

**CITY OF MILACA  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 18, 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, City Attorney Damien Toven

Others present: Nick Grahek of Bolton and Menk, Sarah Ranweiler, Peter Sahlstrom, Wes Sahlstrom, Chris Carlson, Ben Roehl, and Dan Hollenkamp

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve the agenda. Larsen made a motion for approval, seconded by Johnson. 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 – March 21, 2024
- b. Approval of Bills

Larsen made a motion for approval of Consent Agenda, seconded by Muller. 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 Hearings:** Issuance of General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds and Proposal to Adopt a Street Reconstruction Plan. Public Hearing opened at 6:32 p.m. City Manager Pfaff asked if anyone present wished to speak at the public hearing. No one came forward. Public Hearing closed at 6:33 p.m.

**Requests and Communications:** Certificate of Commendation for Milaca Wastewater Treatment Plant and Its Staff – Mayor Dillan congratulated the staff on this recognition.

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

*Resolution #24-06 Accepting General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds.* City Manager Pfaff stated that this is a 20-year bond. Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Gahm.

Mayor Dillan asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, all in favor of Resolution #24-06 Accepting General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds. Motion passes.

*Resolution #24-07 Accept Donations.* Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Muller made a motion to approve, seconded by Johnson. Mayor Dillan asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, all in favor of Resolution #24-07 Accepting Donations. Motion passes.

*Resolution #24-08 Close County Roads for 2024 Milaca Rhythm on the Rum Parade.* Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Larsen. Mayor Dillan asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, all in favor of Resolution #24-08 Close County Roads for 2024 Milaca Rhythm on the Rum Parade. Motion passes.

*Resolution #24-09 Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Abatements.* Mayor Dillan asked if this was at the May meeting which would be May 16 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Larsen. Mayor Dillan asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, all in favor of Resolution #24-09 Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Abatements. Motion passes.

*Resolution #24-10 Approving THC License for Milaca Tobacco.* Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Gahm made a motion to approve, seconded by Muller. Mayor Dillan asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, all in favor of Resolution #24-10 Approving THC License for Milaca Tobacco. Motion passes.

### **Reports of Departments, Boards and Commissions**

*City Manager* – City Manager Pfaff just stated she is getting ready for the auditors, which is next week.

Police -

Parks – Request \$10,000 transfer from Park Reserve for Fencing Around New Pickle Ball Courts - Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Muller. Mayor Dillan asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, all in favor of \$10,000 transfer from Park Reserve for fencing around new pickle ball courts. Motion passes.

Public Works -

Liquor Store –

Fire Department – Fire Chief Jesse Gerads stated that Isle Fire Department has agreed to purchase rescue snowmobile, sled and trailer for \$1,000. If Milaca Fire Department needs assistance with this equipment, Isle is only 30 minutes away and we would be able to use the equipment. Isle Fire Department currently does not have any equipment like this so this equipment would really help them out and there are a lot of snowmobile trails in that area.

Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval of the sale of rescue snowmobile, sled and trailer for \$1,000. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Larsen. With no further discussion, all in favor. Motion passes.

Fire Chief Gerads continued to state that the Milaca Fire Relief Association would like to put up a set of flag poles on the west side west building of the fire station. Part of that we would deal with the building repairs as well. We would do some landscaping and building repairs. City Manager Pfaff stated that two

quotes would be needed for the building repair. Fire Chief Gerads stated that that would be hard to do because nobody knows what it's going to cost until you dig down. Until the ground is actually cut, nobody will bid the project. City Manager Pfaff asked what repairs they were needing. Fire Chief Gerads stated that in the front on both sides of the building on the south end the footing blocks are rotting away from the water running down the building. We will have to cut it out, dig down and then either put new blocks in or fill in with concrete. We would also have to fix the drains on the roof as well to help with the water. Mayor Dillan asked if it could come under the amount and Fire Chief Gerads said they set aside \$30,000. City Manager Pfaff stated if it is over \$25,000, then you will need two quotes for that.

Fire Chief Gerads also stated they have not heard much on the new engine. There is a slight delay so hopefully towards the end of the year they would have it. Hopefully by that time they will have enough money to pay for that as they have another \$100,000 to donate to the city from the gambling association. So hopefully by that time we won't have to bond for anything.

Planning and Zoning - No meeting but there is one opening and we have some people that are interested and those names have been passed on to Tammy and then she will pass them on the Planning Commission and they will discuss this and pass on to the council. City Manager Pfaff stated there has not been any activity for a planning commission meeting lately and we are just waiting for a request for a meeting.

Airport- Award Bid for Airport Entrance and Parking Lot Paving -- Nick Grahek of Bolton & Menk was present. He stated Monday they opened bids for the airport project. There were 5 bids that were received but one bid was noncompliant. The low bid is from MN Paving and Materials (OMG Midwest Inc.) in the amount of \$170,029.00. We would recommend awarding the bid to MN Paving and Materials in the amount of \$170,029.00. This will be a 95% MN Dot Aeronautics and 5% local grant.

Mayor Dillan asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Muller made a motion to approve to the bid for Airport Parking Lot and Entrance Road in the amount of \$170,029.00, seconded by Gahm. All in favor, motion passes.

*Federal Grant Project Number B-23-CP-MN-0884 Plan Approval* -- Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Muller. City Manager Pfaff stated they finally just approved the Environmental Review. That took about 8 months. Mayor Dillan asked if Phil was OK with the projected costs and City Manager City Manager Pfaff stated he was. Pfaff also stated that the sanitary sewer and water construction costs would come out of the water and sewer funds. Pfaff further stated that we would approve plans tonight, open the bids on the 29<sup>th</sup>. If we could do a special meeting to get the plans moving forward quicker there could be a special meeting the week of May 30<sup>th</sup> or June 4 so we could get going quicker with the construction starting sometime around June 16. There are still a couple of easements that need to be signed in that area yet and we will continue to reach out to get those signed. This is all 100% grant. No further discussion. All in favor, motion to approve Federal Grant Project Number B-23-CP-MN-0884 project passes.

### New Business-

*Gambling Fund Lawful Purpose Expenditures Policy* -- Mayor Dillan stated the reason this policy was in the packet was they had talked about making some changes but we really hadn't come back to this so we will now tonight. One of the things we talked about was #5 and making that a team thing. And we talked about putting a limit on the number of times of donation to the same group doesn't keep coming back. I think we tossed around the idea of two years and then that would be it. That would be an addition, unless anyone sees anything else. Number 5 was just opposed to individuals and we wanted a group or team. Gahm had stated that she thought we had talked about more about when they went to state or nationals? Mayor Dillan stated yes and that is why we talked about the groups and not individuals. So those would

be the two things we would tweek a bit. Mayor Dillan asked if anybody else had any other ideas. Gahm made a motion to adopt with the proposed additions and changes, seconded by Johnson. No further discussion. All in favor of #5 to be teams and to limit to two years of donating. Motion passes.

*Special Event Application-Rhythm on the Rum Parade* - Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Larsen. With no further discussion, all in favor of approving Special Event Application-Rhythm on the Rum Parade. Motion passes.

*Special Event Application-Tractor Day* - Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Motion made by Gahm, seconded by Muller. With no further discussion, all in favor of approving Special Event Application-Tractor Day. Motion passes.

*Special Event Application-Music in the Park* - Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Motion made by Muller, seconded by Johnson. With no further discussion, all in favor of approving Special Event Application-Music in the Park. Motion passes.

*Special Event Application-Movies in the Park* - Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Motion made by Gahm, seconded by Johnson. With no further discussion, all in favor of approving Special Event Application-Movies in the Park. Motion passes.

*Milaca Archery NASP National Tournament Donation Request* - Sarah Ranweiler was present and thanked the city for their donation last year and helped send 37 individuals to the nationals last year in Kentucky. This year they are going to the western nationals in Sandy, UT. There were no teams that made it but there were 8 individuals that qualified and 6 that will be attending. Mayor Dillan stated that himself and Norris had a discussion on how we are going to handle this. Mayor Dillan's opinion was that they would not go under the new gambling policy that was passed tonight as they came into this tonight not knowing we were making these changes. Johnson asked how the fundraising was done and Ms. Ranweiler stated some fundraising was done as a group but most of it is does come from the families. Gahm stated that she was concerned of past precedence. Mayor Dillan stated that's why the gambling policy was changed tonight so now moving forward it's a group thing not individuals. But they came into this tonight not knowing this change. Pfaff stated this comes out of the gambling fund. Gahm requested some wording that other people wouldn't come and say well you gave to them. It is noted in the minutes from the changes of the policy. Larsen asked what was given last year. Ms. Ranweiler stated it was \$20 per archer and there were 37 last year. Mayor Dillan stated that any amount would help and maybe do \$200-\$300. Johnson stated that would be a good amount and these archers are representing our town. Gahm asked if they were flying or driving and Ms. Ranweiler stated 2 families were driving and the rest were flying. Muller stated that this donation is a good use for the community. The archery range sure looks nice. Pfaff asked Ms. Ranweiler if they use the range and she stated they had an archery scramble out there last year and they are talking about another one this summer and they hope to use it more this summer. Larsen made a motion for \$300, seconded by Muller. All in favor, motion of \$300 to the Milaca Wolves Archery passes.

*Freshwaters UMC-Princeton Faith Fest '24 Donation Request* - Mayor Dillan stated this is a new request. Pfaff stated that under the gambling policy we can donate to a church. Event is held at the Princeton fairgrounds. Gahm asked who brought this request to the council and Pfaff stated a Myla Tolmie from the church. Pfaff asked if there was a level they wanted and Dillan stated no he didn't want to do a sponsorship. His thought was that it is a Princeton thing at Princeton, even though it's open to the public and I'm not sure it fits with what we want to do here. Gahm agreed. Johnson stated that he is not sure how many Milaca people would participate. Gahm stated then like Mora and those areas have events too. Dillan stated yes, it's not the event. Johnson stated it's a good event to support but not as a city since it is in Princeton and there are things right in Milaca that we could support. Johnson made a motion

to deny the request, seconded by Larsen. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion to deny request from Freshwater UMD-Princeton Faith Fest '24 passes.

*El Jalisco Off Premises Liquor License from Rum River Community Event* – Mayor Dillan stated this is for the spring event Saturday night down at the Gorecki Center. The foundation is awarding over \$8,000 in grants this year. We have just gone over the \$100,000 in that time. Endowment fund just reached \$250,000 so they can continue to award grants in the coming years. El Jalisco caters. Larsen made a motion to approve, seconded by Muller. Mayor Dillan stated he will be abstaining as he is on the Rum River Community Fund board. No further discussion. All in favor, motion passes.

### Miscellaneous

#### Council Comments

Johnson stated that it was nice to see the comment about the donation to Rec Park. Mayor Dillan further stated that himself, Tammy and Gary met with the softball fast-pitch coach at the high school and they are looking at doing more work to the ballfields to make it more fast-pitch fields. They still can do slow-pitch but there really isn't any slow-pitch ball anymore and bring more of that program down there.

Gahm stated that Ms. Bell down at the high school will be doing a community clean up so get a hold of her and she will have kids help.

Muller stated that the parks crew has done a good job at mowing and keeping the parks nice looking.

Dillan stated he had one thing. The Rec Fest people brought up a concern of skateboarders in the park while the event is going on. If we could think of some ways to encourage the kids to do something else that weekend. Maybe get a hold of the Witch Doctor and get the word out that there is an event in the park or some signs. Just something to help with this.

#### Adjourn:

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Larsen to adjourn. No further discussion. All in favor, motion to adjourn passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

  
Mayor Dave Dillan

Attest:

  
Tammy Pfaff, City Manager