

**CITY OF MILACA
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 19, 2024**

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order Roll Call

Mayor Dillan called the meeting of the Milaca City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

Upon roll call, the following council members were present: Mayor Dave Dillan, Councilors: Ken Muller, Norris Johnson, Lindsee Larsen, and Laurie Gahm.

Staff present: City Manager Tammy Pfaff, Communications Specialist Mary Mickelson, Assistant City Clerk Deloris Katke, Police Chief Quinn Rasmussen, Fire Chief Jesse Gerads, City Attorney Damien Toven

Others present: Chloe Smith, Dan Hollenkamp, Tim & Karen Poorker, Rich & Kate Higgins, Kody Nelson and Justin Ingall

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve the agenda. Johnson made a motion for approval, seconded by Muller. With no further discussion, all in favor of the approval of the agenda; motion passes.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the following items:

- a. Approval of the Minutes – Special Council Meeting August 12, 2024 and Regular Council Meeting August 15, 2024
- b. Approval of Bills
- c. Resolution #24-27 Lawnmowing Assessment
- d. Resolution #24-28 Approving 2024 Liquor/Tobacco/THC License for Firehouse Bar & Grill

Muller made a motion for approval of Consent Agenda, seconded by Gahm. No further discussion. All in favor of the Consent Agenda; motion passes.

Citizen Open Forum

Mayor Dillan asked if anybody present wanted to address anything not on the agenda. No one came forward.

Public Hearing: None

Requests and Communications - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ord. #532 Amending Chapter 115 Peddlers, Solicitors and Transient Merchants by Adding Mobile Food Units-First Reading. Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Larsen. Mayor Dillan stated he had a question that was cleared by City Manager Pfaff today and that was that we previously had a permit for food trucks, but that we are just adding some things and getting it cleaned up. Mayor Dillan asked if the council wanted to set a limit to the licenses. For example, if they get a year license, do we limit the days or is it unlimited, once a month, twice a month? Same with six months. Johnson stated that he thinks it would kind of work itself out as some businesses would be seasonal and go to different towns. He thought it would be self-limiting. Muller stated that he didn't think you should do monthly. Mayor Dillan stated this was the first reading so we want to keep unlimited. Mary Mickelson stated that we wanted to add some language in there that if there was an event, that the vendor would need to ask if they could be there. And that these food trucks have a license from the State of Minnesota and that a background check is conducted on the individual. She further stated that the fine has been increased as well. No further discussion. All in favor of the first reading, unlimited days and additions, Ordinance #532 First Reading passes.

Ordinance #533 Amending Chapter 34 Fee Schedule First Reading – Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion by Larsen, seconded by Gahm. Johnson asked how this compares. City Manager Pfaff stated it was just \$50.00 so we've expanded it to the 6 month and one year. No further discussion. All in favor, Ordinance #533 Amending Chapter 34 Fee Schedule First Reading passes.

Reports of Departments, Boards and Commissions

City Manager – There is a company down by Pease that for four weeks for \$158 we could potentially post information for the Milaca Junction Addition ads on this digital sign. I am just asking council if they want to do this now or wait to see if we get response from the other sign that will go up. Muller asked if this was in lieu of the other sign and Mayor Dillan stated this was in addition. Mayor Dillan asked if this could be EDC funds. He also stated that timing is important as far as travelers. Deciding on the time (dates) could be determined later. Johnson made a motion to approve the four weeks advertising and to set a time for the advertising. Seconded by Gahm. Mayor Dillan asked if it had to be a consecutive four weeks and City Manager Pfaff stated yes. No further discussion. All in favor of advertising on the digital sign. Motion passes.

Police – Chief Rasmussen stated LETG was acting up so he could not get a report printed for this month. There would be 2 squads coming to get outfitted in the next couple weeks. Officer Barros is back to help being the power car.

Parks – Acoustic Proposal for Gorecki Center – City Manager Pfaff stated that when Dorothy Gorecki was in the Gorecki Center for the Rum River Community Foundation fundraiser, she commented about how hard it was to hear in there when the building is full of people and we should get more acoustic panels put in. We contacted a company to come in and give us a proposal on how to get better sound. The funds would come out of 216. Fund 216 has earned to date in interest is \$2578. In the fund it has \$189,704. Just want to get approval from council to add more acoustic panels.

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve adding more acoustic panels. Motion made by Larsen, seconded by Johnson. Johnson stated that he would like to see some historical photos down in there and maybe that could act as a soft surface and help buffer the sound. Maybe the cost to print those photos were be comparable to the acoustic panels. No further discussion. All in favor of acoustic panels and pictures. Motion passes.

Public Works - Pay Request #2 to OMG Midwest, dba Minnesota Paving & Materials in the amount of \$190,253.65 for 2024 Street Improvements Project. Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Larsen. No further discussion. All in favor of Pay Request #2 to OMG Midwest, dba Minnesota Paving & Materials in the amount of \$190,253.65 for 2024 Street Improvements Project. Motion passes.

Public Works - Pay Request #3 to Northern Lines Contracting in the amount of \$312,465.69 for 110th Avenue Improvements Project: Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion by Muller, seconded by Larsen. City Manager Pfaff stated that we are finally in the HUD program and we are submitting expenditures to date. No further discussion. All in favor of Pay Request #3 to Northern Lines Contracting in the amount of \$312,465.69 for 110th Avenue Improvements Project. Motion passes.

Public Works- Pay Request #3 Final to ACM, LLC \$17,586.84 for Liquor Store Access Road Project. Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Muller. No further discussion. All in favor of Pay Request #3 Final to ACM, LLC in the amount of \$17,586.84 for Liquor Store Access Road Project. Motion passes.

Liquor Store –

Fire Department – Fire Chief Jesse Gerads stated they got their building and concrete fixed so they should be done with the draining issues. Put down spouts and a new storm sewer. And we will be putting up 3 flag poles on the west side of the building. There will be a 70' pole in the middle and two 40' poles on the side. Our pumpkin open house is October 12 and October 14 is our council/members open house night.

Planning and Zoning –

Airport – City Manager Pfaff stated there will be a Poker Run out at the airport tomorrow and she would be there from 8 am to about 10 am.

Committees

Budget:

EDC:

New Business

Calling for a Special Meeting for 2025 Preliminary Budget – Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Motion by Larsen, seconded by Johnson. City Manager Pfaff stated we were kind of looking at September 25. Wednesday. 5:00 pm here at city hall. Gahm stated that was going to be a little tight for her as she doesn't get back until 5 pm. Would 5:30 pm be better and Gahm stated it would. No further discussion. All in favor of Special Meeting for September 25, at 5:30 p.m. passes.

November, December 2024 and January 2025 Council Meeting Change Dates – Mayor Dillan stated that he is coaching basketball and he has games on these days of council and would like to move these dates back one date. November 20, December 18 and January 15, all at 6:30 p.m. Larsen made a motion to

approve, seconded by Gahm. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passes to move council dates to November 20, December 18 and January 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Donation for Kody Nelson – Eagle Scout project – Kody Nelson was present and stated he would like to put 3 grills down in Reck Park and 1 in Trimble Park. So there would be one by the Lions Shelter and one by the equipment shelter and one by the splash pad center and one by the open center by the park memorial. Depending on the amount raised, they would be either steel grills or stainless steel grills. He has talked with Gary and Gary suggested Trimble Park as well. They would be on a 2x2 foot concrete pad drilled in and the grill would have adjustable grates. He has raised \$1,200 which is almost enough for steel grills. Steel grills would be \$1,400 but his goal is \$2,700 for stainless steel grills as they last twice as long. Kody stated if the council wanted to donate the \$200, he would get the steel grills and they would last 5-10 years before rusting out. If he gets stainless steel grills, they would last 15 plus years. Kody stated over MEA weekend he is putting cement down and then once that dries and depending on when I get the grills, the next week or end of October, beginning of November depending on snow and rain and things like that. Kody stated that so far the people that have donated are: Teals, Mille Lacs Disposal, First National Bank, my family, Baas Construction, Heggies Pizza, CD Mechanical, Arrow Building Center, they have donated the concrete, and so far that is a total of \$1,220 donated to my project.

Mayor Dillan asked where we were at as far as donating. City Manager Pfaff stated we could not donate but we would look into our gambling funds and see if there are any possibilities and she would check with the state auditors and our attorney just to make sure we are doing this correctly.

Miscellaneous

City Manager Pfaff stated that she would just like to let the public know that this new council table was free. All we had to do was go down to St. Paul and pick them up. Our Public Works went to pick them up and assembled them here.

Council Comments

Laurie Gahm just wanted to welcome Firehouse Bar & Grill.

Ken Muller just wanted to say once again how nice the parks are looking and he will keep saying it because they keep looking nice.


City Manager wanted to thank Gary for all his hard work in looking for all these deals and he has saved the city thousands of dollars.

Mayor Dillan updated the council on the Empowering Small Cities Grant. He stated there was an event at the Pizza Bowl at the first home football game. We asked residents what they want to see in 5-10 years, what would make you move back to Milaca, etc. We got good input. We are following up again on October 4 at Homecoming. We will have some trivia and candy to hand out. We will then tally information from the Pizza Bowl night and Homecoming night and see what we come up with.

Mayor Dillan stated Tom Fisher, Phil Gravel, (our city engineer) and himself met Zoom to come up with creative ideas for the Milaca Junction Addition. They are looking at the area from Hwy 169 to Hwy 23 to County Road 2 to the new property – that big chunk of land. The whole area. Contacting owners for long range and short range plans. The amount of the grant from the University is \$5,000.00 to be used for these activities like the candy we purchase and if we host an open house here, those expenses would be covered.


Adjourn:

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Gahm to adjourn. No further discussion. All in favor, motion to adjourn passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Mayor Dave Dillan

Attest:



Tammy Pfaff, City Manager