
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**November 20, 2025****CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in a Special Session on Thursday, November 20, 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 Jose Garcia, Wes Koklich, John Lyon, Emily Holden, Steve Irving and Destiny Jensen arrived at 6:04 pm.

Staff members present were: City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Finance Director Laurie Bubar, Library Director Lili Schmidt, Police Chief Joe Shurtz, Fire Chief Shane Garner, Court Clerk Tracy Martinez, Public Works Engineering Technician Steven Patten, Public Works Assistant/Project Aid Krista Gannon, Electric Engineering Technician Tina Kain and Conservation Specialist Ryan Westman.

Guests and citizens present were: Carol Irving, Arlen Calley, Kyndahl Calley, Megan Hoel, Tyler Hoel, Doug Miller and Riley Miller.

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

BUSINESS ITEM:**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL/ADOPTION OF INTERIM CITY MANAGER'S CONTRACT AND COMPENSATION**

Mayor Odman stated the interim city manager contract being considered had been approved by the interim city attorney Patrick Gregg, Mr. Tim Johnson and his attorney. He recommended if there were to be a motion from council, that it be made contingent upon a successful background check.

Councilor Holden asked what the turn around time would be on a background check.

Mayor Odman deferred to Police Chief Joe Shurtz who was in the audience.

Chief Shurtz stated the timeline depended on the type of background the council was requesting. It could be approximately a week and a half for an extensive all-inclusive background or a few minutes if it were the standard background.

A brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Odman recommended the standard background be done. He said he also checked with the attorney and that is what they suggested.

Councilor Lyon had a question on page 2, item number 9, of the contract. He asked who the "representative of the city" was that could authorize an extension to the contract.

Councilor Jensen referred to page 1, item number 2, where it says, “directed by the Mayor and City Council.” She asked why the section Councilor Lyon was asking about wouldn’t be the same. She then referred to page 3, number 14, and asked about the ability of eliminating positions.

Mayor Odman stated he believed that to fall under the same thought process and the language was out of the Milton-Freewater City Charter.

City Recorder Leanne Steadman suggested adding, “and approved by the council” to the section Councilor Lyon brought up on page 2, item number 9.

Councilor Irving stated council needed to address the situation and not inconvenience the audience by taking up their valuable time.

Councilor Jensen stated that Councilor Irving and Mayor Odman had this information since October 1st and the rest of the council didn’t get it until October 27th and she stated she felt like that wasn’t an adequate amount of time to review.

Councilor Irving motioned to accept the contract and compensation as well as the amendment contingent upon a successful background check. Councilor Holden seconded the motion which passed with Councilors Jensen and Lyon being the dissenting votes.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Mike Odman, Mayor