

MILACA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 21, 2015 MEETING

The regular meeting of the Milaca City Council was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor Harold Pedersen. Upon roll call the following Council members were present: Dillan, Muller, and Gahm. Council member Johnson was absent.

Staff present: Lerud and Toven

Others present: Jeff Hage, Rich Melvin, Julie Langner and several members of the area horse riding club.

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

1. Minutes of the April 16 regular council meeting.
2. General bills, 815081E-815099E, #41255-41257, #41328-41338, #41346-41399, totaling \$79,991.82; Liquor bills, 915014E-915017E, #23264-23278, #23296, #23318-23331, totaling \$188,800.26.
3. Approve the LMCIT liability waiver to not waive statutory limits and not purchase additional liability insurance.
4. Approve the following budget transfers:
 - a. \$300 from the General Fund to the Rec Fest Fund
 - b. Approve a transfer of \$120,632.33 from the 2005 GO Street Project Fund to the 2012 GO Bond Fund and close the 2005 GO Street Project fund.
5. Approve a Peddler license for Sara Liebeck.
6. RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 12 PEACE OFFICER DECLARATION (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
7. City Treasurer's report.

All present voted in favor.

Mayor Pedersen opened citizen's forum and invited anyone to speak to an item not on the agenda. Julie Langner said she has been involved with the local horse riding club since 2004 and said that they have interest in finding or creating trails to ride horses in Milaca.

Council member Johnson arrived at 6:38.

Langner said she met with Lerud and he talked about trails going on city-owned land that is west of SW River Drive, and south of the old rail road bed. The size of the parcel is approximately 20 acres. She said that she did not think it would be enough for a two hour ride and asked if the sky hill portion of the trails could be made available to horseback riders.

Lerud said that horses are not permitted on the city trails. He said initially horses were not permitted, but then the council allowed them. Around 2008, the council went back to the original policy of not allowing horses and it has been that way ever since. He said he could not remember the reason, but

horses and the other trail uses are not compatible. Langner presented an email that Lerud sent in 2009 about the trails saying that the horses might be able to ride on the road around the ponds. Lerud said that since that time the MPCA has required the city to close access around the ponds so that is no longer an option.

Council member Dillan said that the trails were built by mountain bikers for biking and hiking, and it is the primary training area for the high school cross country team and he was concerned that someone would get hurt if horses were allowed back on the trails. One of the meeting attendees said that the MN Trail Riders Association would provide funding for trail repairs, signage, or bridge repairs if those issues are concerns.

Mayor Pedersen said he prefers the horse trails be separate from the existing trails. There was a discussion about creating horse trails within the existing trail area. There was additional discussion about the school forest land. Mayor Pedersen asked them to take a look at that land and if it looked good to them, to contact the school board and inquire about using it. He said if they wanted to use the city land to build trails, he thought that the council would support that work.

Rich Melvin thanked the council for the \$1,500 donation for the summer festival. He also invited the council to the Milaca/Princeton joint chamber luncheon next Thursday at Northern Lights.

No one else came forward.

Council member Gahm said there was no Planning Commission meeting this month.

Lerud said there was no Economic Development Commission meeting this month.

Council member Muller said the Airport Commission is going to be meeting on an as-needed basis. He said the fly-in flyer is ready to be sent out. The fly in is August 2.

Mayor Pedersen said the Parks Commission met this week. He asked if the council would approve closing the streets as they have in past years for Rec Fest. Motion by Dillan, second by Muller to approve closing the following roads for the duration of Rec Fest: 2nd Street NW from 3rd Avenue to Rec Park, west bound traffic only; 4th Avenue NW from 2nd Street to 3rd Street, north bound traffic only, unanimous consent.

Mayor Pedersen presented a proposal from Baas Construction for band shell accessibility. He said that the council rejected all the bids at the last meeting for the ramp. This new proposal uses a lift and steps on the south side. In addition, this bid includes the new electric panel because power will be needed for the lift. During the filling of the basement this past week, it was discovered that the back wall was entirely rotten so Baas included replacing the back wall and installing a door with this quote.

Lerud said that there is over \$40,000 in the band shell project fund at the Rum River Community Foundation and while the Treasurer is gone this week, he does not know how much is in the city's band shell reserve. He said that between the two funds and the city not doing the \$15,000 parking lot last year, there are funds to do this work but then that probably exhausts the fund. After a brief discussion a

motion was made by Dillan, second by Muller to accept Baas Construction's proposal of \$65,186, with the city contributing the \$20,000 down payment, unanimous consent.

Council member Dillan said MCAT met and the flowers will be going out downtown this week. He said that a partnership has been struck with the DAC. The flowers have been in their greenhouse for the past couple of weeks and the DAC clients will be getting involved with "Got Time". The farmer's market opened this week with 12 vendors and was well attended.

The proposed plans for the Rec Park building and splash pad were presented. Lerud said that the building is just under 1,600 square feet and has a community room, bathrooms, accessible shower, and a mechanical room. He said it is a design-build project so some of the finishes have been identified but the bidders will be responsible for designing the project. He said there is a seven stall parking lot with an accessible sidewalk up to the level of the building and splash pad. Lerud said that the splash pad design will be incorporated into these plans. He said he would like the specs to go out on June 1 and be returned June 22 so the council could consider them at the June council meeting. Lerud said that the playground will be done after this project has been completed.

Motion by Johnson, second by Gahm to approve the plans and specifications as presented and authorize bids, unanimous consent.

Motion by Johnson, second by Muller to move the June council meeting to June 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m., unanimous consent.

Mayor Pedersen called for council comments.

Council member Gahm asked two budget questions about the historical society budget.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Johnson, second by Gahm, all voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Harold Pedersen

ATTEST

Greg Lerud, City Manager