

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

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Monday, December 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, Steve Irving, and Brad Humbert. Councilor Anliker was absent due to being ill.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Oliver, Lineman Richard Jolly, Line Foreman Rick Rambo, Engineering Technician Tina Kain, Accounts Payable Clerk Tatia Oliver, Municipal Court Clerk Marta Lomeli and Accounting Clerk Laurie Bubar.

Citizens present were: Robin Jolly, Susan Davis and Betty Alexander.

Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald was present.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

The consent calendar items consisted of council minutes from the November 17, 2009 meeting and accounts payable from November 19, 2009 through December 8, 2009.

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

**RECOGNITION – DECEMBER 2009 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, LINEMAN, RICHARD JOLLY**

Councilor Lyon presented Lineman Richard Jolly with the December 2009 Employee of the Month award. Richard has worked for the electric department for 17 years. He has proven himself to be a dependable, capable, talented member of the City's team. He has been very active to help support his community and donates 1000's of hours to community causes that he feels passionate about. His opinions are very helpful and his co-workers are very appreciative of his team attitude and spirit. On behalf of the Mayor and the other City Councilors, Councilor Lyon presented Richard with a one-hundred dollar (\$100) check to show their appreciation.

Line Foreman Rick Rambo thanked Richard Jolly for all his hard work and what he has brought to the electric department since he has been with the city. Mr. Rambo said there is no task that Mr. Jolly wouldn't take on and felt Mr. Jolly looked at the big picture. He is always looking for ways to improve the electric system and the City of Milton-Freewater.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**BID AWARD – ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT LINE TRUCK**

City Manager Linda Hall reported the city had advertised and accepted sealed bids for a new tandem axle line truck. The truck would replace the 20 year old truck that has been depreciated out and has reached its expected service life. Staff's recommendation was to purchase the all-wheel drive truck from Terex Utilities of Portland, Oregon for the amount for \$282,080.00. The city would retain the current truck due to the minimum value and could be used by both the Electric and Public Works Department on projects as needed.

Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard motioned to award Contract #228 to Terex Utilities for one new line truck, V160, with all-wheel drive, for the amount of \$282,080.00. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2155, AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO THE EURUS COMMUNITY BENEFIT PLAN GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 TO AIDE IN THE COST OF REPLACING THE RESTROOMS AT THE McRAE/IRELAND FIELD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2156, TRANSFER FUNDS DUE TO UNFORESEEN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES DUE TO THE EURUS COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT**

Manager Hall introduced Krista Oliver who is the Public Works Assistant/Project Aide. She said Ms. Oliver was a wonderful assistant and was very valuable to her team and the city.

Ms. Oliver reported she had applied for, on the city's behalf, for a grant through the Eurus Community Benefit Grant Fund. The city was awarded \$10,000 to help aide in the cost of replacing the restrooms at the McRae/Ireland Field that were tore down due to their structural integrity. Ms. Oliver also explained there needed to be a transfer of funds due to the unforeseen revenues and expenditures of accepting the grant. The budget line item respectively showed \$4,000 with anticipation of achieving a Eurus Community grant as in years past. The proposed transfer would be for \$6,000 to equal the total amount of \$10,000 of the grant award for the budget line item.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2155, Resolution Authorizing Signature to Eurus Grant Acceptance Agreement in the amount of \$10,000.00. Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2156, Resolution to Accept Funds Due to Unforeseen Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget for an additional \$6,000 for a total receipt of \$10,000 in grant funds. Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

Susan Davis, 54211 Turbyne Rd. Milton-Freewater, said she was with the Historical Society and while doing some research discovered the original Central School Building was completed and open to students on February 10, 1910. The Historical Society will be celebrating the schools centennial with a public open house reception at the school on April 10, 2010. The Society was inviting the city's participation in the celebration. The event will be organized by the Milton-Freewater Area Historical Society and will be open to the general public including alumni, present and former staff. The open house will include a weekend of refreshments, tours and displays organized by the Historical Society in cooperation with the School District. Additionally they will be collecting reminisces of the school history from the alumni, staff and faculty for the Historical Society achieves. The Society hopes for participation from the city government and staff in the special event. Susan Davis may be contacted at 541-938-5565 (home), 541-938-3263 (Wednesday – Friday, work) or 509-520-4782 (cell phone).

**MANAGERS REPORT**

Manager Hall reported there had been three Oregon Solution Project Team meetings to date which has been working toward the goal of repairing the levee to get the accreditation status back along with working towards a revised floodplain map of the Milton-Freewater area. She felt there has been a lot of good progress that has come out of the meetings and there was a lot of work that went on between the Project Team meetings. She complemented the Department of Land Conservation Development, the National Marine Fisheries, the Confederated Umatilla Tribes, Bonneville Power Administration and the local Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council for helping in this process and having the best interest for the community of Milton-Freewater. There have been many more entities that have expressed intent to bring funding, services, permitting process and expedited services to help make this project work. The next Oregon Solutions Project Team meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2009 in the Albee Room starting at 1:00 p.m. Manager Hall asked that all of council attend if their schedule allowed for it. She expected that the Project Manager Dick Townsend was going to present the Declaration of Cooperation for each entity. The Declaration of Cooperation

was explained as a paragraph or so of what each entity could provide towards the total project. Manager Hall felt the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was going back on what they stated in their letter dated October 14, 2009. They said they were going to revisit the maps and update all the information. Manager Hall felt that was not going to happen. She said the ramifications of being in the AO flood zone, which was the most severe zone, would have an astronomical effect on homeowners and business owners and the city as a whole. She felt confident the levee would get repaired and feels the citizens will step forward and pass a bond measure. Manager Hall felt that if the city were to adopt the floodplain maps it would be very difficult to get them changed. The city is expected to receive a letter soon that's titled "letter of final determination", once that letter arrives then there is only 60 days to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. At that point, Federal Senator Ron Wyden, Federal Representative Greg Walden and Oregon Senator David Nelson would make some phone calls on behalf of the City of Milton-Freewater.

A discussion ensued on what the ramifications would be if the floodplain ordinance was not adopted by the city.

Manager Hall has spoken with Brian Wolcott, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) who is seeking some grant funds to help pay for a LIDAR flight of the levee. He asked if the city would be willing to partner with WWBWC in the cost. Manager Hall suggested to council that the city partner with the WWBWC as this was understood to be FEMA's preferred source of information.

A discussion ensued regarding the FEMA floodplain map and the discrepancies with it. There were concerns whether or not the Congressional Officers and/or the FEMA Executive Officers know the maps are not accurate and do not show the true topography of the Milton-Freewater area.

Manager Hall said Mr. Townsend drove to Bothell, Washington where one of FEMA's offices is hoping to speak to someone. He was unsuccessful and could not get an appointment with a FEMA representative.

### **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Chesnut announced there would be a Umatilla County Planning Workshop on Friday, December 18, 2009 regarding the environmental data received on the wind turbines. He was planning to attend.

Councilor Irving asked if it would be feasible to not include envelopes to those customers who pay their utility bill online.

Mayor Key said some utilities offer citizens the choice of a mailed invoice or emailed invoice which could save on mail and postage.

Councilor Irving suggested looking at how the City of the Dallas collected their business licenses and who was required to purchase one. Councilor Humbert said his business had to purchase one when they did some work there and it was more expensive for them then the local business cost.

Manager Hall said she would look into it.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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Lewis S. Key, Mayor