

**CITY OF MILACA  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 16, 2026

**Call to Order**

Mayor Dillan called the meeting of the Milaca City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Upon roll call, the following council members were present: Mayor Dave Dillan; Councilors: Lindsee Larsen, Ken Muller, and Tim Poorker. Norris Johnson was absent.

Staff present: City Manager Tammy Pfaff, Communications Specialist Mary Mickelson, Public Works Supervisor Gary Kirkeby, Fire Chief Jesse Gerads, and City Attorney Damien Toven.

Others present:

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve the agenda. Muller made a motion for approval, seconded by Larsen. Mayor Dillan added #3 – Water Tower Evaluation to the agenda under *10.d. Reports of Departments, Boards, and Commissions: Public Works*. With no other additions or discussion, all in favor of the approval of the agenda. Motion passes.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2026
2. Approval of Bills
3. Approval of Quarterly Financial Reports

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Larsen made a motion for approval, seconded by Muller. Councilmember Poorker asked if revenues are meeting expectations. City Manager Pfaff explained that seeing a decline is usual, since the tax settlement does not arrive until July. All in favor of approving consent agenda. Motion passes.

**Citizen Open Forum**

**Public Hearing**

**Requests and Communications**

Honoring 20 years of dedicated legal services – City Attorney Damien Toven

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Reports of Departments, Boards and Commissions**

*City Manager* — Pete Stauber-sponsored Community Project Funding grant has been accepted into the appropriations committee for consideration for the Milaca Junction project in 2027. The Empowering Small Minnesota Communities Program awarded the City an \$8,000 grant, bringing the total to \$13,000. This will be used for development in the community or events. Public Works Supervisor Gary Kirkeby applied for a Blandin Foundation grant, which will be used to make Rec Park more inclusive, adding an accessible fishing pier and accessible swings. The Small Cities Development Program grant has been submitted for the water tower rehab. Mayor Dillan said that he asked City Manager Pfaff to list these grants to show that we are in the process of requesting over \$2,000,000 for the City of Milaca.

*Public Works —*

1. **Plans And Specs and Authorize Bidding for Lead Line/Galvanized Water Service:** Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Muller made a motion for approval, seconded by Poorker. Replacement is being funded by the State of Minnesota's drinking water revolving loan fund. The original estimate was 98 households needing replacement. After inspection, that amount dropped to 26. The project was originally planned to be completed over the span of three years but can now be completed in 2026. Bids for this project will be sought towards the end of May. Public Works Supervisor Kirkeby also mentioned that as part of this project, a two-inch water main in the alley behind Holiday on Central will be replaced with a four-inch water main. All in favor of approving plans and specs and authorizing bidding for water service line replacement. Motion passes.
2. **2026 Sealcoating Project Quotes from Pearson and Allied Blacktop:** Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Larsen made a motion for approval, seconded by Muller. The two quotes submitted were Pearson Bros., Inc. for \$60,680 and Allied Blacktop Co. for \$66,610. Going with Pearson would still be \$10,680 over budget, but savings of \$30,000 when the plow truck was purchased means the departmental costs are still lower than projected budget amounts. Fire Chief Gerads asked if after-project sweeping was the City's responsibility; Public Works Supervisor Kirkeby said that the contractor will do the sweeping. Mayor Dillan asked about the added longevity that sealcoating gains, to which Kirkeby said that if you run a rotation every six years, you can gain an additional ten. Kirkeby also mentioned that the potholes and cracks are filled before sealcoating occurs. Mayor Dillan asked for a vote approving the bid award to Pearson Bros., Inc. All in favor of Pearson Bros., Inc. Motion passes.
3. **Water Tower Evaluation:** Cost per KLM Engineers is \$10,500. Responding to Mayor Dillan's question regarding who made the inspection recommendation, Public Works Supervisor Kirkeby said that both KLM and Stantec recommended it. Kirkeby also stated that KLM, whose specialty is water towers, is contracted with the City and has done inspections when a new antenna goes up. The City is also due for its standard five-year inspection. The water tower project is budgeted for 2027, for which the City will apply for different sources of funding, but the groundwork for that project needs to begin now. Councilmember Poorker asked if this is the first time the reservoir will be reconditioned. Kirkeby replied that other than repairs that were necessary to the bottom of the water tower bowl, the water tower has met its 25-year painting lifespan. The project was discussed in 2021, but the decision was made to wait until the water plant was off the City's debt schedule. Councilmember Poorker also asked if the reservoir was coated on the inside, and if there will be any interruption in water service. Kirkeby responded that both the interior and exterior would need to be sandblasted and then painted. Kirkeby also said that the water plant can be switched to different modes, preventing a water service interruption. Councilmember Poorker also questioned the line item that the City would be responsible for any site damage. Kirkeby thought that it was standard for KLM contracts but would seek a full definition. Councilmember Larsen asked for the dollar amount that needed to be approved, which was the \$10,500 that was verbally agreed to by KLM. Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Poorker made a motion for approval, seconded by Larsen. Kirkeby also mentioned that the Council would eventually need to approve the logo and color for the tower as something to keep in mind going forward. All in favor of the water tower evaluation. Motion passes.

*Liquor Store —* Mayor Dillan noted that the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on May 23, 2026 was being advertised.

*Fire Department —* Fire Chief Jesse Gerads said that the Fire Department is now fully staffed. Gerads also said that the department found a rescue truck in Wisconsin on the auction site. It will be checked in person to see if they'd like to proceed with the purchase.

*Airport* — MNDOT Grant Agreement #1061954 Taxiway Improvements Phase 3: Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Muller made a motion for approval, seconded by Poorker. All in favor of MNDOT Agreement #1061954. Motion passes.

### **New Business**

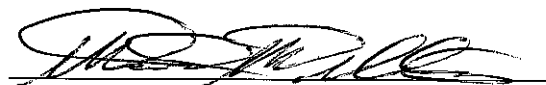
1. Special Event Application Milaca Rec Fest: Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Larsen, seconded by Muller. No further discussion. All in favor of Special Event Application for Milaca Rec Fest. Motion Passes.
2. Special Event Application Milaca Meats Memorial Weekend Rib Fest: Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Larsen, seconded by Muller. City Manager Pfaff mentioned that it will be the same weekend as the Liquor Store's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. All in favor of Special Event Application for Milaca Meats Memorial Weekend Rib Fest. Motion Passes.
3. Special Event Application Family Fun Day – American Legion Auxiliary: Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Muller, seconded by Poorker. No further discussion. All in favor of Special Event Application for Family Fun Day – American Legion Auxiliary. Motion Passes.
4. Special Event Application Milaca High School Tractor Day: Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Poorker, seconded by Larsen. No further discussion. All in favor of Special Event Application for Milaca High School Tractor Day. Motion Passes.
5. Special Event Application Milaca ECFE Kiddie Parade: Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Larsen, seconded by Muller. No further discussion. All in favor of Special Event Application for Milaca ECFE Kiddie Parade. Motion Passes.

### **Council Comments**

Councilmember Muller commented that it was very nice to work with City Attorney Damien Toven, and that he likes his work. Councilmember Poorker commented that the final house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE by East Central Electric is being constructed. Poorker also asked about the status of the property on the west side of Heggies, to which City Manager Pfaff responded that there was no news at this time. Mayor Dillan commented that he was in touch with Sam Johnson regarding the Milaca Junction properties for sale. Sam stated that there's hesitancy because of the lack of road, so the City will be working to implement it quickly.

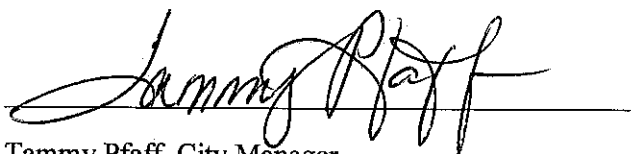
### **Adjourn**

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Larsen seconded by Muller to adjourn. No further discussion. All in favor, motion to adjourn passes. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Mayor Dave Dillan

Attest:



Tammy Pfaff, City Manager