
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
Jon Mendez
Jose Garcia

Mayor
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3

CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER**August 24, 2026****CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in a work session on Monday, August 24, 2026 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 Destiny Jensen, Steve Irving, Jon Mendez, John Lyon and Wes Koklich.

Councilor Jose Garcia was absent.

Staff members present were: City Recorder/Interim City Manager Leanne Steadman, Finance Director Laurie Bubar, Public Works Engineering Technician Steven Patten, Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon, Conservation Specialist Ryan Westman and Public Works Supervisor Nathan Lyon arriving at 6:55 p.m.

Guests and citizens present were: Ann Jolly, Sally Babcock, Marlene McClintock, Tina Kain, Paul Seaquist, Tammy Seaquist, Kenny Jenkins, Grey Ryan – Oregon Recycling Manager, Circular Action Alliance, Laurie Gordan of the Department of Environmental Quality and Katy King of Humbert Refuse via conference phone.

There was no representation of the news media.

DISCUSSION OF SYSTEM EXPANSION FUNDING ADDENDUM APPLICATION WITH GREG RYAN, OREGON RECYCLING MANAGER OF CIRCULAR ACTION ALLIANCE (CAA)

Krista Gannon, Public Works Assistant/Project Aide introduced Greg Ryan, Oregon Recycling Manager for Circular Action Alliance (CAA), highlighting his background in the recycling industry and noting CAA's ongoing collaboration with municipalities including Hermiston, Pendleton, and Baker City.

Mr. Ryan explained that under Priority A funding for the Oregon system expansion, CAA provides support for communities with populations of 4,000 and above that are required to implement curbside recycling services. He stated that CAA has funded agreements for trucks, residential side-loader vehicles, and containers throughout Eastern Oregon. Mr. Ryan outlined that CAA covers processing fees at Commingled Recycling Processing Facilities (CRPF/MRF) to insulate municipalities from commodity value fluctuations and provides transportation reimbursements for facilities located more than 50 miles from an approved processing site or responsible end market. He reported that discussions have occurred with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Walla Walla Recycling regarding accepting, baling, and transferring materials to approved facilities.

There was discussion held regarding the operational and financial implications for the city and ratepayers, raising inquiries regarding commodity value changes, labor, vehicle maintenance, fuel, insurance, and billing structures.

Mr. Ryan clarified that CAA absorbs commodity value decreases under its cost study formula and funds MRF processing costs along with estimated contamination expenses.

City staff and council examined equipment quotes, comparing 2026 and 2027 Peterbilt side-loader chassis configurations and pricing, noting an estimated cost range between \$761,620 and \$916,769.36 based on engine horsepower and transmission specifications.

The city council also discussed route logistics outside urban growth boundaries and evaluated bi-weekly collection schedules. Discussion ensued comparing automated side-loader trucks against roll-off trucks, 96-gallon roll carts for residential curbside collection, and 300-gallon tubs for commercial, multi-family, or depot sites.

Mr. Ryan advised that establishing curbside collection substantially decreases depot traffic, rendering dedicated roll-off trucks and large roll-off bins unnecessary in comparison to automated side loaders and smaller containers.

Discussion ensued around the potential modifications to standard garbage collection frequencies.

A discussion ensued regarding contamination management; Mr. Ryan explained that audits provide operational feedback and notes that contamination reduction funding can be allocated toward public education or truck-mounted AI camera systems that identify non-recyclable materials.

Council asked about the logistics concerning glass handling and vehicle equipment specifications, including camera systems, fire extinguishers, and tire chains. Mr. Ryan explained that CAA provides upfront funding for approved equipment upon request and execution of the addendum, requiring submission of final invoices, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance for compliance.

Gannon stressed to the council the need for finalizing the addendum and preparing educational materials that could be used for upcoming community events.

Discussion continued regarding implementation schedules, public education strategies, and equipment details. The council evaluated utilizing contamination reduction funding, mailers for public education, and instructional videos.

Public Works Supervisor Nathan Lyon and city mechanics will review truck specifications, a preference for Peterbilt side-loaders based on prior reliability and maintenance records compared to units experiencing frequent downtime was expressed.

The council debated ordering 2026 specification trucks versus awaiting 2027 models with updated emission standards.

Gannon and Mr. Greg discussed tailoring the addendum for city council review and drafting a separate addendum for private hauler Humbert Refuse if they were to provide service within the Urban Growth Boundary.

The addendum was proposed to be scheduled for formal council consideration and approval at the September 14, 2026 regular meeting.

The council evaluated the 4:1 compaction ratio efficiency of side-loader trucks compared to roll-off trucks, noting collected materials will be hauled 15 to 18 miles to the Walla Walla facility.

Mayor Odman suggested getting some small, under-sink recyclable containers. He showed a picture of what he was recommending which was like an office garbage can.

Mr. Ryan shared that size could be considered and covered in the initial funding request.

There was discussion regarding neighboring municipal programs in Pendleton, Hermiston, Umatilla, and Boardman. Operational factors were discussed, including cart placement ordinances, container serial number tracking, and incorporating turnkey assembly and residential delivery costs into the funding package.

Regional residential service rates are noted to average approximately \$8.00 per month.

The council considered cart sizing options between 60-gallon and 96-gallon residential containers alongside 300-gallon commercial tubs.

State DEQ reporting requirements are reviewed, confirming that certified scales in Walla Walla will supply weight tickets and end-market documentation.

Mr. Greg reiterates the recommendation to procure two automated side-loader trucks, one primary unit and one backup, instead of a roll-off truck, noting commercial cardboard can be commingled in 300-gallon containers.

There was a question asked if the second, back-up truck could be used as a garbage truck.

Mr. Greg stated the funding could cover fifty percent (50%) of a second truck if it was going to be used for something other than recycling.

The total grant funding package is estimated at approximately \$1.1 million, consisting of over \$900,000 for vehicles and over \$200,000 for containers (\$147,000 for residential carts and \$58,320 for 300-gallon tubs). DEQ representative Laurie Gordan confirmed by telephone that demonstrating good-faith progress and having equipment on order will allow leniency for regulatory deadlines extending beyond the already past date of July 1, 2025.

City staff and mechanics will review technical specifications concerning power take-off (PTO) versus live hydraulic systems.

No formal decision was made.

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Adopted September 14, 2026

~~Mike Odman, Mayor~~

Steve Irving, Council President