

MILACA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17, 2015 MEETING

The regular meeting of the Milaca City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Harold Pedersen. Upon roll call the following council members were present: Dillan, Muller, Johnson, and Gahm.

Staff present: Lerud, Gann-Olehy, Toven

Others present: Leah Staup, Collin Staup, Lola Vedders, Roberta Nickerson, Don Slegers, and Jeff Hage.

Motion by Muller, second by Johnson to approve the consent agenda:

1. Minutes of the November 19 regular council meeting.
2. General bills; 815278E-815283E, #41783-41786, #41842-41853, #41859-41928, \$108,869.05; Liquor bills; 915043E-915046E, #23475-23492, #23527-23538, totaling \$148,975.69.
3. RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 25 RESOLUTION ASSESSING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER BILL (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
4. RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 26 ASSESSING UNPAID FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE CHARGE (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
5. Approve \$1000 transfer from Rec Fest Fund to Band Shell Reserve.
6. Joint Powers agreement with City of Ogilvie.
7. Appoint 2016 Fire Department officers.
8. City Treasurer's report

Unanimous consent.

Mayor Pedersen opened citizen's forum and invited anyone to speak to an item not on the agenda. Collin Staup said he is working on his Eagle Scout project and he said he had a couple of ideas to do in conjunction with the new rec park building. He said the first step is to meet with the council to see if they are in favor of the project. He said he would like to do a flag pole or a fire pit. Mayor Pedersen said he thought that either of the projects could be done in conjunction with the planned sign project. The consensus of the council was his ideas sounded good.

Don Slegers, 610 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW said he had a couple of issues he wanted to raise with the council. First, he said he was concerned about loaded semi-trucks on city streets. Lerud said several years ago, the council considered the issue, and took no action prohibiting semi-trucks from city streets. He said the city does have a weight limit on its streets, but that limit has to be posted, and the city needs to also have a scale to weight trucks. Slegers suggested the city contact the highway patrol as they have portable scales. Mr. Slegers also asked how many dogs can a home have. He said his neighbor has four. Lerud said the present limit is two and the council is considering an increase to three. Slegers also said the dogs run at large and leave messes outside their property. He suggested that police stop people walking their dogs and make sure they have something to pick up the dog stool in. Mr. Slegers also

asked if the city tickets cars that get plowed around. Lerud said the city does and actually receives complaints that tickets are written.

No one else came forward.

Mayor Pedersen opened the public hearing and invited comments from the public for the proposed 2016 budget and levy. Lola Vedders explained the increase in her taxes and said that they are very high for the valuation of the property without water and sewer. Lerud explained the city portion of her taxes. Roberta Nickerson, SW River Drive said that her valuation has increased significantly and thought the taxes were quite high for the valuation. She said that SW River Drive is also in very poor condition and it reflects poorly on the city. Lerud said that the city has considered SW River Drive for a project, but until water and sewer was extended he did not think it made sense to put a new road in, only to dig it up a couple of years later to put in water and sewer. He said the city proposed a water and sewer project on SW River Drive and invited all the residents and there was zero support for a water and sewer project. Lerud said the school is considering a project on land they own west of town, and if that project starts, then water and sewer will be put down the road.

Mayor Pedersen said one change he would like to see is move the cost for the reserve force into the parks department, as that is where the real need is.

There were no other comments from the public. Mayor Pedersen closed the citizen's forum.

A letter from the golf course was reviewed. Lerud said the golf course is considering purchasing the Lunn Construction property just north of the city maintenance building and they are requesting the city engineer investigate the feasibility of water and sewer extensions in that area to serve the city shop, the building they are considering, and the Roger Eisen property. Mayor Pedersen said that the Eisen property is outside city limits and if utilities are extended to that property, they should be required to come into city limits. Motion by Johnson, second by Dillan to proceed with the request, unanimous consent.

Motion by Johnson, second by Gahm to hold the second hearing and for passage of Ordinance No. 416. Lerud said the other question was regarding water and sewer access fees. He said they are scheduled to go back up at the end of the year, and staff recommended keeping them at their present lower rate. Council recommended keeping the lower rates. Mayor Pedersen suggested the idea of putting a gate at the crosswalk that would only be accessible by people who are renting a shelter or who pay an annual fee. After a brief discussion it was decided to not proceed.

ORDINANCE NO. 416  
AN ORDINANCE SETTING FEES

Unanimous consent.

Council member Dillan, second by Johnson to pass Ordinance No. 417

ORDINANCE NO. 417  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE IX (GENERAL REGULATIONS) CHAPTER 95 (ANIMALS) SECTION 95.06  
(KENNELS) OF THE CITY OF MILACA CODE OF ORDINANCES

Unanimous consent.

Council member Dillan offered Resolution No. 15 – 27 and moved for its adoption, second by Johnson

RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 27  
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2016 BUDGET AND PROPOSED 2016 TAX LEVY  
(entire text appears in Resolution book)

Mayor Pedersen reiterated his recommendation to move the amount in the police reserve line item to the parks department. Lerud said that police reserve forces are common, and therefore there is a framework and policies for organization and operating a reserve force. Lerud said the costs to the reserve are primarily uniforms and some vehicle charges. The reserve officers will be volunteers. He said the city council can set the policy for the reserve force, and if the council wants to make patrolling the park a large part of what their duties will be, then the council can do that. But he recommended that the program remain under the police department.

Upon voting all voted in favor.

Council member Dillan offered Resolution No. 15 – 28 and moved for its adoption contingent on all license applicants meeting the requirements for a license, second by Muller

RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 28  
RESOLUTION APPROVING 2016 LICENSES  
(entire text appears in Resolution book)

Unanimous consent.

There was no planning commission meeting in December.

Lerud said the minutes of last month's economic development commission meeting were in the agenda packet, and the commission meets tomorrow morning.

Council member Muller said the airport commission met last night without a quorum. He said they discussed the medical reform bill that passed the Senate, and is going to the House, where there is more support, and then to the President if it passes. He said that should help increase economic activity at the airport. Muller said the commission is looking at offering premium gas instead of 100 low-lead because most planes can burn premium, and the low-lead is very expensive. He said it might be something to look at in 2016.

Mayor Pedersen said the parks commission supported moving the barricades up to the stop sign for the winter. He suggested the city set an open house date on the new building. It was decided to have a ribbon cutting/open house close to the first day of skating. Mayor Pedersen said Andrew Fullen did not finish his Eagle Scout project before turning 18. The band shell dedication is set for Sept. 17.

Council member Dillan said MCAT is working on Snow Dayz. It will coincide with the school's Snow Dayz, with most activities happening on February 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Lerud said about four years ago, some greater MN parks departments and organizations got together with the purpose of organizing to try and increase the amount of State funding for greater MN parks and trails. As a result of that effort, the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission was formed. Milaca has been involved since the beginning. Over the past two years the Commission has evolved, elected a board, and adopted policies regarding future regional parks and trails in Greater MN. Two years ago the city applied for Regional Park status for Rec Park, the forest preserve, and the school property, but just missed the cut off. The City applied again late last year, and our application scored the highest in parks.

The next step toward being designated as a regional park is to complete a master plan. He said he has been in contact with the Rural Design center at the University of MN to assist with the process. It is important to be designated as a regional park because only regional parks will be eligible to receive Legacy funding in the future. No action was required tonight, but Lerud said he would be bringing their proposal to a future meeting for consideration.

Mayor Pedersen called for council comments. Council member Gahm said John Herman, Fairview Northland President said to let the council know there is a provider who is very interested in Milaca. Mayor Pedersen said he is proclaiming December 31 to be Dr. Chawla day in Milaca.

Council member Gahm said she spoke to an employee who did not feel safe. Lerud said they have been discussing the idea of putting a glass barrier at the counter in the police department, and the decision was made to do something, but it has not been done yet.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Gahm, second by Johnson, all voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Mayor Harold Pedersen

ATTEST

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Greg Lerud, City Manager