

MILACA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
JANUARY 21, 2016 MEETING

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

Staff present: Lerud, Gann-Olehy, Quaintance, Armstrong, and Toven.

Others present: Jeff Hage and Jerry Jacobson.

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

1. Minutes of the December 17 regular meeting.
2. General bills, 815293E-815298E, 815317E-815318E, #41854-41858, #41929-41939, #41949-42018, totaling \$640,603.68; Liquor bills, 915047E-915050E, #23509-23526, #23539-23540, #23557-23568, totaling \$139,673.37.
3. Official designations and appointments:

Depositories

First National Bank of Milaca, Bremer Bank, Spire Credit Union, Prudential-Bache, Salomon Smith Barney, LPL Financial, Morgan Stanley, 4M Fund, any FDIC insured institution

Individuals authorized to conduct Electronic Funds Transfers

Tracy Gann

Greg Lerud

Mayor Protem

Dave Dillan

Newspaper

Mille Lacs County Times

Order of Succession for declaring an emergency

Pedersen – Dillan – Muller – Johnson - Gahm

**Parks Commission**

Theresa Nelson

Joe Wildman

Cory Grenieger

Dan Meyer

Dustin Hoeper

**Planning Commission**

Arla Johnson

Sherie Billings

**Airport Commission**

Leo Voss

**For term to end:**

12/31/2017

12/31/2017

12/31/2018

12/31/2018

12/31/2018

**For term to end:**

12/31/2018

12/31/2018

**For term to end:**

12/31/2018

4. RESOLUTION NO. 16 – 01 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHARITABLE GAMBLING PREMISES PERMIT (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
5. RESOLUTION NO. 16 – 02 RESOLUTION APPROVING BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
6. RESOLUTION NO. 16 – 03 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
7. Approving Peddler’s license for Sara Liebeck.

All present voted in favor.

Mayor Pedersen invited anyone to speak to an item not on the agenda during citizen’s forum. There were no comments.

A letter from the city engineer regarding a utility feasibility study for SW River Drive was reviewed. Lerud said the school is considering a building west of the city, and if the bonding request gets funded by the state, a feasibility study will not be needed. He recommended taking no action until the end of the legislative session.

Council member Johnson arrived at 6:35.

Council member Dillan offered Resolution No. 16 – 04 and moved for its adoption, second by Muller

RESOLUTION NO. 16 – 04  
RESOLUTION APPROVING 2016 LICENSE  
(entire text appears in Resolution book)

All present voted in favor.

Lerud said there was no planning commission meeting in January.

Council member Muller said there was not an airport commission meeting, but there has been a person expressing interest in being a FBO. He said there is still a lot of work to do, and the next step, once we have preliminary information will be to have an interview to determine qualifications.

Mayor Pedersen said the parks commission discussed increasing the rental fee for the Gorecki Community Center. He said after they discussed it, they recommend that the rental fee be for a maximum of four hours. Motion by Dillan, second by Muller to make it a policy that the future Gorecki Center rental period be a four hour maximum, all present voted in favor.

Mayor Pedersen asked Lerud to contact Goreckis about their availability for a ribbon cutting/open house at the community center.

Mayor Pedersen said the Save the Band Shell Committee received bids for the remaining work on the band shell, and they will be asking for council approval at the February meeting. He thanked Jerry

Jacobson for all of his work on the band shell plans. Jacobson said that two grants have been submitted to help with the celebration and for band shell work.

Council member Dillan said Snow Dayz will start February 18 with the business versus business bowling tournament. On Saturday, there will be a snow softball tournament, with board games in the Gorecki building. He said Stones Throw and Teals will be providing hotdogs and hot chocolate. Mayor Pedersen said there will be an open stage jam at the Phoenix Banquet Center on Feb. 20 from 2 to 8 p.m. for any local band interested.

Lerud said the agenda did not reflect it, but the minutes of the January economic development commission meeting were included with the agenda.

Lerud said he is adding to future agendas a follow up for issues raised in previous months citizen's forum, just as a follow up for the council. He said there were three issues raised last month. He said the comment about the condition of SW River Drive was already discussed with the engineer's letter. He said the complaint about the number of dogs at a residence has been taken care of – there are only three dogs at that residence. The other issue raised was regarding truck parking on residential streets. Lerud provided the list of approved truck routes on city streets. He said the time limit for parking is 72 hours. He said if the council was concerned about over weight vehicles being on city streets, the trucks would have to be weighted. Lerud said if the council wanted to do that, his recommendation would be to request the state patrol provide a commercial vehicle inspector for an hour or so per week. No action was taken by the council.

Chief of Police Quaintance provided a draft police reserve force policy. He said he is working on an application and process, and his plan is to build slowly and eventually to have five to six members. Mayor Pedersen said what he sees in this plan is beyond what he envisioned when it was first discussed. He said he was looking for a group of people who would have a radio and provide patrol in the parks and trails, as well as other community activities, such as a street dance.

Toven said that anyone can call for a police officer if they see something criminal occurring. He said a police reserve has specific statutory language, and he would be concerned about creating a "group" outside of those specific statutes that could not be empowered, but would act as if they did have some authority. Lerud said that a "Friends of the Park" group could be formed at any time to do the things that the Mayor was requesting, and that could be done at no cost.

Quaintance said that a police reserve would be expected to be present in the park, and it was his expectation that the police officers should be active and visible in parks. Council member Muller said he thought a reserve force could free up the officers to be more available for calls.

Quaintance said the other item he wanted the council to be aware of is a program called Project Lifesaver. He said the program provides transmitters for clients who might have autism, Downs Syndrome, Alzheimer, etc. that will allow them to be located more quickly. The city would have a directional receiver that will help locate the person. Quaintance said the goal of the program is to reduce the average time to locate a missing person from six hours to a half hour. He said the clients

wear a bracelet that is always transmitting, and if a report is received that they are missing, the city, as well as other jurisdictions in the county would bring their receivers into the area in an attempt to locate the missing person.

Quaintance said the grant will completely pay for the receiver and startup costs, as well as department training on the use of the equipment. He said those who enroll in the program will pay initial fees that will fund the ongoing cost of the program. Quaintance said the officers will have to meet monthly with the clients to verify the bracelet is still transmitting and replacing the battery as needed.

Council member Muller asked if the park cameras are able to be viewed in the squads. Quaintance said the county IT person, the camera installer, and the MN BCA are trying to figure out why they cannot be viewed. He said it has something to do with the firewall that is in place for all of the department's computers. Quaintance said it is being worked on, but he said that the council also needs to be aware that the officers should not be viewing the cameras live while they are on patrol. He said he does not even like then looking at the screen for dispatching while they are driving. He said that it will be a good tool if they see that something has occurred, they would have the ability to immediately go back to the tape to see what happened. There was a general discussion about patrol.

Mayor Pedersen called for council comments. He said he had someone contact him asking why the deputy registrar office has to close over the lunch hour while there are three people in the office every day. Lerud said that it allows staff a dedicated time to enter the data they need to, and many days the employees get little or no lunch break. He said just because it closes at 12:45 does not mean they are not helping a customer. Lerud said he would visit with Hartman about the matter.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Mayor Harold Pedersen

ATTEST

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Greg Lerud, City Manager