

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

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 7:10 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library after a joint work session with the Milton-Freewater Unified School District Board members.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Orrin Lyon, Ed Chesnut, Sam Hopkins-Hubbard, Steve Irving, Jeff Anliker and Brad Humbert.

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

There were no citizens present.

Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald was present.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

The consent calendar item consisted of regular council minutes from the November 9, 2009 meeting.

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

BID AWARD – FARM LEASE CONTRACT

City Manager Linda Hall reported the city owned a 670 acre farm approximately 5 miles west of City limits on Seven Hills Road. The purpose of acquiring the farm was to accommodate the grey effluent and treated waste water from the city's sewage treatment plant. The effluent is piped and flows with the downhill gravity to the farm after being treated at the treatment plant and then into holding ponds. The water is then used as irrigation water for non-human consumption crops. Out of the total 670 acres, approximately 400 acres was farmed through a custom harvesting agreement, which was due to expire. The other approximately 270 acres remains in a conservative reserve program through the federal government or is taken up with the city's ponds, storage facilities, small electric substation or police firing range. Manager Hall, along with a couple of Public Works employees and a local farmer came up with a new approach to leasing/contracting the farm land. Under the old contract the city paid for custom harvesting, chemical expenses, pumping bills and seed expenses. The farmer retained 55% of the crops and the city received 45%, which then would go out to bid. The revised contract would be for cash rent per acre. The farmer would be required to pay all their incurred expenses including the power bill for pumping. The city advertised and accepted sealed bids for leasing the city owned farm. There were two bids received; JC Leber Farming and Robert Klein. Staff's recommendation was to award the lease agreement to the highest bidder who was JC Leber Farming at a total of \$81.00 per acre.

Councilor Humbert motioned to award the farm lease bid to JC Farming for the high bid of \$81.00 per acre for lease of the city farm for a period of five years with an option to renew. Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard asked if there were any Christmas festivities planned.

Manager Hall replied, the Fireman's Dinner was December 11, 2009, City Dinner was December 18, 2009 and the Christmas Magic was December 4, 2009. The parade would end at Freewater Park and North Main businesses would be open late for business during and after the parade.

Mayor Key asked if the council could ride in the city owned bus for the parade.

Manager Hall said that could be arranged.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor