

**CITY OF MILACA  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

January 18, 2023

**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: Lindsee Larsen, Norris Johnson, and Ken Muller. Councilors Absent:

**Staff Present:** City Manager Tammy Pfaff, , Police Chief Quinn Rasmussen, Administrative Communications Specialist Mary Mickelson, Public Works Superintendent Gary Kirkeby, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Warne Johnson, Liquor Store Manager Vicki Jeys, Assistant City Clerk Deloris Katke, City Attorney Damien Toven and Fire Chief 2 Chris Ehlen.

**Others Present:** Dan Hollenkamp, Chloe Smith, Kathleen and Maynard Berland and Rob Droogsma

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve the agenda. Larsen introduced a motion for approval. Muller seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Mayor Dillan stated there were a couple of additions to the agenda: Liquor Store add Beer Cave Door Quotes and under Requests and Communications add Information on a Feasibility Study of Hwy 23 Coalition. With no further additions, Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve the additions to the Agenda.

Larsen introduced a motion for approval of additions. Muller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor; motion carried.

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

- a. Approval of the Minutes – December 14, 2022
- b. Approval of Bills
- c. **Resolution #23-01 Annual Appointments**

d. **Resolution #23-02 Declaring a Council Vacancy**-Mayor Dillan stated that the applications for council vacancy would be posted at City of Milaca's website and facebook page and the Union Times. They hope to appoint at the February meeting.

Mayor Dillan then called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Johnson introduced a motion for approval of Consent Agenda. Larsen seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor; motion carried.

**Citizen Open Forum**

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

**Public Hearing – Annexation from Milaca Township.** Mayor Dillan opened the Public Hearing for the Annexation from Milaca Township at 6:34 p.m. Maynard Berland stated he has property (East) next to the annexation area. He was questioning the plans for this annexation at this time. He stated it is currently zoned Industrial. City Manager Pfaff stated there is nobody waiting to purchase this property but that the city would like to get this property ready for the future Industrial. Mayor Dillan stated the city does not have a lot of Industrial lots available right now. Mr. Berland then questioned if electricity and water and sewer would be at this lot. Mayor Dillan stated at some point. Mayor Dillan explained that once this property gets annexed, then it may make it easier to get funding for infrastructure. Councilmember Johnson stated that the first line of business would be to get access to the property.

Rob Droogsma spoke on behalf of Milaca Township and stated they have no problem with this annexation. Their only concern is access. City Manager Pfaff stated that would be for whatever project comes in in the future.

Public Hearing closed at 6:37p.m.

**Requests and Communications – Feasibility Study for Hwy 23 Coalition** – City Manager stated that there is a coalition for Hwy 23 from Foley to Mora and they are trying to better that stretch. They are hoping to get 4 lanes. They are addressing accidents that have happened on Hwy 23 and they are requesting to do a feasibility study in 2023 and they would like the support of the city council. The city just needs to submit a letter of support. Councilmember Johnson asked if they were asking for any financial input at this point and City Manager Pfaff stated not at this point. The City of Milaca is not paying into the coalition – we are not a member- we are just one of the cities along this route. If the city wants to become a member of this coalition, the fee is based on the population. Mille Lacs County may be sending a letter of support as well. Council directed City Manager to send a letter of support.

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance #508 Chapter 34: Fees, Charges and Rates (Shelter Fees)-Second Reading.** Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Motion by Muller, seconded by Johnson. Johnson questioned how the deposit was paid and Mayor Dillan stated it was by check when he rented it and the city just held the check and returned it so unless you do something that requires the city to cash it, there is no money out. No further discussion. All in Favor. Motion passed.

**Ordinance #509 Rezone Request from Eric and Jill Hardy-Second Reading** – Mayor Dillan called for a motion for approval. Muller made a motion for approval. Seconded by Johnson. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Ordinance #510 Annexation of Land Located in Milaca Township-First Reading.** Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Larsen. Councilmember Johnson questioned what would be involved to get access. City Manager Pfaff stated more than likely we would have to get an easement from the property owner. Councilmember questioned if it would be from the most northern property line and City Manager Pfaff stated yes. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Reports of Departments, Boards and Commissions**

*City Manager* – city has received only one application for the City Treasurer position. Position will remain open until filled.

*Police* – Chief Rasmussen commented that the department is down an officer. The latest officer resigned.

*Parks* – Public Works Superintendent Kirkeby stated the skating rink and warming house had been opened until recently. Hopefully with the cooler weather, it can open up again.

*Public Works* – Public Works Superintendent Kirkeby stated they have just been busy plowing and moving snow.

*Liquor Store* – Liquor Store Manager Jeys stated they had finished 2022 with over \$3,000,000 in sales which is up \$58,831 from previous year. Profit of \$731,000. Vicki stated there are two quotes for the liquor store beer cave cooler door. The rest of the wall has to be removed in order to get the cooler door in. One quote is \$4,000 lower and I would recommend going with AJW, the lower bid. Mayor Dillan questioned what type of door this was going to be and Vicki stated this is just to have the wall removed

and put up support beams to have the door installed. Councilmember Johnson moved to accept the bid of \$33,743.00 from AJW. Larsen seconded the motion. Councilmember Johnson questioned if this included the installation of the cooler door. Vicki stated the installation will be done by the cooler company. Vicki has the door already so it's just a matter of having door installed. Work should be done within a month and would take about a week and they will work overnight so the cooler does not have to be closed. All in favor. Motion passed.

*Fire Department* – Fire Chief 2 Ehlen commented that the fire department is going back to an organization that they had a few years ago when Craig Billings and Greg Lerud were Fire Chiefs. One would be an Admin. Chief. The \$6,000 for the Chief will be split between the two. Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Muller, seconded by Johnson. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chief Ehlen commented that the fire department is getting closer to getting the Side-by-Side. Hopefully they will get some quotes this month. They got another grant for \$5,000 and between grants and donations they are up to about \$50,000. City Manager questioned if the monies have been turned into city hall and Ehlen stated most of them. There is a \$5,000 grant coming from the DNR and that's a reimbursement once we purchase it.

*Planning and Zoning* – Nothing

*Airport* – Nothing

### Committees

Budget –

EDC – Meet January 25

**New Business – Contracts from Mille Lacs County DAC – City, Gorecki Center, Library and Fire Hall** Mayor Dillan called for a motion to approve. Johnson made the motion to approve, seconded by Muller. Councilmember questioned if there was an increase and City Manager Pfaff stated no increase. No further discussion. Mayor Dillan stated he will be abstaining from voting as he is on the DAC board. Johnson, Muller and Larsen voted yes; Mayor Dillan abstained.


### Council Comments

Councilmember Johnsons thanked the Public Works crew for plowing and moving the snow.

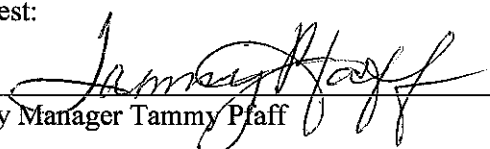
Mayor Dillan commented about how wonderful it is having the Urgent Care here in Milaca and that he keeps hearing good things about them. Councilmember Muller stated he agreed.

### Adjourn:

Motion made by Larsen to adjourn. Seconded by Muller. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

  
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Mayor Dave Dillan

Attest:

  
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City Manager Tammy Pfaff