

MILACA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 19, 2015 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, Muller, Gahm, and Johnson.

Staff present: Lerud, Gann-Olehy, Toven

Others present: Jeff Hage and Gary Christianson

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

1. Minutes of the October 15 regular council meeting.
2. RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 23 RESOLUTION ASSESSING UNPAID WATER/SEWER BILLS (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
3. General bills, 815244E-815250E, 815260E-E815261E, #41716-41718, #41771-41782, #41787-41841, totaling \$264,591.76; Liquor bills, 915039E-915042E, #23450-23462, #23493-23508, totaling \$213,896.28.
4. City Treasurer's report.

Unanimous consent.

No one was present for citizen's forum.

Council member Gahm offered Resolution No. 15 – 24 and moved for its adoption, second by Johnson

RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 24  
RESOLUTION APPROVING ZONING VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1115 CENTRAL AVENUE  
NORTH  
(Entire text appears in Resolution book)

Council member Gahm said the Planning Commission recommended granting the variance due to the interruption of storm water flow if the garage had to be constructed in the back yard. Gary Christianson said his parcel is 300 feet deep and the house is 200 feet back from Central Avenue so he has a huge front yard. He said the garage will be to the side of the house and just a little bit out front, but it is considered to be in the front yard, and that is the reason for the request.

Upon voting all present voted in favor.

The Planning Commission minutes were in the agenda packet.

Lerud said the minutes for the Economic Development Commission were in the agenda packet and the commission meets tomorrow morning.

Council Member Muller said he does not yet have Airport Commission minutes. He said the capital improvement plan for the airport is being worked on. Muller said the courtesy car has been used regularly and it is a nice amenity to be able to offer pilots.

Mayor Pedersen said the Parks Commission discussed proposed rental rates. He said the band shell rededication is scheduled for September 17 and there will be a big push for paver stones toward the end of the year. Lerud said he walked the disc golf course with Tim Mackey and will pass on some maintenance notes to the parks department.

Council member Dillan said the MCAT wrapped up the farmers market and they are looking at adding more music next year. He said they are working on Snow Dayz and will do that at the same time the school has their winter event.

The fee schedule was discussed. The council requested information regarding some of the permit fees charged for replacement of heating/cooling and plumbing equipment. Lerud said he would have the building official respond to them for the next meeting. It was decided that there would be a resident and non-resident fee for park rental. There was a discussion about how to post the rental fee amounts in the parks.

Council member Johnson left at 7:00.

There was additional discussion about dog fees. Lerud said that the council asked at the last meeting if the license fee for a dog could be increased for a third animal. He said the city attorney said the council could do that. The decision was made to increase the license fee for the third dog to \$30. All fee adjustments will be made for consideration by the second reading at the December meeting.

A proposed fire department mutual aid agreement was presented. Lerud said the county fire chiefs all approved the agreement as presented, and it is based on the League of MN Cities model agreement. Motion by Gahm, second by Dillan to approve the mutual aid agreement as presented, all present voted in favor.

Mayor Pedersen called for council comments. Council member Muller said he wanted to increase marketing for the airport. He said small airports have an important economic impact and he said that the state will, for the next two years, pay 90 percent of the cost of construction of an FBO building. Council Member Muller said the water treatment plant and software is cutting edge and wondered about having an open house. Lerud suggested some council education prior to the next meeting, and perhaps involving some classes at the school and a community open house in the spring to make people aware of our treatment system.

Council member Dillan said thank you to the chamber and First National Bank for their help and financial assistance for the community tree lighting event next Friday.

Council member Gahm said she was asked by a resident about having chickens. She said that she was told that in Minneapolis and other larger cities people can have chickens. Mayor Pedersen said allowing

chickens in the city came up last year or so and was voted down by the council. If they were interested, they would start by coming to open forum.

Council member Pedersen said he received letters from English class at school. He asked that the comments be summarized and a thank you be sent to the teacher.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Gahm, second by Muller, all present voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Mayor Harold Pedersen

ATTEST

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Greg Lerud, City Manager