

MILROY CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

August 24, 2026, 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Mayor M. Sik called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Present: Margaret Sik, Chris Schmitt, Renee Zwach, Mary Dahmes and Lanny Sik.

Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Snyder, Public Works Director Sando and Fire Chief Matt Krueger.

Guests: Megan Haken.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Zwach/L. Sik unanimous to approve the agenda as presented.

BID OPENING – FIRE VEHICLE

The Clerk-Treasurer reported receiving four bids for the fire vehicle. The bids received were \$1,000, \$3,000, \$3,001, and \$5,000. Attendees in the room were given the opportunity to raise their bids. No one chose to do so. **Schmitt/Dahmes unanimous to accept the highest bid of \$5,000, submitted by Bon Hill Simmons of Richmond, Minnesota.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Schmitt/Dahmes unanimous to approve the following consent agenda items, with one correction to the minutes.

- a. July 27, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Bills /ACH/Payroll
- c. Street Closing Milroy Funfest
- d. Street Closing Oasis Bar & Grill
- e. LU Permit #6.2026 – 101 Superior
- f. Resolution #14.2026 – Relief Reimbursement
- g. Resolution #15.2026 – Fire PERA Increase

REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Regarding Resolution #15.2026 (Fire PERA Increase), the Chief explained that since transitioning to the state-funded PERA retirement system, the department has maintained a well-funded position. With a member approaching retirement, the department is moving the per-member contribution from \$900 to \$1,100. The Chief noted this is funded through fire state aid and does not require a direct contribution from the city's general fund.

Zwach/Dahmes unanimous to buy two Milwaukee-platform battery-operated circular saws from Cummins for \$956.00 each.

Schmitt/L. Sik unanimous to authorize the addition of up to two captain/lieutenant positions within the Fire Department.

He also raised the question of long-term fire department sustainability and funding, noting the difficulty of balancing township contract rates, PPE replacement costs, and aging equipment repair expenses. He saw that on paper the city's financial contribution to the department appears minimal, as much of the major equipment spending has been offset through the fire relief association. He and the Clerk/Treasurer Snyder agreed to collaborate on a comprehensive financial picture to present to the council at a future meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS – Public Works Director Sando reported on a drainage issue near the grain bins on Prospect Street. Sand from the elevator has been entering the city's storm drain system, requiring two rounds of jetting and televising to diagnose. The source was identified as grain bin tile feeding into the storm drain. Approximately two tractor bucket loads of sand were removed during each cleaning. A plan was set up to include systematic jetting of storm drain catch basins on the east side of town as part of next year's contracted maintenance. Duschers are scheduled to begin work on a tile issue the following morning and Precision Paving is expected to complete park paving work before Funfest.

MAYOR/COUNCIL – Several community items were discussed. Park Painting: 4-H youth painted park benches and shelter columns on August 9th. Paint ran out before completion and additional paint will be obtained and a follow-up date will be scheduled to finish before winter. Public Works noted that replacement boards for the shelter had been pre-treated on all four sides before installation.

The memorial stone at the park could be a trip hazard and will be marked with a flag.

A question was raised about a bench placed in memory of Melvin Welu and its proximity to an existing bench. It was confirmed the placement had been approved by the council previously, and the family had selected the location.

Welcome Sign (North End): Several residents inquired about adding a welcome sign on the north end of town, like the existing sign. The state will need to be contacted prior to any sign being placed.

The possibility of hanging artificial flowerpots from light poles along the main corridor was discussed as an enhancement for the city's 125th celebration. UV-protected silk flowers were noted as a low-maintenance choice that could be seasonally changed.

The uneven condition of the park grounds was noted. Rolling was discussed as a solution, but current dry conditions make it impractical. Public Works Director Sando noted that Doug Christopherson has proper equipment and would be the preferred choice. Milroy Baseball has offered use of their roller as a backup.

CLERK/TREASURER

Regarding discharge of a firearm within the city, only a licensed police department could legally do this. A resident complaint was received about a vehicle that appeared to be inoperable sitting on the street. A notice will be posted about removing boats, campers, and recreational vehicles off streets in advance of the fall street sweeping season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fitness center current membership stands at approximately 16, with a reserve fund balance of roughly \$4,000. Enrolling in the Silver Sneakers (Medicare-reimbursed fitness) program will be researched. The fob access system was noted as a tool to track member visits, which would satisfy program reporting requirements.

Refining the incentive structure to include the addition of a three-month membership choice with a two-week free incentive alongside the existing six-month and one-year options.

Public Works reported a revised approach to the well-house repair project. Rather than painting the structures, the plan was changed to apply new steel tin siding to the water tower pumphouse and south wellhouse exteriors, and re-roof the north wellhouse. **Dahmes/L. Sik unanimous to accept the quote from Welu Construction for \$4,751.00 including noted add-on items.**

The personnel committee reported that performance reviews for staff had been completed. Council members expressed appreciation for both Public Works and the Clerk-Treasurer, specifically noting Public Works' rapid growth in the role and the Clerk/Treasurer's consistent reliability and institutional knowledge. The committee recommended a .75 raise. This will be tabled.

Complaint letters have been sent and council expressed appreciation when residents comply voluntarily.

Schmitt/Dahmes unanimous to buy a dissolved oxygen (DO) meter from Blue Book for \$4,269.60.

L. Sik/Zwach unanimous to buy a box blade from Wendorff Manufacturing for \$4,545.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk/Treasurer Snyder presented the proposed 2027 levy, noting the overall budget would move from approximately \$316,500 to \$320,000. **This is an increase of 1.4%. Schmitt/Dahmes unanimous to set the proposed 2027 levy at \$320,000.00.**

Clerk/Treasurer Snyder presented a health insurance renewal showing a significant premium increase from approximately \$884 to \$1,237 per month for single coverage. She noted that the city's small employee pool limits the ability to shop for alternatives. She will get a comparison quote.

Clerk/Treasurer Snyder informed the council that the city's garbage contract with Southwest Sanitation is expiring at the end of December. She noted that Southwest Sanitation has been a strong community partner, providing free portable toilets for Funfest, spring cleanup and making donations to the fire department. A representative from Southwest Sanitation, Dan Ritter, had recently met with her and expressed a strong desire to keep the city's contract. The council discussed the strong service record and community support provided by Southwest Sanitation and opted not to issue a formal RFP, instead obtaining a new contract directly with Southwest Sanitation.

The council addressed an outstanding invoice from Alex Air for \$152,767.00, submitted for FEMA reimbursement. FEMA reimbursement has been delayed due to a temporary shutdown of the agency and the backlog of nationwide grant submissions. To avoid late fees on the Alex Air invoice while awaiting FEMA payment, the Clerk-Treasurer proposed drawing the payment temporarily from the city's general savings account (current balance approximately \$227,000) and reimbursing it once the FEMA check is received. **Zwach/Dahmes unanimous to pay the Alex Air invoice for \$152,767.00.**

Council Compensation was discussed. Currently the mayor receives \$83.34 and council members receive \$75.00 per meeting. Any changes to compensation will not take effect until after the next election. Council members discussed the full scope of their responsibilities beyond attending meetings, including reviewing materials, responding to concerns, and conducting informal site visits. This will be tabled. The council also agreed by consensus to waive the special meeting pay for the budget work session held earlier in the evening, as members were already present for the regular meeting.

Zwach/Dahmes unanimous to decline RADC membership and not pay the invoice.

Public Works presented three quotes for exterior painting of the city hall/fire hall cement block building (tin sections excluded). This would be completed in the spring of 2027. **Zwach/L. Sik unanimous to accept the quote from C&S Painting Services for \$9,480.00.**

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

- August 27 – City Office closing at noon
- August 31 – September 3 – City Office Closed
- September 7 – Holiday Observed Council Meeting
- September 28 – City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

Zwach/Dahmes unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Approved September 28, 2026.

Betsy Snyder, City Clerk/Treasurer