

MILACA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 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, Gahm, and Johnson.

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

Also present: Jim and Roxanne Gerads, and Ashley Haynes.

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

1. Minutes of the August 20 regular meeting
2. General bills; 815195E-815200E, #41579-41582, #41637-41648, #41652-4170, totaling \$365,489.34; Liquor bills, 915030E-915033E, #23392-23408, #23440-23448, totaling \$169,317.91.
3. RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 18 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STREET CLOSURE (entire text appears in Resolution book.)
4. City Treasurer's report.

Unanimous consent.

Mayor Pedersen invited anyone to speak to an item not on the agenda. Lerud said that Bryan Herbst said he was going to come to the council meeting to request fencing be installed on the old railroad bed from the cemetery road out to county road 112. Lerud said the fences on the east and west sides of cemetery road were vandalized and the city repaired the one on the east side, but staff believed that the one on the west side was put in by the snowmobile club. He said that Dillan contacted former Mayor Randy Furman, and the west side fence was also put in by the city. Lerud said Herbst complained that there were cars back behind his house causing damage and there should not be anyone back there except trail users.

Lerud said that he and public works director discussed a fence on the west end of this stretch and if the council wanted to do something, now would be the time to do something on the east end, and concrete barricades would probably be the most effective. It would require moving them in the early winter and early spring, but it would be more difficult to damage them than a fence.

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Johnson, second by Gahm to install concrete barriers along cemetery road and a fence along county road 112, unanimous consent.

No one else came forward for citizen's forum.

Jim Gerads said they came before the council a couple of months ago about building a new building on his present property. At the time the council agreed to extend the contract an additional four years

when the present one expires. He said since then he was approached about another option and it involves the old Siemers farm on the south end of the city. Gerads said they have reached a tentative agreement with the land owner to buy the property. If the purchase occurs, he would start the recycling operation as he discussed previously, out at the farm. Then, over time and as they were able to sell their existing property, they would relocate their entire operation there.

Gerads said they are wondering if the council would consider extending the same agreement as was approved on the building in town if they were to relocate out there and annex the entire parcel into the city limits.

Council member Muller thought this was a great opportunity for the city to bring in 150 acres into the city for future development. Gerads said that it also has the advantage of eliminating some of the complaints they receive about the operation in the present location.

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Dillan, second by Muller to approve a four year exclusive solid waste hauler contract extension from the end of the current contract, contingent on a new building being built on their present property as described in a previous meeting, or that the property known as the Siemers farm is purchased and annexed into the city limits before December 31, 2016, unanimous consent.

Motion by Muller, second by Johnson to hold the first reading of Ordinance No. 415. Council member Gahm said she is concerned about setting a precedent that once something is brought up at a meeting and not approved, that it is continually brought up until it is approved. She said she will not be upset whether or not the ordinance is approved, but is just concerned about setting a precedent. Mayor Pedersen said at the last meeting it never got consideration because it failed for lack of a second. He said he thought it was important that there be a vote one way or the other and that is why he asked that it be put back on the agenda. Upon voting the vote was 4 to 1 for approval.

Council member Dillan offered Resolution No. 15 – 19 and moved for its adoption, second by Johnson

RESOLUTION NO. 15 – 19
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY 2016 BUDGET AND PROPOSED 2016 TAX LEVY
(Entire text appears in Resolution book)

There was a discussion about the proposed budget. Upon voting, all voted in favor as presented.

There was no planning commission meeting in September.

Lerud said the minutes from the last economic development commission meeting were in the agenda packet, and the commission meets tomorrow morning.

Council member Muller said there was not an airport commission meeting last month, and they are only meeting on an as-needed basis.

Mayor Pedersen said the minutes of the August parks commission meeting were in the agenda packet, and the September meeting minutes should be ready shortly. He said the sills and windows for the basement at the band shell should be done by the end of October, and he anticipated that will be the last of the work done this year. Brian Johnson from Safeguard was going to donate and install the window enclosures.

Mayor Pedersen said he asked for a bid to install two additional cameras in the park so the west and south side of the band shell could be covered. Lerud said the bid received does not include some electrical work that would have to be done, and the cameras are the best resolution that the receiver/recorder can handle. Motion by Muller, second by Dillan to approve the bid from Hookups 24/7 in the amount of \$1,400, unanimous consent.

Council member Dillan said the farmer's market will wrap up next month, and MCAT will start planning for Snow Dayz.

Information about the MN State Fire Marshal's office shared services grant program was discussed. Lerud said the city has applied with area departments the past few years but never been awarded. He said Foreston, Princeton, Isanti, and Baldwin Township would like to join with Milaca and apply again this year. Lerud said there is no pre-determined outcome of shared services, but it is an opportunity to look at fire service delivery and see if there are better options of sharing. He said there was no out of pocket cost for any of the participating agencies. Motion by Gahm, second by Dillan to support the shared services grant application to the State Fire Marshal's office, unanimous consent.

Mayor Pedersen called for council comments. Council member Dillan said the Initiative Foundation did an all staff tour of Milaca earlier this week and were impressed with the projects the city is working on.

Council member Muller expressed his condolences at the passing of former City Attorney Dick Schieffer.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Johnson, second by Muller, all voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Harold Pedersen

ATTEST

Greg Lerud, City Manager