**UNAPPROVED**

**CITY OF MILLER**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**DECEMBER 21, 2020**

*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, December 21,2020.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Ron Blachford, Aldermen: Jim Odegaard, Tony Rangel, Bob Steers, Jeff Swartz and Joe Zeller

**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 Zeller to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Swartz to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on December 7, 2020. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Alderman Rangel would like to thank Patrick Price, on behalf of the council, for the Christmas display in the park. Alderman Steers would like to also thank Cody Hall for his assistance to Patrick on the park decorations.

Rita Ellsworth had concerns regarding transparency of the council, county wide law enforcement and code enforcement. She also stated that she appreciates the business owners in town, firemen, EMTs as well as city employees. She would like to encourage all citizens to attend city and county meetings.

Shirley Hofer also expressed her concerns about code enforcement.

Will Page stated that there is more to the decision regarding county wide law enforcement than just finances. The majority of Hand County citizens live in Miller; however, the sheriff is responsible for the entire county and may be several miles out in the county when he is needed in town. He is very happy with the personal service he has received from the police department.

Mayor Blachford stated that campers in the city park have commented that they feel safe as a result of our city police driving through the park every night.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Ordinance #715 – Rezone to Light Commercial:** Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Rangel to approve the first reading of Ordinance #715 - Zoning. Roll call vote: Alderman Steers – aye, Alderman Rangel – aye, Alderman Odegaard – aye, Alderman Zeller – aye, Alderman Swartz – aye. Motion carried.

**Ordinance #716 – Appointed Officials:** Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to approve first reading of Ordinance #716 – Appointed Officials. Roll call vote: Alderman Swartz – nay, Alderman Zeller – aye, Alderman Odegaard – aye, Alderman Rangel – aye, Alderman Steers - aye. Motion carried.

**Resolution No. 2020-21 Contingency Transfer:** Motion by Alderman Steers, seconded by Alderman Rangel approve Resolution 2020-21 – Contingency Transfer. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Interlocal Agreement with St. Lawrence:** Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Steers to table the Interlocal Agreement with St. Lawrence. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Helms & Associates:** Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Swartz to pay Helms & Associates Invoice # 22796 for $2,874.36. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**NorthWestern Energy Natural Gas Proposal:** Alderman Rangel gave an overview of the meeting that he attended with Mayor Blachford in Huron. NorthWestern Energy is proposing multiple natural gas lines in eastern South Dakota. They would like to have the cities of Sisseton, Chamberlain, Miller, Wagner, Platte, Britton, Tyndall, and Wessington Springs create a Joint Powers Agreement to fund the project.

**Set Year-End Meeting Date:** Motion by Alderman Steers, seconded by Alderman Zeller to set the year-end meeting for 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday December 30th. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Ward II Vacancy – Interested Candidates:** Steve Yearous, Tammy Lichty and Jim Testerman all addressed the council with why they wanted to fill the Ward II Alderman vacancy. The council will make the appointment to fill this position at the December 30th meeting.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:** Motion by Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Steers to approve the bills. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 8:29 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Rangel to come out of executive session at 9:58 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Alderman Zeller, seconded by Alderman Steers to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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Ronald Blachford, Mayor

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Sheila Coss, Finance Officer

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