

MILROY CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 27, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Mayor Sik called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Council Members Present: M. Sik, Marks, L. Sik and Olson.

Staff in attendance: Clerk/Treasurer Snyder and Public Works Director Sando.

Guests: Mary Dahmes, Lori & Dean Duscher, Kent Miller, Megan Haken, Sharri VanDeWiele, Laverne Sik, Al & Angie Pool and Brad Snyder.

Mayor Sik reminded the guests of the rules for public comment.

APPROVE AGENDA

L. Sik/Marks unanimous to approve the agenda with the addition of well-house electrician, PTO and Drew Olson resignation.

RESOLUTION #14.2025 – ACCEPTING COUNCILMEMBER OLSON RESIGNATION AND DECLARING A VACANCY

L. Sik/Marks unanimous to approve Resolution #13.2025 accepting Drew Olson's resignation as of October 27, 2025, at 7:10 p.m.

A notice of vacancy will be posted for applications to be back by 4:00p.m. on November 18, 2025, and reviewed at the November meeting.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

Olson/Marks unanimous to appoint Chris Schmitt to the council, term ending December 31,2026.

CONSENT AGENDA

Marks/Olson unanimous to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. September 22, 2025, Regular Council minutes and October 15 & 22, 2025, Special meeting minutes.
- b. Claims Payable (check #12889V-12911) for \$28,835.47 and electronic payments for \$17,184.90.
- c. Land Use Permit #13-2025.
- d. Resolution #13-2025 Accepting payment from the Milroy Relief Association.

REPORTS

FIRE – Marks/L. Sik unanimous to deem the pick-up truck box and bumper off the 2012 F-350 as excess property.

This will be listed for sale.

The grass rig flatbed is complete and needs to be picked up in Clara City. There are multiple truck repairs that need to be addressed. The '07 Yellow Tanker was taken to Heiman for valve and piston repairs and the '90 tanker repair of the fuel line was done by Wrenchers. The new radios are all in. The department received a FEMA grant. This grant is for SCBA, turnout gear and a fill station. The city match for this \$234,000 grant is \$11,000.00; this is a 5% match and will come out of the fire fund.

PUBLIC WORKS – He is working his way around the shop and becoming familiar. He has repaired the frame of the front door on the shop that was broken. Welu's will donate a metal plate for that door. Using the street sweeper will be a learning curve for him with help from the City of Marshall. He is also cleaning the shop and building some shelves. The rear overhead door to the shop needs the cables repaired and Z Doormen will be called for repairs. We will be having a mock OSHA tour of our buildings next month. Park shelter needs the soffit put on and the roll up door was asked about. A new cutting blade for the tractor will be bought.

COUNCIL – Mayor Sik called the city attorney on 10/27/2025 about the formal grievance.

Councilmember Olson called the city attorney on 10/24/2025 about the formal grievance filed that he would need to address being he is the acting mayor. Olson then commented on the complaints against the mayor that were brought up at the last meeting. These include fireworks, beer truck driving on Lexington Street to unload at her home, where the beer was bought, and council members not caring about the city. He said if city residents care about the city they should consider running for council as there is a vacancy. Councilmember Marks had residents ask why the citizens are acting the way they do. It appears there is a lot of fighting going on and he would like the city to be a better place to live. He then thanked Olson and Haken for their service to the city council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The formal grievance filed by Dean Duscher was then addressed. Acting Mayor Olson then allowed Mayor Sik the option to speak on this matter. Mayor Sik said she called rural water on 9/4/2025 and spoke with Lori Blair who works for Rural Water and is a friend of hers. When Mayor Sik spoke to Lori Blair, she told her that their rural water truck was parked illegally in front of the city shop and asked her to have the driver not break the law and to park properly on the street. Lori Blair agreed to talk with the driver. Mayor Sik then called Lori Blair back on 10/9/2025 due to the grievance stating she yelled and screamed at her, and if this is true Mayor Sik would like to offer an apology. Lori Blair said she did not yell and scream at her and that Mayor Sik was more than welcome to use her name in the council meeting.

Olson/L. Sik to take no action against Mayor Sik about the grievance that was filed. L. Sik, Olson, Marks approved. M. Sik abstained.

Marks/Olson unanimous to dissolve the Milroy EDA and leave these funds in general until any further use.

L. Sik/Marks unanimous to no longer contribute towards the family health plan and to only offer the single policy to employees paid for by the city. Employees can have a family policy they will just have to pay for it.

Purchasing better cameras or more cameras was talked about and having better lighting on the buildings.

The 2026 wage increases will be tabled until the November meeting.

Water/Wastewater contracted services were discussed. Meadowview Consulting/Shane Daniels has been still not able to produce a contract with insurance factored in. A special meeting will be held on November 5, 2025, at 6:30p.m. and a decision will be made between him and People Service.

NEW BUSINESS

The current spending threshold of \$300.00 will not be changed, and Public Works Director Sando will make a list and council will approve.

The State Auditor has determined that cities under 2500 population no longer need an audit each year. The city auditor has provided a proposal for certain items that they would still do for the city. The 2025 audit will be tabled until the November meeting.

The MN Paid Leave law that goes into effect 1/1/2026 was reviewed. The percentage of determination for small employers has not been released by DEED yet. The percentage will be either .44% or .22% for each employee and the city. This will be tabled until the November meeting.

Bidding city contracts was on the agenda and Mayor Sik received her explanation about this from the clerk, which is when contracts come due, they are put up for bids/quotes.

An appointment to the personnel committee will be tabled until the November meeting.

Ordinance violation complaints were received and reviewed by the council. None of these complaints are signed or dated and will not be addressed by the council. All complaints if signed will be forwarded to the city attorney per council decision in 2/2025. Mayor Sik said the City Attorney told her the council cannot enforce ordinances as they are not police officers and if an ordinance is violated the sheriff should be contacted. Copies of the Ordinance Book will be made for council by 1/1/2026.

City provided cell phones is being researched. This will be tabled until the November meeting.

When Dean Duscher he had unused PTO which was all frontloaded at the beginning of the year. City attorney Matt Gross said this needed to be paid out. Due to the precedence set Tom Sando will receive his first year of PTO. Mayor Sik would like to propose 3 weeks of PTO plus the 48 hours of ESST and to not front load this. This will be tabled until the November meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Kent Miller then spoke about having a company in place that can train the new Public Works Director about water and sewer. It should not be the mayor seeking out an individual or company by herself. This should be brought to the council first. Calling the city attorney and spending taxpayer dollars.

Lori Duscher asked how the city can hire a new Public Works Director with no experience at a higher wage than the previous that held the water/wastewater license. She also questioned the ownership of the mayor's residence.

Mary Dahmes commented on the frustration of the people in the city, and this could be due to council spending, hiring new people with no experience at a higher wage, special meetings, cell phones, ordinance violations, and ignoring complaints.

Megan Haken asked if the complaints are signed will the council acknowledge them. Council will and she will sign the ones she gave. She also said the public forum should be at the beginning of the meeting. Citizens are silenced and the council is her "Yes" men.

Dean Duscher said he would like to say a lot of things, but these reasons are why he quit. He loved his job and there is way more to the MN Rural water story and the fun fest story. He feels slighted by the fact that he was never thanked for his fifteen years of service in the city.

Sharri Van De Wiele would like to reiterate the retaliation. She questioned Councilmember Marks about how he said citizens don't come to meetings because the people attending are too aggressive and in your face. Basically, they are not afraid anymore, that is why they are still attending. You should not let your favoritism about who you want to hire to train Tom mislead you.

LaVerne Sik was questioned about if he pays taxes in the city. Council is the keeper of spending the money and trying to save money. He said the council is the keeper of the purse and the city clerk said she is charge of the money and reports back to the council. Sik said she is in charge of the bills and all get ran through council.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

- November 10 – City Office Closed
- November 11 – Holiday Observed
- November 24 – City Council Meeting
- November 27 – Holiday Observed

ADJOURN

Marks/L. Sik unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Approved on this 24th day of November 2025.

Betsy Snyder, City Clerk/Treasurer