

CITY OF MILLER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2021

The City of Miller is an equal opportunity employer.

The City Council met in regular session at city hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ron Blachford, Aldermen: Jim Odegaard, Tony Rangel, Bob Steers, Jeff Swartz, Joe Zeller and Alderwoman Tammy Lichy.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blachford called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

AGENDA: Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderwoman Lichy to approve the agenda. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Zeller to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on February 16, 2021. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mike Beaner spoke about the recent survey sent out to customers regarding cloud-based software. He would like to see it rewritten with what the cost will be to customers in order to get a fair input.

Rodney and Mary Jo Gortmaker were present to voice their concerns about the proposed firearms ordinance. They would like it to be more specific as to what constitutes a firearm. Alderman Rangel clarified that the city's firearms ordinance had been inadvertently excluded when the Code of Ordinances was recodified. It was suggested that the ordinance be reestablished.

Barb Johnson has been following along with the city council meetings in *The Miller Press* and has concerns about the issues facing the city police department. She believes the city issues are a personnel matter based on one individual's complaints and should not be lumped together with the subject of countywide law enforcement. She went on to express that contracting law enforcement services with the county could potentially cost the city and the county more. She is confident that the city council and county commission will perform their due diligence to the best of their ability and come to an informed decision regarding countywide law enforcement that is in the best interest of the citizens.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Hire Pool Manager: Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to table hiring a pool manager until Terry Manning has interviewed the two applicants. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Gortmaker Letter Response: Alderman Steers, chairman of the Public Safety Committee, addressed the letter that Rodney and Mary Jo Gortmaker submitted to the city council. In response to speeding, Steers stated it happens everywhere in town, and the police department is not to blame for the actions of others. There is only one officer on duty at a time, and it is impossible for that officer to be everywhere. Speed bumps was another item addressed. Steers stated that they are not an option on city streets. Speed bumps are intended for use in specific areas such as parks and designated school zones. As for the complaint about speeding and revving motors near the Gortmaker residence on Halloween night, Steers found that there was no report made to the police department that night. Steers went on to the next item and stressed that the subject of a minor will never again be a subject for discussion in an open city meeting. Paying off loans, saving money, and surcharges were addressed. Alderman Rangel ensured everyone that the city's debt and financial position is reviewed often, and loans are paid off whenever possible. Rangel stated that the city has paid off four different loans in the last five years. The current surcharges will continue to be charged until the respective loans are paid in full. It takes time to save up enough to pay down and/or pay off loans. The next complaint was

that the surcharges have doubled and even tripled Gortmaker's utility bills. Steers reviewed ten years of their billing history: the total in February 2011 - \$308.26, February 2021 - \$328.92. Alderman Rangel explained that people do not understand the surcharges. The council holds meetings and public group discussions in an attempt to educate the public about these charges that everyone has to pay including the board members themselves. Alderman Rangel also mentioned that he regularly visits with the constituents in his ward.

Joel Johnson, Code Enforcer Request: Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Steers to put the Public Safety Committee on Johnson's email contacts list for future code enforcement matters. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Natural Gas Meeting: There will be an informational meeting with NorthWestern Energy about bringing natural gas to rural cities with populations over 1,200 at the Miller community center on Wednesday, March 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Appoint Consolidated Board of Equalization Member: Mayor Blachford appointed Tammy Lichty as the city's member on the Consolidated Board of Equalization. Motion by Alderman Steers, seconded by Alderman Zeller to accept the Mayor's appointment. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance #717 – Firearms: Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Swartz to table the first reading of Ordinance #717 – Firearms for further review given the public's comments during Public Input. Citizens present at the meeting agreed that the version presented with the agenda is too restrictive. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Helms & Associates Invoice: Motion by Alderman Steers, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to pay Helms & Associates \$1,916.24 for invoice number 23248. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Lineman/Temporary Electric positions: Mayor Blachford assigned the Utilities Committee to reviewing the current applications received and possibly readvertising to fill the lineman position and temporary electric position in the city's electric department.

Approval of Bills: Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Rangel to approve the bills for payment. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Rangel to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 7:55 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderwoman Lichty to come out of executive session at 8:35 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried. No action taken.

Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Steers to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ronald Blachford, Mayor

Cindy Deuter, Deputy Finance Officer

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT

Copy of the official proceedings
was received on: _____
Published once at the
approximate cost of: _____

Bills March 2021 (1)

American Solutions	Supplies	18.00
AT&T	Cell Phone	45.39
B & L Communications	Equipment Installation	1,872.63
BDS	Garbage	179.00
City Utilities	Utilities	10,801.51
CK Welding	Supplies	301.80
DGR Engineering	Prof Fees	3,389.00
Fischer Plumbing	Repairs	67.24
Helms & Associates	Prof Fees	1,916.24
Ron Hoftiezer	Reimb	11.00
MicroFix	Computer	1,229.00
Midwest Fire & Safety	Extinguisher Inspections	1,111.50
Midwest Glass	Repairs	201.84
Oakley Farm & Ranch	Fittings	257.05
Postmaster	Postage	325.00
Prairieland Collections	Prof Fees	8.26
SD Public Health Lab	Tests	30.00
SD Dept of Public Safety	Service	2,340.00
SD Federal Property Agency	Street Sweeper	19,500.00
	Accounts Payable Total	<u>\$43,604.46</u>

Payroll Salary plus**Benefits by Department:**2/26/2021 &
3/02/2021

Department	w/o OT	OT	Total
41101 COUNCIL	1,996.89	0.00	1,996.89
41402 FINANCE OFFICE	1,375.37	0.00	1,375.37
41902 BUILDING	461.82	0.00	461.82
42101 POLICE	11,984.15	1,235.38	13,219.53
43101 STREET	5,129.32	197.55	5,326.87
43201 SEWER	5,334.12	245.46	5,579.58
43305 WATER	5,334.05	245.43	5,579.48
43403 ELECTRIC	5,965.58	0.00	5,965.58
	<u>\$37,581.30</u>	<u>\$1,923.82</u>	<u>\$39,505.12</u>