

July 14, 2008

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

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session Monday, July 14, 2008 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, Debbie Kelley and Steve Irving. Councilor Keith Woods was absent due to being out of town. Councilor Brad Humbert was present at 7:05 p.m.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, City Recorder Leanne Steadman, Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo, Human Resource Officer Teresa Dutcher, Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer, Police Sergeant Pat Garrett, and Police Officer Scott Clayton.

Citizens present were: Christine Boedigheimer, Ann Jolly, Tina Kain, Richard Jolly, Robin Jolly, Ryan Stoner, Michele Garrett, Wyatt Garrett, Mildred Garrett, David Boyer, Craig Gaines, Catherine Anderson, Craig McIntyre, Bonnie McIntyre, Fred Bauman, Carolyn Bauman, Jim Burns and Pat Thomson.

Press member Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald was present.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

The consent calendar items consisted of minutes from the June 23, 2008 regular council meeting and accounts payable from June 18, 2008 – July 9, 2008.

Councilor Kelley motioned to approve the consent calendar items. Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed with Councilors Lyon, Chesnut, Kelley and Irving voting yea. Councilor Humbert was absent for the vote.

**PRESENTATION:**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW POLICE SERGEANT, PAT GARRETT**

Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer said he was privileged to introduce the new Sergeant of Police, Pat Garrett. Chief Boedigheimer explained there was a very difficult test involved for those who applied for the sergeant position. He said Mr. Garrett scored at the top of the scale which showed his dedication towards the position. Mr. Garrett has been with the City for 10 years as a Police Officer.

Sergeant Garrett said he felt the City was very lucky in the selection of Police Chief. He said Chief Boedigheimer was the best supervisor he had worked for so far in his career.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2096 AMENDING ELECTRIC RATE SCHEDULE BY  
ESTABLISHING INACCESSIBLE METER FEES**

Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo explained the reasons for the recommendation to establish inaccessible meter fees. He said the City Code 5-6-17 states that City personnel shall have access to the customer's premises at all times for the purpose of inspecting wiring and devices, reading meters, testing, repairing, removing or exchanging any and all equipment belonging to the City. Mr. Charlo said currently there was a \$10 charge for locked gates. The recommendation was to raise the fee to \$50 for a locked or obstructed gate. He explained the other inaccessible fee being recommended was for a vicious dog that would prevent City

personnel to gain access to the electric meter or equipment. He said there have been some recent events of employees being attacked and/or bitten by dogs while trying to perform their normal job duties. The recommendation for a vicious dog would be a fee of \$100 for a return visit to the property with the City having the option in severe cases to disconnect the electric service. Mr. Charlo also explained a program the City had which paid \$100 towards moving an electric meter to an agreed-upon location that would be accessible for City personnel at all times. Staff's recommendation was to establish two inaccessible meter fees; the first fee would be \$50 for a locked or obstructed gate and the second fee would be \$100 for a vicious dog.

Councilor Irving asked when the \$10 locked gate fee was established.

City Manager Hall said it was with the 1981 Code or possibly before that.

Mayor Key said it was critical to keep the employees safe.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2096, Resolution Amending the Electric Rate Schedule Establishing Inaccessible Meter Fees; \$50 locked/obstructed gate, \$100 for a vicious dog. Councilor Kelley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2097 DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR THE CITY'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

Human Resource Officer Teresa Dutcher reported that the Drug and Alcohol Policy that was being presented was for the Public Transportation Program. The policy was a result of meeting the Federal Department of Transportation standards in order to qualify for federal grants.

Councilor Kelley motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2097, Resolution Authorizing the City Manager's Signature to the Drug & Alcohol Policy to meet Federal Department of Transportation Standards. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2098 AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE TO A SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND SERVICE GRANT AGREEMENT**

Human Resource Officer Teresa Dutcher reported that the City's senior and disabled taxi program is funded through the local option tax, Special Transportation Grant Funds and Federal Grants. The Special Transportation Fund Service Grant that was presented was for \$35,286.00 in grant funds which help subsidized the transportation program.

Councilor Kelley motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2098, Resolution Authorizing the City Manager's signature to the Special Transportation Fund Service Grant Agreement for the amount of \$35,286.00. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Manager Hall commended Ms. Dutcher for all her hard work on the transportation programs.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2099 APPROVING A FIVE YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX MEASURE TO SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

City Manager Linda Hall reported that the City of Milton-Freewater had been providing senior and disabled transportation by way of taxi service since April 1971. She explained the tax measure was levied for \$60,000 per year for a total of five years. She recommended the

local option tax measure be placed on the November 4, 2008 ballot to avoid any lapse in the funding for the very vital transportation programs. The tax measure would maintain the current tax rate of 37 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Ms. Hall said it would cost a home assessed at \$75,000 total market value, \$27.75 per year. She also reported that the bus ridership had increased over 200% in recent months due to the increase in fuel prices. By bringing in the money from the local option tax of \$60,000 per year the City has been able to match grants up \$1,500,000. Staff's recommendation is to approve the language of the local option tax measure and to place it on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

Councilor Kelley said the local option tax measure would be for general ridership and not just for senior and disabled.

Manager Hall agreed. She also said staff is exploring the possibilities of expanding the bus service to five days a week and Councilor Kelly recommended exploring park-n-ride pick-up locations. The changes to the schedule would be contingent on the tax measure passing.

Councilor Humbert explained that the tax measure has been the catalyst of the transportation programs and without the passage of the measure the city would not have the bus or taxi service. He said thanks to the voters the city has the transportation programs to offer the citizens.

Councilor Kelley motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2099, Resolution Calling an Election for the Purpose of Approving a Five Year Local Option Tax Measure Under the Authority of ORS 280.060 to Support Public Transportation Services. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2100 DECLARING THE OLD PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BUS TO BE SURPLUS**

City Manager Hall explained that since the arrival of the new general ridership bus in June 2008, which was received through the grant process, there was no need to keep the old bus. She said she had been approached by two separate parties who were interested in purchasing the bus from the City. Her recommendation was to have a minimum bid of \$2,000 and it would be liquidated through a sealed bid process. The bus is a 1990 Ford E350 mini-bus with over 250,000 miles.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2100, Resolution Declaring the 1990 Ford E350 Mini-bus to be Surplus and Authorize Staff to Liquidate by Sealed Bid Process. Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR SAMS' STOP & SHOP**

City Recorder Leanne Steadman presented a liquor license application from Sams' Stop & Shop which is a convenience store located at 1121 S. Main. She said the request was due to another change in ownership. The new owners, Gurpreet and Gurmeet Dhillion had applied for the same privileges as the previous owners which were for off-premises sales. The store will remain Sams' Stop & Shop with the new owners. She explained the Police Chief had preformed a back-ground investigation and had recommended approval of the liquor license.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to approve the liquor license application submitted by Gurpreet and Gurmeet Dhillion for the business located at 1121 S. Main St., "Sams' Stop & Shop". Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

David Boyer, 1534 Walnut – Asked when SE 16<sup>th</sup> St. was scheduled to be paved. He also said he had noticed the former Watermill Building was tagged with graffiti. He said the graffiti had been on the building for quite some time and he said he understood there was an ordinance that required property owners to clean-up graffiti with-in a certain number of days.

Manager Hall said she would have the Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw call Mr. Boyer with the time-frame of when SE 16<sup>th</sup> St. was scheduled for paving. She did tell Mr. Boyer that there were a limited number of streets per year that were schedule for paving and the street paving plan was over a twenty year time frame. She said the owner of the Watermill Building was sent a letter about the graffiti. Ms. Hall said the owner had made contact with the police department asking for an extension since he had ordered special paint that was on backorder. She said she understood the special paint, once applied; graffiti could be washed off instead of requiring to be repainted again.

Mayor Key said for farm equipment traveling on SE 15<sup>th</sup> St. & SE 16<sup>th</sup> St. from Nichols Canyon, it's not possible to make a left turn on SE 15<sup>th</sup> St. He said that SE 16<sup>th</sup> St. must be used when hauling equipment and that should be considered when establishing the paving schedule for SE 16<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Hall said that would be considered.

Mr. Boyer said he felt due to the reduction in the speed limit by the School District on SE 15<sup>th</sup> St. that caused more people to travel on SE 16<sup>th</sup> St. and use that as an entrance to Walnut St.

Catherine Anderson, 315 S. Elizabeth – Suggested installing a reader board in the community. She felt in the absence of a daily newspaper, citizens were finding out about events in the community after the event was over.

Richard Jolly, 54462 Upper Dry Cr. Rd. and Ryan Stoner 512 South Grant, presented a slideshow on wind turbines. They said they felt most citizens did not realize a wind turbine project was planning to develop in the area. They said in their opinion they felt citizens should have a voice in where the wind mills were placed in the surrounding areas in hopes to preserve the Blue Mountain scenic views. Mr. Jolly and Mr. Stoner both shared their information of what they understood to be the pros and con's of wind turbines. Their purpose of the presentation they said was to inform Umatilla County residents of a wind turbine project planning to be placed in what most people consider the scenic view of the Blue Mountains. Mr. Jolly said he was not against wind turbine projects but felt residents should have a say in where they were placed to preserve the view of what so many people enjoy. A discussion regarding wind turbines ensued.

Jim Burns, Weston OR – Voiced his concerns regarding wind power. He said he felt it made better since to look at solar power which was a 49% effective power system verses wind at 19% effective. He said there were places to put wind turbines where they were already at. He said he felt it would ruin the view of the mountains if they were to be placed where he understood the project was planned. A discussion ensued.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Manager Hall reminded council that she would be on vacation the rest of the week. She also thanked council for being supportive through the recent personnel issue that had taken place.

**COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Irving reminded everyone about the Logs to Frogs event scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, council adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Lewis S. Key, Mayor