

January 7, 2008

**City of Milton-Freewater  
City Council Minutes**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met for an emergency session on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the Albee Room at the Library.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Ed Chesnut, Keith Woods, Debbie Kelley, Steve Irving and Brad Humbert.

Councilor Orrin Lyon and Youth Councilor Patsy Sandoval were absent.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman and Human Resource Officer Teresa Dutcher.

Citizen Treva Withers and a friend of hers were present.

Press member Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald was present.

Mayor Key brought the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**BUSINESS ITEM**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2068 DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY FOR MILTON-FREEWATER DUE TO STORM DAMAGE**

City Manager Linda Hall said the city is moving forward in an effort which she hoped would not only benefit public but also have some benefit for private property owners in our city limits that have incurred some damage due to the storm. The storm of January 4, 2008 produced severe winds of 80 mph and above, resulting in an estimated \$1,000,000 in damage to public and private property. This is the reason for bringing this declaration of emergency to the council so that the City can piggyback with Umatilla County's efforts to have Milton-Freewater declared as a disaster area and hopefully tap into some FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) monies through the Federal Government sources. Those funds would not only aid in the funding for public but possibly for private property owners who do not have insurance or who are under-insured for the damages that have incurred. It is Ms. Hall's understanding that FEMA would make some kind of forms available which would be issued from Umatilla County once this is in place. Umatilla County would be the pass through agency for FEMA.

Councilor Chesnut noticed in the resolution for declaration of emergency that the property damage was listed in excess of \$1,000,000 and in the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 press release it listed the damages to surpass \$500,000.

Ms. Hall replied that the press release was issued on Saturday around 12:00 noon and since then she has talked to the department heads and the school district for some better estimates of damage. Also, Umatilla County Emergency Management has dispatched out a team of four individuals who are evaluating all of city limits and taking notes of private damages.

Councilor Woods asked approximately how much damage the city had incurred.

Ms. Hall said she had some rough estimates from departments which of course would not include everything, that could take weeks to really know the amount of damage. As of right now the electric department has reported \$153,504 and public works has reported \$201,526.

Councilor Humbert asked if that included parks because it costs about \$4,000 to replace one tree.

Ms. Hall said that number did include parks. She reminded council that these are only estimates and it could take weeks to have a finite number.

Councilor Humbert said those numbers seemed low, Councilor Irving agreed by saying the numbers were conservative.

Councilor Irving said the disposal facility for debris was necessary.

Councilor Woods said it would be good to let everyone know about the 300 gallon garbage receptacles that are available and perhaps give people a discounted rate on them.

Ms. Hall agreed and said the drop boxes are also available and made mention of the press release which offers the City Fire Training Facility available for what we are calling “clean” wood. No fencing, roof material or other debris will be accepted. If the debris can not all fit in the customer’s regular garbage can then a 300 gallon or drop box can be ordered through Public Works.

Councilor Kelley said neighbors may want to consider going in together and share the cost.

Councilor Chesnut moved to approve Resolution 2068 Declaration of Emergency Due to Local Disaster. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken and the resolution passed unanimously.

Councilor Chesnut donated a ceramic frog for City Hall which holds 1/3 fold brochures.

Mayor Key said he was proud of the department heads and city manager for coming through this with flying colors.

Councilor Chesnut had received comments from people inside and outside the city about how quickly the crews got the streets cleared and electrical cleared. He also shared this with four city workers cleaning up a tree in the park.

Councilor Woods asked if the City coordinated better with the schools.

Ms. Hall said according to Superintendent Marilyn McBride, had this wind ramped up at 6:00 a.m. school would have been cancelled but since the kids were at school already, it’s a little bit different. Ms. McBride believes it is safer to keep the kids at school then to send them home and possibly not have anyone at home for them.

Councilor Chesnut asked about the press release that refers to searching for your garbage can before calling for another one. He asked if there will be a charge to that customer for the new can.

Ms. Hall said she would talk to Dave Bradshaw about that.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

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Lewis S. Key, Mayor