

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

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Orrin Lyon, Ed Chesnut, Sam Hopkins-Hubbard, Jeff Anliker, Steve Irving and Brad Humbert.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw, Human Resource Officer Teresa Dutcher, Finance Director Dave Richmond, Accounting Supervisor Luke Billings, Accounts Payable Clerk Tatia Oliver, Accounting Clerk Laurie Bubar and Municipal Court Clerk Marta Lomeli.

Citizens present were: Brent Oliver, Chris Wallace-Burlingame, Cindy Granger and Kathy Quintal. Queen Brittney Granger, Princesses Amanda Quintal and Alicia Munk of the Pioneer Posse were also present.

Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald was present.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of work session and regular council minutes from the August 24, 2009 meeting, accounts payable from August 19, 2009 – September 8, 2009, request from owners of Hong's Garden Restaurant for an addendum to their liquor license to include their outside structure and Resolution No. 2146, Authorizing Signature to an Amendment to the Drug & Alcohol Policy to meet Federal Department of Transportation Regulations for the Public Transit Program.

Councilor Anliker motioned to approve the consent calendar items. Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

PIONEER POSSE – APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT OF COURT

Queen Brittney Granger, Princesses Amanda Quintal and Alicia Munk of the Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse Court gave a brief presentation which included what activities they have been involved in and how they have placed in some of the parades they have been in. They most recently took first place in the Walla Walla Frontier Day's Parade over Labor Day weekend. They expressed their gratitude for the city council's financial support of their court activities.

RECOGNITION – SEPTEMBER 2009 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK TATIA OLIVER

Councilor Irving presented Accounts Payable Clerk Tatia Oliver with the September 2009 Employee of the Month award. Tatia has worked for the city just over six (6) years. She has proven herself to be dependable, accurate, energetic and extremely loyal to the city. She has a very keen idea for details and does a great job monitoring the city's purchasing rules and regulations. On behalf of the Mayor and the other City Councilors, Councilor Irving presented Tatia with a one-hundred dollar (\$100) check to show their appreciation.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

DECISION – SHOULD MILTON-FREEWATER BE INCLUDED IN A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT TO FUND EMERGENCY RADIO EQUIPMENT

The city council heard a presentation from Umatilla Fire Chief Michael Roxbury on July 27, 2009 and on August 24, 2009 council held a work session to discuss whether or not to be included in a proposed special taxing district to fund emergency radio equipment. The proposed tax rate would be 17 cents per \$1,000 dollars of assessed value. Councilor Humbert felt he had enough information given to him by staff to make his decision. At which time Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard motioned to keep the current radio system and respectfully decline to be included in the proposed special taxing district to fund emergency radio equipment. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2147 CLARIFICATION OF RECYCLING SERVICE AND FEE REQUIREMENT FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw reported there was a change to the solid waste resolution effective July 2009. The minimum service requirements were defined primarily for multi-unit properties. It was discovered that the state mandated recycling fee was not being billed correctly in regards to multi-unit properties. The proposed resolution was clarifying the recycling service and fee and no rate change was being proposed.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2147, Resolution Clarifying the Recycling Service Fee for the Solid Waste Collection Service. Councilor Anliker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall reported that there was an Oregon Solutions meeting earlier in the day and felt it was very successful. She said most of the state holders were around the table with the exception of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Manager Hall explained that FEMA did not feel they should be involved with the Oregon Solutions team since the City of Milton-Freewater had filed an appeal of the floodplain designation. She said in the meeting there were sub-committees created to work in smaller groups to get specific ideas and agendas moving. Manager Hall said in preparation of the League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference at the end of the month there needed to be a voting delegate and an alternate chosen to vote on behalf of the city. Mayor Key was chosen to be the voting delegate and Councilor Irving as the alternate. She explained that she would not be attending the conference this year due to other commitments such as the Oregon Solutions work requirements.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Anliker asked what happened to the project of planting 5,000 trees in four years.

Manager Hall said that was a Rotary project lead by Clive Kaiser who had since left the organization.

Mayor Key thought some of the trees were going to be donated but that fell through.

Councilor Chesnut felt the project was overly aggressive.

Councilor Anliker said maybe if the tree project had moved forward it would have helped with the parking of vehicles in the parking strip of properties.

A discussion ensued regarding parking strips and Manager Hall said she would talk to the Police Chief about it.

Councilor Irving said he liked the idea of the city council and school board meeting to discuss items on a quarterly basis.

Councilor Humbert suggested the meetings be joint work sessions.

Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard complimented Mr. Bradshaw on the paving project on Broadway Avenue and asked for an update of what paving projects were next.

Mr. Bradshaw explained the different projects proposed.

Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard asked what could be done with the noxious weed commonly known as puncture vine or goat-heads along the rail road tracks by the city shop.

Mr. Bradshaw said there were several places in town that were really bad. He said the Code Enforcement Officer was going back out to address these areas. He said the problem with the weed was that they grow very fast and people don't keep up with spraying.

Manager Hall said she read about a program that was instituted in Boardman Oregon where they paid \$1.00 per grocery bag full of puncture vine. She said according to the article it seemed to be making a difference and they had paid out approximately \$200.00.

Councilor Chesnut suggested a per pound price rather than grocery bag.

Mayor Key said he thought he had read that there was a certain type of weevil that helped with controlling the puncture vine.

Councilor Lyon said yes there was and that he had some at one time at his residence.

Councilor Chesnut asked if there had been anymore consideration to contracting out abatement work.

Manager Hall said it had been discussed.

Councilor Lyon felt it would be less expensive to have people pick up the puncture vine and turn it in.

Mr. Bradshaw said he agreed and thought it might be a good community program.

Councilor Humbert said 2nd Street was proposed to be paved but did not have curb and gutter. He suggested contacting the property owners and seeing if there was an interest in a LID.

Manager Hall said she could not recommend in good conscience a LID because the city loses a lot of money with programs like that.

Mr. Bradshaw suggested the curb and gutters be engineered into the project.

Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard said he was approached by Clarence Mader who recently had some violent gang activity at his home. Mr. Mader was researching an ordinance of Pendleton and Yakima that allowed police officers to stop and question people displaying gang attire. Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard said those ordinances were working but the problem was that the gangs were moving into the smaller communities where they were not being addressed as well. Manager Hall said the police officers had that authority to stop and talk to them now and the

party that was being referred to was in the county which the city assisted in.

Councilor Humbert said Pendleton and Hermiston had already adopted an ordinance and Mr. Mader was also going to Umatilla County.

Manager Hall said she would have the Police Chief check with the other cities mentioned.

Councilor Irving said he would like to pursue filling the youth positions on the various committees.

Mayor Key suggested putting a notice in the paper. He also asked what the time-line was on the projects proposed to be funded by the \$3,000,000.

Mr. Bradshaw said he didn't want to start any projects on that list until he saw some of those funds coming in.

Councilor Chesnut said he would be going to the Oregon Institute of Planners Conference and would be sitting in on a discussion of siting wind projects. The session would consist of talking over details of existing regulations, ordinances and concepts that possibly should be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor