

**City of Milton-Freewater
WORK SESSION - City Council**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met for a work session Monday, August 24, 2009 at 4:00 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, Fire Chief Shane Garner and Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer.

Press members present were: Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald and Samantha Bates of the East Oregonian.

Citizen present was Christine Boedigheimer.

At the July 27, 2009 City Council meeting, council heard two presentations, one from Umatilla Fire Chief Michael Roxbury who was asking if Milton-Freewater wanted to be included in a special taxing district to fund emergency radio equipment. The other presentation was from Chris Marks, who is a Water Rights Policy Analyst for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) who was requesting a letter of support for the Columbia River Water Exchange project. The purpose of the work session was to allow discussion regarding both these topics. These two items were scheduled for the regular city council meeting for action, if needed. No action was taken by the governing body during the work session.

The work session was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

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

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session Monday, August 24, 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 and City Recorder Leanne Steadman.

Citizens present were: Catherine Anderson, Brian Calley, Val Calley, Dorothy Heard and Shelby. State Representative Greg Smith and his wife Sherri were also present.

Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald was present.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar items consisted of minutes from the August 10, 2009 regular council meeting and accounts payable from August 5, 2009 – August 18, 2009.

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF PROJECT LIST FOR HB2001 OREGON STIMULUS FUNDING \$3,000,000 IN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

City Manager Linda Hall introduced Representative Greg Smith. She said if it weren't for Representative Smith's hard work the City would not be receiving three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for transportation improvements. Representative Smith was instrumental in obtaining these funds specifically for Milton-Freewater by writing them into House Bill 2001. Manager Hall said she appreciated Representative Smith's dedication to Milton-Freewater and the funds were going to some well needed projects.

Representative Greg Smith commended Manager Hall and felt she did a top notch job serving the community of Milton-Freewater. He said he has worked with many city managers and Milton-Freewater had one of the best. Representative Smith said it was five terms ago that he was elected to the legislature. After one term he was redistricted through an appropriation process that occurred every ten years. It was eight years ago that Milton-Freewater became part of District 57 along with Representative Smith. As a young legislator he served on the budget committee as he felt that was where he could help the communities. One of the reasons why he got involved with serving in the legislature was to try and help the small rural communities survive in the environment that they were in. He is currently the ranking member on the House side of the budget committee. All of the budgets that pass through Salem he would be able to put a finger print on. Representative Smith said Milton-Freewater was near and dear to his heart and would not be forgotten. In the past legislative session he tried everything he could to make sure those priorities for the community were intact and in future sessions he stated that was his intention as well. Representative Smith said while putting the transportation package together he took a lot of criticism by other people who felt the money should have been allocated differently. Representative Smith felt it was time for some of the tax dollars to come back to Eastern Oregon. He said this would allow Milton-Freewater to put some money into the basic transportation infrastructure and by far was just a drop in the bucket that needed to continue to be worked on. He suggested continuing to let Manager Hall be made aware of concerns and he would do everything he could to help the community. Representative Smith said the HB 2001 was a good success but felt the better success was keeping the Milton-Freewater Armory open, as it was slated to be closed due to budget cuts. He said not only would the Armory stay open but there would be 1.7 million dollars invested into the building and making upgrades. He said he did that because he wanted to make it very difficult for future legislatures to even think about closing the Milton-Freewater Armory. Representative Smith felt the troops deserved it and the community deserved it to stay open. He said it was great to be at the meeting and his office was always open to serve the community.

Manager Hall then shared some pictures of what the funds were going to accomplish in Milton-Freewater and they were passed around to all those in attendance. She reported that all the communities that were allocated monies in HB 2001 had to go before and present their projects to the North East Area Commission of Transportation (NEACT) Committee. She said she understood that part of the bill was that Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was the entity that would oversee that the money was spent on allowable projects as intended by the House Bill. She stated that Milton-Freewater was one of the few cities that were authorized on the spot at the meeting. Manager Hall stated she wanted to make sure that the city council was comfortable with the proposed projects listed and prioritized by staff. She said there were two very exciting projects that would be accomplished with the money. One being the continuation of a sidewalk, curb and gutter along the west side of College Street meeting up with DeHaven Street. This had been a very dangerous problem for pedestrians walking to the park, aquatic center, walking trail and to schools in the area. The second project being the widening and improvement of South Mill Street, with the addition of handicapped ramps and street overlay.

This street is used as a secondary access to South Main and Highway 11. Another project proposed was the development of a separate egress for the south hill. When the south hill gets developed it would require a separate egress other than the state highway to help eliminate a lot of traffic pulling out or turning into that area. The new road would come down Nichols Cannon and meet up with the regular street system. Manager Hall explained that all the projects listed were very exciting to finally accomplish along with adding safety and better transportation infrastructure to the community. She asked if any council member had any concerns with any of the projects listed by staff. Council consensus was that they were pleased with the proposed projects and felt the priority was listed correctly.

Representative Smith said these were Milton-Freewater's tax dollars, tax dollars that were generated everyday from the gas tax. He said what was special this time was that he was in Salem to directly allocate those dollars back to the community. He said he was very pleased to hear that the meeting with NEACT went smoothly. Part of his message given to ODOT was those projects in District 57 needed to move quickly and without a lot of bureaucracy. He said he wanted the projects to get moving and completed as soon as possible and be ready for the next round of funding in 2011.

Council expressed their appreciation of Representative Smith's allocation in HB 2001 and felt a lot of good projects were going to be accomplished by the funding.

Councilor Humbert motioned to approve the project list for HB 2001 Oregon Stimulus Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 in transportation improvements. Councilor Anliker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2145 AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO A SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE SENIOR AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Manager Hall reported this was one of the oldest grants that helped support the senior and disabled transportation program. She stated the grant was down about 30% but the program was doing fine with the availability of other grants that had been applied for and received. She said she watches programs like the senior and disabled transportation program very closely due to it being funded 100% by grants. If the revenues start to shrink then the program would have to be looked at for changes to accommodate less funding.

Councilor Anliker motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2145, Resolution Authorizing Signature to the Special Transportation Fund Services Agreement in the amount of \$24,652.00 with Umatilla County. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS:
SPECIAL RADIO TAX DISTRICT INCLUSION**

Mayor Key announced this item was discussed earlier in the work session. He asked if anyone present had any other information they could provide on the subject of the special taxing district to fund emergency radio equipment. He also asked if there was anything known whether cities, counties or agencies were going to a specific radio system; 450, 700 or 750 megahertz.

Representative Greg Smith said he did not have an answer of what system agencies were going to. The Governor and his administration have made it a top priority to advance this concept of upgrading the radio system. The legislature has allocated approximately 170 million dollars to advance the concept state wide. Representative Smith said he could contact Lindsey Ball, who was the director of the project, to talk to Manager Hall and explain the very complex project and help answer some questions.

Manager Hall asked what project Lindsey Ball was the director of; to unify the radio system or to upgrade the radio systems.

Representative Smith said the State Board was moving in the direction to unify the radio delivery system. There was a special committee of the legislature that worked on this issue. The unification of an emergency radio system that could serve multiple branches of government was a top priority of the Governor. He said the project was very complex while dealing with multiple agencies, multiple levels of government and multiple funding streams. He suggested asking for clarification from the State of Oregon before making a decision and an investment.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to table the decision on the special radio taxing district inclusion. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Councilor Anliker said the request for information on what it would cost to upgrade to a 700 or 750 megahertz radio system was still being requested.

COLUMBIA RIVER WATER EXCHANGE SUPPORT LETTER

This item was discussed during the council work session.

Councilor Chesnut explained he has been a board member on the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) for several years. He said this topic has been discussed at those meetings for many years. The WWBWC did write a letter of support to the Umatilla Confederated Tribes for the Columbia River Water Exchange project along with some concerns they had. He said during the work session there were some concerns identified that would be put into the letter and strongly suggested that the letter be written in support these concerns included: any and all future maintenance and operation costs of the Columbia River Exchange project not be borne by the City or any of the irrigators, the irrigators and water right holders not lose any of their existing Walla Walla River Water or other involved or affected water rights and that a solution and plan for preventing and eliminating any and all threats of Columbia River spillage into spring water branches be in place prior to the advent of the project. He felt the project had a lot of value for the valley.

Councilor Chesnut motion to approve a letter of support to the Umatilla Confederated Tribes for the Columbia River Water Exchange project with the inclusion of a list of concerns as expressed by council. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Councilor Anliker said he wanted to make sure the list included that the irrigators maintained their current water rights.

Manager Hall said she would write a draft letter and run it by council for approval before sending.

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

Brian Calley – 1112 S. Main, approached the council and said the proposal for the sidewalk addition was well needed. He suggested some changes to the current transit system. He would like to see a copy of the bus schedule sent out with the utility bills and a bus schedule posted at each bus shelter location. He said he could utilize the transit system a lot more with his and his wife's business if the schedule was posted and known. He said he like what he heard at the meeting.

Manager Hall thanked Mr. Calley for coming and said those were great suggestions and she

would follow up on them.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall reported the city website was being revamped which should make it more user friendly and should be completed in about a month. The City was getting much closer to the first draw down with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Residential Rehabilitation program. She said she was very excited for this project to get underway to see actual physical improvements to homes. The official appeal to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with regard to the floodplain maps was in the works and due by September 17th which she felt was no problem meeting the deadline. She said Dick Townsend who is the Project Manager for the Oregon Solutions team was working very hard on the end goal of getting the levee repaired.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Irving suggested extra police patrol in the area of Broadway by Burger Hut and Pendleton Grain Growers. He said he sees a lot of speeding cars go by. He attended the city picnic and felt the attendance was low. He suggested something be done in the future with regard to the union contracts because the city could not financially continue to support functions that were low in attendance.

Councilor Chesnut explained he has been a part of the Blue Mountain Alliance that's been supporting Richard Jolly with regard to the Goal 5 Amendment application with the Umatilla County Planning Commission regarding wind turbines in the Blue Mountain Foothills. He felt the vote of the planning commission would be that the views of the Blue Mountains would not be considered significant. He said part of the application was to get to stage two of the analysis that would involve taking a look at all the natural resources which was an Oregon State Law requirement. In stage two you look at elk and deer wintering inhabitant, cultural resources, erosion, water quality and quantity however, if the planning commission said there was no significance to the views then stage two did not happen. He said Richard Jolly and Blue Mountain Alliance were strongly considering withdrawing the application in order to re-file, calling for a Goal 5 Amendment covering all the natural resources in the area not just the views. The next Planning Commission meeting was Thursday, August 27, 2009.

Councilor Anliker asked if the meeting was for public input.

Councilor Chesnut said it was for public input on the existing Goal 5 application then the Planning Commission would vote on the issue.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor