

MILROY CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

November 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Mayor Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Mayor Brooks, Council Members Christensen, Olson, Sik and Zwach.

Staff in attendance: Clerk/Treasurer Snyder, Public Works Director Duscher and Fire Chief Krueger.

GUESTS

Kent Miller, Steve & Debbie Todd, Sharri VanDeWiele, Lori Duscher, Mary Dahmes and Scott Haken.

APPROVE AGENDA

Christensen/Sik unanimous to approve the agenda with the addition of Redwood County Prosecution Contract under Unfinished Business.

AUGUST 2024 MINUTES

At the October 2024 meeting it was brought forward to amend the minutes of the August 2024 meeting. Upon review by the Clerk/Treasurer these minutes already stated what was wanted, therefore these will stand as written with no amendment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Zwach/Christensen unanimous to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- October 28, 2024, Regular Council minutes and November 12, 2024, Canvass Meeting minutes.
- Claims Payable (check #12679 - #12692) for \$4,121.22, and electronic payments in the amount of \$14,933.18.
- Resolution #13-2024 – Acceptance of Podium.

REPORTS

FIRE – DNR surplus items are being returned. The generator has been installed and needs to be wired. **Christensen/Zwach unanimous to approve the quote of \$2,250.68 from G & R Electric to hook up the generator.**

PUBLIC WORKS – Christmas lights have been put up around the Welcome to Milroy sign by Kent Miller family. One of the well house heaters was replaced. The lead service line inventory is complete and available on the website or city hall. **Christensen/Brooks unanimous to purchase a half inch impact from Running's for \$349.99.**

MAYOR/COUNCIL – Olson asked about the letter he received about his lead service line. He is wanting to get a test kit and he should contact the number in the letter which he has been doing with no response. He also asked if a letter had been sent about a vehicle which is sitting on city property. A letter will be sent to the resident.

Christensen asked about the apartment building roof and when or if it needs to be replaced because the Legion roof needs replacement and they thought this could be a joint project. The roof on the apartment building does not need any repairs/replacement at this time.

CLERK/TREASURER – Pat Dolan asked about banners and if the city had plans to buy/replace some of the ones which are wind torn. She explained to Pat the safety issue for the city with no proper equipment or no more than one employee to put these on the poles. The Milroy Yankees would maybe help in getting these up and provide funds if the city would purchase a few more of the Welcome to Milroy home of the Yankees banners. Banners sponsorship was discussed, but due to them being along a state highway MNDOT will be contacted. Banner hardware and different mechanisms to get these up without a lift will be researched. EDA members, bylaws, expectations and lack of interest to make up the required five members was discussed and will be on the January agenda. First Independent bank would like to come on 12/7/2024 to update their equipment in-house prior to their website conversion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The payment request from 604 Cedar Street for concrete replacement when their driveway had to be dug up to run the sewer line to the property next door was reviewed. **Christensen/Olson/Brooks/Zwach in favor to approve payment for \$563.48. Sik abstained.**

Purchasing new laptops or iPads for council was discussed. This will be on the January agenda.

Information on the 4M fund was reviewed. This is a Money Market account with a 4.3% interest rate through the League of MN cities. The next step would be to pass a resolution and fill out an application. This will be on the January agenda.

Christensen/Zwach unanimous to approve Resolution #14.2025 Approving 2025 Final Levy; General Levy \$185,000; Tax Abatement Levy \$16,500 and 2022 Street Project Abatement Levy \$ 110,000.

Sik asked how a city goes about filling out grants and who is responsible. There is the RADC in Redwood Falls that works with cities and Grady Holtberg, Redwood County EDA Coordinator that could be asked about what's out there and the eligibility to apply.

Sik questioned some items in the Personnel policy. She pointed out the social media policy and the guidelines when using. All city employees and council should consider if you don't want it posted about you, then you should not post about someone else, and all should have more respect for one another. City clerk hours and if there is a written policy was asked. The clerk explained these are posted hours and if there are or have been changes the information was listed only in the minutes. Sik would also like to meet with the clerk to see what this position entails; this is a great idea and will be set up. She also asked about a city complaint form and the city has one in place. She also met with the Public Works director and has a better idea of what he does as well.

All new and current council members are encouraged to attend the newly elected training put on by the League of MN cities.

Employee reviews were discussed. Zwach stated raises can be given at any time and to let the new council deal with raises. Sik would like to see at least a cost-of-living raise given. Olson questioned going back to the anniversary date if raises are given after the first of the year, which would be done. This will be put on the January agenda.

Matthew Novak was contacted about representing the city for prosecution services. Currently the city has a contract with the county. The county charges the city \$175.00 an hour and Novak will charge the city \$125.00 an hour. If the city terminates the contract with the county, they require a 160-day written notice. **Christensen/Sik unanimous to end the contract with Redwood County effective 5.3.2025.**

NEW BUSINESS

2025 fee schedule was reviewed with no changes.

West side of the city windbreak was discussed. Sik inquired if the city would consider selling this land to the adjacent property owners. It was decided that this will not be sold at this time.

OPEN FORUM

Lori Duscher then addressed the council about wages, benefits filing a grievance, area city wages and council pay. Area wages were collected by the clerk and shared with the council in the September and October packets. Sik also made some calls and found that Milroy's wages are a little under based on the employees' years of service, but the insurance offered to employees is more generous.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

- December 23 – City Council Meeting
- December 25 – Holiday Observed

ADJOURN

Zwach/Sik unanimous to adjourn the meeting 7:20 p.m.

Approved on this 23rd day of December 2024.

Betsy Snyder, City Clerk/Treasurer