSION STATEMENT

Mayor Odman stated he would like to develop a mission statement that captures the values and what the city is all about. He shared the value of developing an overall mission statement brings focus, purpose, gives clear direction and identifies a city.

Manager Morris suggested gathering ideas or suggestions and bring back to another work session or they could be sent to him or City Recorder Leanne Steadman to put together a consolidated idea sheet. He stated this was only part of the process, which he suggested a town hall meeting to gain input from citizens.

DISCUSSION OF OTHER WORK SESSION TOPICS

Councilor Lyon asked about the status of the pool.

Manager Morris stated one application has been received for the pool manager position and there were three people interested in lifeguarding. He stated he sent the position announcement out to School Superintendent Aaron Duff to get the word out about the pool manager position. He stated the CEO of the YMCA has offered if there is a need for lifeguard training that they are willing to help out with that. He stated that the CEO has remained very professional and that they know the city is not interested in using them this year.

Councilor Lyon asked if the notice was sent to local colleges.

Manager Morris stated that it had been sent to local colleges. He said the lifeguard and concession stand notice will go out tomorrow to the local colleges as well.

Mayor Odman stated he noticed that the pool manager position required a CPO (Certified Pool Operator) certificate. He researched what the certificate entailed and stated it didn't look to difficult.

Manager Morris stated they don't have to get that certification if they don't want to because he has a staff person that's interested in being the CPO. He will take a look at the pool manager job description to make sure the CPO is not a requirement.

Councilor Irving suggested another work session topic be the new recycling mandate.

Councilor Koklich shared some legislative actions being proposed regarding wildfires.

There being no further business the work session was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Mike Odman, Mayor