

April 10, 2008

City of Milton-Freewater  
City Council/Planning Commission joint STUDY SESSION Minutes

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met with the City Planning Commission for a special study session on April 10, 2008 in the Albee Room of the City Library at 3:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Lyon, Irving, Chesnut, Humbert, and Woods. Planning Commissioners present were Jeff Anliker, Charlie Good and Bob White. Absent were Councilor Kelley, Planning Commissioners Lyon, Sherwin and Richardson.

Staff members present were City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman and City Planner Gina Hartzheim.

Members of the press present were Flynn Espe of the East Oregonian and Melanie Hall of Valley Herald.

No citizens were present.

The purpose of the joint study session was the discussion of the new ethics reporting requirements imposed by Senate Bill 10 adopted in the last legislative session.

City Manager Hall explained that these reporting requirements, referred to as Statements of Economic Interest were required both annually and quarterly and had recently been vastly expanded. She briefed the Council on the history of the SEI's, explaining that this report was not new, dating back to 1974. What was new was the huge reach into the privacy of officials, including the requirement to list all relatives, and sources of income for family members. The City of Milton-Freewater had previously been exempt from this requirement, however all local, county and state governments were now required to report.

Ms. Hall further reported that this legislation had been met with a huge outcry of opposition and the legislators had received hundreds of letters requesting the bill be softened. She added she was confident that it would in the next legislative session, but for now, our city would have to conform to the invasive law. She urged the Council and Planning Commission members not to resign their public positions over the law, as they played a crucial role in Milton-Freewater's government and their loss would adversely affect the citizens of our city.

City Recorder Steadman then distributed hand outs of letters from Governor Kulongoski, a sample resolution objecting to the new requirements, research into the history and constitutionality of the regulations completed by Councilor Woods, and a statement submitted by Councilor Kelley who was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Councilor Woods shared his thoughts on the invasiveness of the form and his opinion that the legislation went far beyond any reasonable purpose.

The Manager then went over the reporting forms, both annual form and quarterly form. Ms. Steadman distributed copies of a guide which had been developed by the City of Springfield legal counsel for determining under what circumstances gifts would qualify to be reported under the new law.

Commissioner Good asked when these forms would be posted to the internet.

Ms. Hall replied the State did not possess the software to make this happen yet and the State's best estimate for when this would be complete was the year 2010. She added she was confident the legislation would soften the over-reach of the Bill by then.

Discussion ensued among the members of the Council and Planning Commission as they went over each portion of the form.

City Recorder Steadman announced that she would be accepting everyone's completed forms for certified mailing by Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> by 1:00 p.m.

There being no further discussions or business, the session was adjourned with no action being taken at 4:00 p.m.

---

Lewis S. Key, Mayor