

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

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session Monday, March 23, 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, Jeff Anliker, Brad Humbert and Steve Irving.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw, City Planner Gina Hartzheim and City Recorder Leanne Steadman.

Citizens present were: Merle Sherman, Debbie Kelley, Richard Jolly, Pat Thomson and Sam Hubbard.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

The consent calendar items consisted of regular council meeting minutes from March 9, 2009 and accounts payable from March 5<sup>th</sup> through March 17th, 2009.

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

**PRESENTATION:**

**UPDATE ON PRELIMINARY FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP FROM FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

City Planner Gina Hartzheim gave a presentation on the preliminary flood insurance rate maps that were received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The remapping process was a result of several bond passage attempts by the Milton-Freewater Flood Control District, which failed. By the bonds failing, the needed repairs to the levee were not performed subsequently the levee was rated unacceptable. FEMA conducted a levee failure analysis and developed preliminary flood zones that could be required to obtain flood insurance. The maps would become effective approximately one year from now. Once the maps become effective then a new floodplain ordinance would be required to be adopted. The ordinance is mandatory in order to participate in the flood insurance program. Ms. Hartzheim said there was a meeting tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2009 in Pendleton, Oregon with FEMA and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to present findings and answer questions. More information about the meeting would be published once information was received. Ms. Hartzheim said this would affect all structures, new and old. She said banks could require flood insurance at any given time once the area had been determined to be in the flood zone.

Councilor Lyon asked if stimulus money could help.

Ms. Hartzheim said anything was possible but felt that once FEMA had deemed the levee unacceptable and developed preliminary maps it would be hard to stop the process.

Councilor Humbert asked where the taxes were going that were collected since 1966.

Ms. Hartzheim suggested that the taxes collected were not keeping up with the maintenance cost.

Manager Hall said she wanted to make it very clear that the Milton-Freewater Flood Control District was a totally different taxing district than the City of Milton-Freewater.

Debbie Kelley – 146 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., said there was twenty-six thousand dollars (\$26,000) collected each year and that the taxes did not cover the maintenance cost. She also said that the district did not have any paid employees.

A discussion ensued regarding the boundaries of the preliminary flood maps and what portions of the levy were deemed to be failing.

Councilor Chesnut asked if this would stop any future building permit requests.

Ms. Hartzheim replied by saying, no, but it would require different building code standards.

Manager Hall said she would contact the Chairman of the Milton-Freewater Flood Control District, George Gillette, and see if there was anything the City could do to help.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2118, DECLARING PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS**

Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw presented a list of city property that had been recommended to be surplus by several departments.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2118, Resolution Declaring Property to be Surplus as outlined on “Exhibit A”. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**AUTHORIZATION TO DEMOLISH THE MCRAE/IRELAND (ALSO KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN LEGION) GRANDSTANDS DUE TO THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND SAFETY ISSUE**

Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw reported that the McRae/Ireland grandstand structure was built over forty (40) years ago. Over the period of time since constructed, the grandstands have received numerous repairs and unfortunately, vandalism. There were safety concerns raised about the aging grandstands, therefore a professional inspection was conducted. The results of that inspection showed that there were decaying wood and fungal growth on almost all the structural supporting wood and it was recommend to be demolished. Staff was also recommending demolishing the structure. Mr. Bradshaw said that several private citizens had approached him about the replacement of the grandstands.

Councilor Irving asked if the demolition would include the concession stand and bathrooms.

Councilor Humbert suggested demolishing the whole structure.

Mayor Key suggested saving a piece of wood from the structure and making a memorial plaque with it.

City Manager Hall said that was a great idea.

Councilor Humbert made a motion to approve the demolition of the McRae/Ireland (also known as the American Legion) grandstand structure and work with any and all public and private partners on the project to establish temporary seating for the ball season. Councilor Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ON NEXT STEP IN PROCESS TO FILL VACANCY OF CITY COUNCIL WARD 3 POSITION**

City Manager Hall reported that Council had recently accepted Keith Woods' resignation as City Councilor for the Ward 3 position. The vacant position was advertised and applications were accepted. There was only one application received from Sam Hopkins-Hubbard. Manager Hall said the options for filling the vacancy would be to directly appoint or interview the applicant, both of which have been done in the past. She also stated that the applicant met the minimum criteria of residing in the Ward 3 boundary and was a registered voter.

Councilor Chesnut said it seemed appropriate if one councilor chose to interview the applicant then that was what should be done. He stated his own opinion would be to directly appoint. He also felt that it could be discussed more one on one.

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

Richard Jolly - 54462 Upper Dry Creek Rd., Weston Oregon, said he wanted to give the council an update. He said he recently attended a Umatilla County Planning Commission meeting on transmission lines. There were three (3) new transmission lines planned in the Wallula area where there was an existing transmission line already. One of the new lines would go to the Walla Walla area, one (1) would come from British Columbia and go to the San Francisco Bay area and the other one (1) would be from Selkirk which is by Spokane, Washington. He said he understood there had been some talk with smaller wind developers trying to approach the Bowlus Hill area. He felt it would be very hard to stop the smaller units from being developed, in the mitigation process, especially if they were requesting to install one (1) or two (2) wind turbines. He said just for an example of what happened north of Milton-Freewater in Washington, the wind projects started out with one-hundred (100) turbines and now they are at nine-hundred (900) plus turbines. He said there was an Energy Facility Siting Council Meeting March 27, 2009 in Pendleton at 9:30 a.m. at the Tamástslíkt Center. Mr. Jolly felt it would be a good chance to voice an opinion of the set-backs required from cities.

Councilor Anliker asked Mr. Jolly what the status was regarding the Goal 5 application.

Mr. Jolly said it had been submitted to the Umatilla County Planning Department. He also said there was a Blue Mountain Alliance meeting March 26, 2009 in the Municipal Court Room at City Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Debbie Kelley – 146 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., said she was at the meeting with Mr. Jolly and also wanted to let council know about the meeting on March 26, 2009. The meeting will determine two (2) public informational meetings that would allow the Blue Mountain Alliance group the chance to let people know what they believe the issues were regarding the wind turbines in relationship to how they affect the view shed, people, water, wildlife, tourism and involve the community in discussion and let them know how their voice could be heard. She felt the City does have a stake in the future of the Blue Mountains. She said the group would continue to keep the council updated.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Hall reported that the Milton-Freewater Merchants group would be hosting a 4<sup>th</sup> of July in the park event, Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at Freewater Park. They were planning to have a street sale, music, food vendors and vintage cars. She said she was supporting the event and have waived a couple of the fees required to host such an event. She then read a thank you card that was written by the merchants group thanking her for the support and waiving the fees. She and Mayor Key will be meeting with the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Ray Naff. Manager Hall said she would mention that there needs to be a meeting held in Milton-Freewater regarding the flood insurance maps. The executive session on the agenda was canceled. She said there was an offer on the table for the IBEW outside lineman contract. She said she had not heard back from the unit yet and did not want to present a contract to council unless it was the final draft. Manager Hall said she would keep council updated. She also reported that she and City Recorder Leanne Steadman attended a City Manager/City Recorder meeting in Pendleton. There were fourteen (14) other cities represented there. The meeting was very beneficial on what was going on in each city and how they were handling the economic downturn.

## **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Chesnut said with Councilor Woods' resignation the council's official representative to the Walla Walla Basin Water Shed Council was vacant. Councilor Chesnut said he was a member but was not the official city representative. He suggested if anyone was interest in being the representative and a board member to let him or City Manager Linda Hall know. They meet once a month on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Monday of each month. Councilor Chesnut also reported that there would be a meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2009 in Walla Walla to discuss the Army Corps of Engineers and the Tribes feasibility study of enhanced water flow in the Walla Walla River. Whether that should be water pumped out of the Columbia River back up to the Cemetery Bridge or whether the solution should be a reservoir filled by Pine Creek, which would get built by Pine Creek flows and flows diverted out of the Walla Walla River in the winter time carried to Pine Creek and in the summer time pumped back from Pine Creek to the Cemetery Bridge and distributed across the valley.

Councilor Irving reminded the rest of the council about the Ethics reported deadline of April 15, 2009.

There being no further business, council adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Lewis S. Key, Mayor