

Public Remarks – Millwood City Council meeting – Tuesday, 4/8/25

My name is Kaye Boone and my address is 2609 N. Bessie Rd, Millwood WA. My husband and I have been residents of Millwood for nearly 40 years.

I will preface my remarks by acknowledging the information presented tonight by the City Treasurer's report regarding updating internal controls about the use of City credit cards, etc. as well as Mayor Freeman's statement read by Mayor Pro Tem Shaun Culler about this same issue.

My remarks today are about the recent (March 31st) report on KXLY regarding the findings of the Office of the Washington State Auditor relating to the City of Millwood not keeping track of credit card charges made by city officials – 'resulting in a loss of public funds.'

My understanding is that Mayor Freeman used his City credit card for \$3,292.66 in personal purchases between August 17, 2021 and January 12, 2024 – a period of 29 months – nearly 2 ½ years.

The Mayor claimed he had used the City card by mistake and has subsequently repaid the City in full – last payment was February 28, 2025.

However, the Auditor found another \$7,319 in credit card charges that neither the Mayor nor the City could adequately explain the business purpose of the charges.

I have a few observations and rhetorical questions for the Mayor, the City Treasurer, and the City Council:

- I worked in the accounting field for over 40 years for various companies and non-profit organizations. One of my tasks for several of these companies/organizations was monitoring the use of Company credit cards to comply with the requirements of what was an allowed or disallowed expense.
- ONE mistake can be understandable but to use the City credit card for personal expenses and to continue this for nearly 2 ½ years is beyond incomprehensible to me.
- While I appreciate that Mayor Freeman repaid the City, my rhetorical questions are:
 - Why did this pattern continue for so long?

- Who approved these personal purchases?
- The additional \$7,319 in questionable charges concerns me as well.
 - Why did Mayor Freeman omit receipts to prove their business purpose?
 - Will the \$7,319 be repaid to the City?
 - If so, when will that happen, and will Millwood taxpayers be informed?
- As retired senior citizens and Millwood taxpayers, my husband and I must monitor our budget very carefully.
- To find out – only through the media – that there has been a significant loss of public funds due to lack of oversight and accountability is extremely upsetting.
- We would appreciate a sincere public apology from the Mayor, the Treasurer, and the City Council in the next City newsletter.
- And we hope that going forward, the City will have transparency about the financial payments made WITH TAXPAYER FUNDS for any and all expenses.

Thank you.

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