
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 Mayor
John Lyon Ward 1
Emily Holden Ward 2
Jose Garcia Ward 3

CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER**May 11, 2026****CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2026, 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 John Lyon, Wes Koklich, Destiny Jensen, Steve Irving and Emily Holden.

Councilor Jose Garcia was absent.

Staff members present were: Interim City Manager Tim Johnson, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Finance Director Laurie Bubar, Police Chief Joe Shurtz, Library Director Lili Schmidt, Fire Chief Shane Garner, Court Clerk Tracy Martinez, Conservation Specialist Ryan Westman and Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon.

Guests and citizens present were: Marlene McClintock, Sally Babcock, Paul Seaquist, Tammy Seaquist, Tina Kain, Denise Aguirre-Sarver, Donna Sheridan, Megan Hoel, Bud Rupe, Randy Reese, Elizabeth Fouste and Kenny Jenkins.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of:

- Regular Session Minutes from April 13, 2026
- Recreation Committee Minutes from March 17, 2026
- March 2026 Financial Reports
- Resolution No. 2596, Authorizing Signature to the revised application to Umatilla County for the Property Line Adjustment for the radio tower property acquisition

Councilor Irving motioned to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. Councilor Jensen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS:**APPOINTMENT TO LIBRARY BOARD**

Mayor Odman reported an application to serve on the library board was received. After his review, he recommended appointing Brynnley Raikes to the library board to serve the remainder of the one-year term.

Councilor Lyon asked if the address was verified.

City Recorder Leanne Steadman stated the address was verified and was redacted due to the application being disbursed publicly.

Councilor Irving announced there were still openings on advisory committees, he suggested people in the audience step up and apply.

Councilor Irving motioned to appoint Brynnley Raikes to the Library Board with the term ending February 2027 as recommended by Mayor Odman. Councilor Holden seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2597, AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO THE PRO DEPOT/COLLECTION POINT FUNDING ADDENDUM WITH CIRCULAR ACTION ALLIANCE OREGON, LLC

Interim Manager Johnson, shared staff, will be meeting with DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) the next day and he appreciated their patience while staff navigated this new state-mandated requirement.

Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon presented the Oregon Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) changes they have brought forward with recycling. RMA separates materials into two categories – Local Government Recycling Acceptance List also known as the Uniform Statewide Collection List (USCL) and the Producer Responsibility Organization Recycling Acceptance List (PRO). Being proposed was a RecycleOn Center. The city will provide the property, determined to be County Road Recycle Depot property, to store and allow access to recycling containers provided by Circular Action Alliance (CAA). CAA will reimburse the city as per the terms of the Pro Depot/Collection Point Addendum. The new RecycleOn Center will provide for the recycling of glass, so the prior arrangement with CAA and Pendleton Sanitary will cease. CAA has contracted with Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) to service the recycling container. Included in the addendum is the reimbursement rates beginning January 1, 2026, and will be adjusted annually at the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

Councilor Holden asked if County Road will be the only recycling depot going forward.

Gannon shared, at this point, the Mill Street recycling depot would remain open.

Councilor Koklich asked how the information about the new RecycleOn Center would get announced.

Gannon stated there would be outreach education.

Councilor Lyon motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2597, Resolution Authorizing the Mayor's Signature to the Pro Dept/Collection Point Addendum for a RecycleOn Center at the 640 County Road Recycle Depot. Councilor Jensen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURE TO THE SYSTEM EXPANSION FUNDING ADDENDUM WITH CIRCULAR ACTION ALLIANCE OREGON, LLC

Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon shared the Oregon RMA requires the implementation of curbside and depot co-mingled recycling. This mandate became effective on July 1, 2025, for communities with a population over 4,000. Part of the initial process was for the city to complete a needs assessment. This was completed, and the city was identified as a Priority A community, which meant the city was eligible for funding to cover costs associated with acquisition of the equipment needed to comply with the mandate. The city was approved for system

expansion to include one garbage truck for co-mingled curbside collection and one roll-off truck, along with containers for residential and commercial customers. Staff have requested approval to complete and submit an Enroute System Expansion Funding Application for the mentioned eligible equipment. Staff are requesting the trucks and containers be funded directly by CAA. Gannon stated the funding addendum only addresses the acquisition of trucks and containers one-time for start-up and will not cover added staffing costs, replacement, maintenance, or operating.

Councilor Koklich asked about the specifications for the trucks.

Gannon stated the specifications for the trucks were included in their packet.

Councilor Jensen asked if they did both reimbursement and/or purchasing the equipment, where was the schedule.

Gannon stated the request was to submit the application for CAA to put together the addendum.

Councilor Koklich asked about the other costs, such as fuel, insurance and who would be responsible for those expenses.

Gannon stated it would be the city's responsibility and expense.

Interim Manager Johnson stated the city was still looking at approximately two years out for implementation, once the trucks were ordered. At that point, the city will need to determine if the curbside collection would be done in-house or contracted out and what the frequency of collection would be offered at.

A discussion ensued regarding garbage can sizes, frequency options for pickup, ability for garbage truck to pick up varying size of cans, fee structure and how this will affect citizens on fixed incomes.

Councilor Jensen asked what would happen if the city didn't comply with the RMA.

Gannon replied, the city would be fined, but that she would ask that question when staff met with DEQ.

Mayor Odman asked if there would be an option to choose the size of garbage container.

Gannon replied yes, but nothing will be finalized until the final addendum is approved and signed.

Councilor Lyon motioned to approve staff to complete and submit the Enroute System Expansion Funding Application to include one side load truck, one roll-off bin truck, and containers necessary for the start-up of curbside and co-mingled recycling services as mandated by the RMA. Councilor Jensen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO APPROACH THE COUNCIL WITH ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Tina Kain, 403 Willow – expressed her concern with the difficulty of accessing the elevator. The door is very hard to open if you are in a wheelchair, on a knee scooter or using crutches.

Councilor Lyon asked Interim Manager Johnson if he could have Steven Patten look at it for ADA (Americans with Disability Act) compliance.

Interim Manager Johnson indicated he would.

Elizabeth Foute representing the Milton-Freewater Senior Center thanked Councilor Jensen for writing, applying for and successfully being granted a \$15,000 grant for the Senior Center to help with food service. She announced their annual rib dinner was May 16th, tickets purchased before the event were \$15.00 each and \$20.00 at the door.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Johnson reported he submitted two managers' reports, which were included in the city council packet. These reports covered the period of April 1 – 15, and April 16-30, 2026. These reports will be posted on the city website under the "City Manager" tab. He reviewed several items he reported on in his reports.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Odman announced there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Freewater Park on May 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. He then shared that Clay Pearson with SGR shared a proposed timeline for the city manager recruitment. He asked if council would be available on May 20th, after a brief discussion there was a council consensus to have Mr. Pearson email the applications separately to each member and each member would respond directly back to Mr. Pearson.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the remaining timeline of the recruitment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Approved June 8, 2026

Mike Odman, Mayor