**UNAPPROVED**

**CITY OF MILLER**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 23, 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, November 23,2020.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Ron Blachford, Aldermen: Jim Odegaard, Tony Rangel, Bob Steers and Alderwoman SuAnne Meyer. Absent: Aldermen 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 Rangel to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderwoman Meyer to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on November 2, 2020 and the special meeting on November 9, 2020. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mayor Blachford stated that there will be an information seminar with NorthWestern Energy on December 8th in Huron from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. regarding natural gas. Ron Blachford and Tony Rangel will attend on behalf of the City of Miller. The seminar is open to others to attend via Zoom. Please contact Sheila Coss at City Hall if you are interested in being added to the Zoom participants. Alderwoman Meyer thanked Haydn Herman and the rest of the city employees for the Christmas decorations on main street, they look great.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Kecia Beranek – First Impression Tour:** Kecia Beranek presented a 1st Impressions report done by fellow Economic Development directors from cities comparable to Miller. The report has a lot of positive attributes for the City of Miller along with a few suggestions for improvements. The report is available on their website at millersd.org.

**ReLab – Electric SCADA System:** Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Steers to approve the 5-year contract with ReLab for maintenance support for the electric department SCADA system. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Josh Koeck – As Needed Employee:** Motion by Alderman Steers, seconded by Alderman Rangel to hire Josh Koeck as an as needed employee for $33.50 per hour with a two-hour minimum if he gets called out along with $50.00/day for on call. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Advertise for Journeyman/Lineman:** The Utility Committee with work with Haydn Herman to get an up to date job description to advertise for a journeyman/lineman.

**Safety Benefits – Gold and Platinum Safety Awards:** Mayor Blachford read a letter from Safety Benefits congratulating the city for receiving both the gold and platinum safety awards for 2020. Mayor Blachford stated that he is proud of the employees and their achievement of these awards.

**FEMA – Closeout Documents:** Motion by Alderman Steers, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to have Mayor Blachford sign the final FEMA documents for the completion of the safe house. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2020-17 COVID-19 Masks:** Hand County Task Force members along with community business owners were present to discuss a Resolution regarding a mask recommendation to slow down the spread of COVID. Steve Resel, task force, stated that their purpose is to provide PPE and assistance to the medical field if needed, not encourage mask usage. Business owners were concerned about the affect masks would have on their businesses. Alderman Rangel stated that Brookings implemented a mask mandate in September and they have the lowest COVID rate per capita in the state. Motion by Alderwoman Meyer, seconded by Alderman Steers to reject Resolution 2020-17 COVID Mask Recommendations. Roll call vote: Alderman Steers – aye, Alderwoman Meyer – aye, Alderman Rangel – aye, Alderman Odegaard – aye, Alderman Zeller – absent, Alderman Swartz – absent. Motion carried.

**Liquor License Renewals:** Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderwoman Meyer to approve the following liquor licenses: Curt Telkamp – off sale liquor, Dollar General – Retail On-off sale wine, Hi-Lite Bar & Lounge – on sale liquor (contingent upon receipt of application), Miller Rexall Drug – on-off sale wine, On Hand Development Corp (Sommers Bar) - on sale liquor, KR Miller – off sale liquor, Redneck Paradise – on sale liquor & 2 off-sale liquor, Turtle Creek Steakhouse – on-sale liquor. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Building Permits:** Motion b**y** Alderman Odegaard, seconded by Alderman Steers to approve the following building permits: Jerry Cotton – replace garage, John Fanning – remove house. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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

**Mid States Audio:** Motion by Alderman Steers, seconded by Alderman Rangel, to purchase an audio/video system from Mid States Audio for $29,990 to live broadcast the council meetings. All members voted aye. Motion carried. We will receive $25,000 from the CARES grant to help cover the cost of the system.

**Mayor’s Statement:** Mayor Blachford read the following statement:

As the Mayor, I am committed to making sure the public is well informed of all of the business conducted by the City. However, I also want to make sure we have a consistent message when speaking with the public about the affairs of the City. With that said, I want to take this time remind you that the council previously approved a motion providing that I would be designated as the official spokesperson to share information about the City’s affairs with the public. If inconsistent or contradictory statements are made by individual council members it creates confusion to the general public on the subjects we discuss. This is not to say that an individual council member cannot discuss their own personal opinions on issues involving the City as a private citizen. But it should be clear that you are making the statement on your own behalf and not on behalf of the City.

Motion by Alderman Rangel, seconded by Alderman Odegaard to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 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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