

**CITY OF MILLER**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JULY 6, 2022**

*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 Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Ron Blachford, Aldermen: Jim Odegaard, Mike Wetz, Joe Zeller (arrived at 7:12), and Alderwomen: Susan Hargens and Tammy Lichty. Absent: Alderman Jeff Swartz.

**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 Alderman Wetz to approve the agenda. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderwoman Lichty to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on June 21, 2022. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

No comments.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mary Jo Gortmaker thanked the city workers for picking up all the trees that were down due to the storm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Dust Control on West 1<sup>st</sup> Ave:** Ron Hoftiezer gave Sheila Coss the cost of the dust control chemicals. The current cost of dust control is about \$1,000.00/city block. A truck load costs about \$4,000 and a semi load is approximately \$10,000. It takes a semi load to cover the dump ground road. Motion by Alderwoman Lichty, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to have the street committee meet with Ron Hoftiezer and give them the authority to order what is needed. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Police Department Petty Cash:** Motion by Alderman Wetz, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to give the police department \$25.00 for petty cash for incidental purchases. Receipts will need to be turned into the finance office for all purchases. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2022-8 – Surplus:** Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Wetz to approve Resolution No. 2022-8 to surplus electric transformers. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #733 – Camping:** Motion by Alderman Wetz, seconded by Alderman Zeller to table a decision until more information is received from the city attorney. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The City Council held a public hearing at 7:30 regarding annexation of Rustler Drive and Rustler Lots 1 & 2. Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Wetz to approve Resolution No. 2022-7 – Annexation of Rustler Lots. Mike Moncur, Dakota Energy, asked if that area is in the Miller service area. Per the SD PUC website, this area is in the City of Miller electric service area. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Dustin Graham – Electric Department - Chris Hill SDMEA:** Dustin Graham gave an overview of the last 1 year and 4 months of employment with the city of Miller. He was hired as a 2-man department, then the city hired a floater with electrical background that was a big asset to the city, especially the electric department. Dustin was able to accomplish more desk work while the 2 electric department workers were able to safely perform daily tasks. The resignation

of one lineman left the department shorthanded. The city received applications for a utility specialist, but the council did not wish to pay \$25.00/hour and decided to change the position to a utility floater without consulting the water/sewer, electric or street superintendents. Chris Hill, SD Municipal Electric Association (SDMEA) was present to explain the benefits of owning and operating a municipal electric service. This keeps all the funds local. The city contracts with WAPA for our electricity with additional energy coming from Heartland Consumers Power District which allows us to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest electric rate in the state. Chris works closely with each of these entities on behalf of the city. Having quality employees in the electric department also benefits the city when these employees assist other city departments. Dustin wants the entire council aware of the benefits of having a city electric department. The council requested that Dustin and the utility committee meet with Dakota Energy to see what they can offer for assistance to the electric department. The meeting has been set for July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor Blachford left the meeting at 8:00. Vice President Lichty presided over the remainder of the meeting.**

**Water Project Pay Requests:** Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to approve **SPN Phase II** invoices 26334-26335 and Phase III invoices 26349-26352 for a total of \$55,627.75. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to pay **TLC Olson Construction, LLC** Payment No. 15 for \$359,998.44. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Wetz to approve **Dahme Construction** Payment No. 26 – Final Payment of \$17,044. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Wetz, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to approve **Dahme Construction** Change Order No. 7. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Firepup® Program:** Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Zeller to donate \$150.00 to the Miller Fire Department for the Firepup® Program. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Building Permits:** Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Zeller to approve the following building permits: Tim Haiar – shed, Tony Moss – shed, Marilyn Pollock – replace ramp, Trudy Stevens – replace mobile home. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Park Fountain:** Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Wetz to order a Kasco park fountain for \$5,760 with the option to purchase the lights in 2023. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**COVID Pay:** Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens that COVID Pay for employees stopped effective 12/31/20. Sick leave may be used for COVID for pay purposes. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Utility Floater Job Description:** Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Zeller to approve the job description with a few minor changes for the Utility Floater position. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #732 - Budget:** Motion by Alderman Wetz, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance #732 – Budgets. Roll call vote: Alderwoman Hargens – aye, Alderwoman Lichty – aye, Alderman Wetz – aye, Alderman Odegaard – aye, Alderman Zeller – aye, Alderman Swartz – absent. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills:** Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Wetz to approve the bills for payment. Four members voted aye; Alderman Zeller abstained. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Alderman Wetz, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 8:27 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Wetz, to come out of executive session at 9:07 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried. No action was taken.

Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Wetz to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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Ronald Blachford, Mayor

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Tammy Lichty, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila Coss, Finance Officer

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT

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

<b>Bills July 2022 (1)</b>		
B & L Communications	Cable	381.00
BDS	Garbage	350.00
Builders Cashway	Supplies	391.44
City Utilities	Utilities	7,946.05
Dahme Construction	Ph.II Construction	17,044.00
Deuter, Cindy	Reimb	264.98
DGR Engineering	Prof Fees	966.00
Hill, Heather	Refund	200.00
Hughes Electric	Service	810.24
MicroFix	Laptop	1,350.00
Milbank WinWater	Meters	636.21
Miller Concrete	Sand	267.38
Miller Rexall	Supplies	20.01
Moss, Kristen	Refund	60.00
MFD	Donation	150.00
Northwest Pipe	Fittings	1,882.94
OHED	80% BBB	4,143.57
Postmaster	Postage	400.00
Ronmar	Repairs	10.00
Servall	Service	109.51
SPN	Prof Fees	55,627.75
Stobbs Sales	Repairs	376.56
TLC Olson Construction	Ph.III Construction	359,998.44
Twin Valley Tire	Repairs	21.00
Under The Sun Rental	Rental	226.55
US Bank	Loans	18,165.39
Wesco	Supplies	6,958.45
Wharton, Ruby	Refund	30.00
Zeller Construction	Repairs	1,682.85
	Accounts Payable Total	480,470.32

<b>Payroll Salary plus</b>		06/23/2022 & 06/30/2022		
<b>Benefits by Department:</b>		& 07/07/2022		
	Department	w/o OT	OT	Total
41101	COUNCIL	4,085.32	0.00	4,085.32
41402	FINANCE OFFICE	6,233.06	0.00	6,233.06
41902	BUILDING	406.77	0.00	406.77
42101	POLICE	22,336.22	5,378.82	27,715.04
43101	STREET	13,203.37	241.83	13,445.20
43201	SEWER	11,626.68	1,623.94	13,250.62
43305	WATER	11,626.45	1,623.92	13,250.37
43403	ELECTRIC	18,048.47	1,626.20	19,674.67
45101	BALLPARK	3,483.96	0.00	3,483.96
45202	PARK	137.01	0.00	137.01
45103	POOL	6,641.95	0.00	6,641.95
		\$97,829.26	\$10,494.71	\$108,323.97