

## **MILROY CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting

February 24, 2025

### **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Sik called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Council Members Present: Sik, Christensen, Haken, Miller and Olson.

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

Guests: Joe Plaetz, Granite Rock Insurance, Jeff and Sharri VanDeWiele, Mary Dahmes and Tom Marks.

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

**Miller/Haken unanimous, to approve the agenda as presented.**

### **GUESTS**

Joe Plaetz, Granite Rock Insurance Agency was present to go over the upcoming renewal for the city. **Christensen/Haken unanimous to not waive the tort liability limits.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The claims were removed from the consent agenda.

**Christensen/Haken unanimous to approve the minutes listed on the consent agenda.**

a. January 27, 2025, Regular Council minutes and February 11, 2025, Special Meeting minutes.

At the 2.11.2025 special meeting there was more than one vote which did not pass; therefore, these contributions remained the same as listed in the policy handbook. Olson said no taxpayer dollars should go into these employee accounts.

**Christensen/Sik to change the VEBA contributions to \$1200.00 for each employee. Christensen/Sik/Haken approve; Olson/Miller opposed. Majority rules, motion carried. A refund will be requested for the added \$1200 that was given.**

**Christensen/Haken unanimous, to approve the claims listed.**

b. Claims Payable (check #12736 - #12755) for \$21294.32, and electronic payments for \$20,427.41.

### **REPORTS**

**FIRE** – Clifton Township would like the fire department to consider adding ten (10) sections to their current fire contract. Townships have previously been given a year's notice prior to any rate change, and no rate change will be made until 2026 beginning in 2027. The purchase of a grass rig through the DNR has been applied for. Fire Chief Krueger asked if the city would consider putting money into their budget. This would basically be a transfer of funds because fire is part of general and this will be considered for the 2026 budget. The ambulance was questioned as they are not part of the city, but the city houses their vehicle. Hydrant painting is done fifteen (15) feet each way and he can work with Dean on getting these marked out. The dryer keeps popping breakers and someone will need to look at this. June 16, 2025, is their annual burger feed.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Working on fixing/flushing hydrants and looking for a business who does crack filling. Attending Rural Water Conference March 4-6, 2025, in St. Cloud.

**COUNCIL** – Mayor Sik wants to know why she hasn't received her keys. Public Works Director Duscher explained he hasn't been to town to have them made yet.

Councilmember Miller would like to find an area where the city can offer garden plots for rent to city residents. Location could be at the end of Lorrain on city owned property. This will be put on the March agenda. Tennis courts and possibly using it for a pickleball court were discussed. This will be put on the March agenda. He would like the water/sewer fees, budget and the history of when these fees were reviewed and increased and a copy of the equipment listing. This will be put on the March agenda. Equipment listing and approximate trade in schedule will be put on the March agenda. Interest in the garden plots and pickleball will be asked on Facebook and the city website. He learned at the League of MN Cities that renters are part of the community and welcome at meetings.

Councilmember Christensen then brought up the camera playing from the special meeting, saying residents brought it to his attention that the playing of this could have been altered. Computers and beyond have access to the cameras as they installed them and the fitness door system. He thinks the mayor, or a designated councilmember should have access as well. The city does have a security camera policy. He doesn't think that this is a good look for the city employees, and he wants more transparency.

**Christensen/Sik unanimous to inquire with Computers and Beyond if the footage can be kept for six (6) weeks.** Managing the Facebook page and how the clerk's daughter-in-law had a long comment. Clerk/Treasurer Snyder said there were plenty of

comments on that live meeting including the mayor's husband. He thinks there's a bad look because only one person is controlling it. Clerk/Treasurer Snyder suggested the choice to get rid of Facebook and use only the city website. The comments cannot be shut off due to the way this page was set up. Using you tube or zoom will be used with no comment being able to be made. Haken will work with Clerk/Treasurer Snyder to set this up. Record retention on meetings will be looked at. Facebook will be used for informational items only. **Christensen/Sik unanimous to record city meetings and upload to the city website the day after the meeting.** Christensen asked if a log was kept by the clerk when she uses her personal vehicle for city business. He thinks she is writing off mileage personally as well, but she is not. Mileage is just a reimbursement. He asked if the city should even be taking cash and yes, the city will continue to accept cash.

**CLERK/TREASURER** – Currently updating the personnel policy and drafting a key policy. Attending MCFOA Annual Conference March 18-21, 2025, in Brooklyn Center.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Olson/Christensen unanimous to buy the go pro with an extra SD card for the fire department use.**

**Christensen/Haken unanimous to allow Public Works Director Duscher to accumulate overtime when doing repairs to the EDA apartment.** Approximate costs to repair could be up to \$5,000.00 for materials.

**Christensen/Sik unanimous to buy five (5) batteries for council computers for a cost of \$26.99 each from Amazon.**

It was also noted that a previous councilmember had changed the settings on the city owned computer to attach her iPad and cell phone. This is not allowed as these are city owned and only to be used to conduct city business.

**Christensen/Haken unanimous to allow the PTO payout to be put into the employees VEBA if chosen.** The option for the employees choose will be approved by the council prior to any disbursement.

**Christensen/Haken to hire Kent Miller to plow snow if needed March 4-6, 2025, for \$25.00 an hour. Christensen, Olson, Sik, Haken approved. Miller abstained. Motion carried.**

**Sik/Christensen unanimous to approve the drafted Time Off request form.** These will be signed by personnel committee members, Christensen or Sik.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Miller/Olson unanimous to approve the Fire Contracts.**

The purchase of a zero-turn mower was discussed. There is currently \$91,704.03 in the designated equipment fund. **Miller/Haken to approve the quote from Weltsch Equipment for \$11,619.00. Christensen/Haken/Miller/Sik approved. Olson opposed. Majority rules, motion carried.**

The cost to implement the option to e-bill for utility bills through our current software company is \$585.00 one-time set up fee, \$120.00 annually and \$.08 per bill. **Haken/Olson unanimous to approve the setup of e-billing for utility bills and offer this choice to city residents.**

**Miller/Haken to purchase 130yards of mulch for \$4,475.25 for under the playground equipment in the city park. Miller/Haken/Christensen/Sik approved. Olson opposed. Majority rules, motion carried.**

The iPad purchase for reading water meters will be tabled until March and options will be looked into.

A nuisance complaint was received about a property and a letter will be sent.

Council pay was discussed with no change being made at this time.

Miller asked about city owned land that is being farmed and if the city collects cash rent. The city does not collect any rent, and this item will be on the March agenda.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No residents addressed the council.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS**

- March 17 – School Board Consolidation Meeting
- March 24 – City Council Meeting
- April 7 – Board of Equalization Meeting

**ADJOURN**

**Haken/Olson unanimous to adjourn the meeting 8:55 p.m.**

Approved on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

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Betsy Snyder, City Clerk/Treasurer