

**CITY OF MILLER**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 18, 2025**

*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, August 18, 2025.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Tom McGough, Aldermen: Will Jones, Patrick Price, Dale Hargens, Gale Auch, Landon Gab, and Alderwoman Susan Hargens.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor McGough called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

**AGENDA:** Alderman Jones requested that Executive Session be added to the agenda for personnel matters. Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Price to approve the agenda as amended to add Executive Session. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve the minutes as printed for the regular meeting held August 4, 2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Joe Beranek addressed the council about an incident that happened to him and his son on the bike path between Miller and St. Lawrence. An individual was riding a mini motorcycle on the path with no regard to Joe and his son while they were out for a run. Beranek contacted the city police department. Further research is being done to find out if the city has the power by state statute to enforce laws concerning the bike path outside city limits. Alderman Hargens suggested that the city's attorney research the matter. Meanwhile, Police Chief Huss has spoken with the motorist. There are 4 signs posted along the path stating only bicycles and pedestrians are allowed.

Will Page thanked the city's water department for a great job in supplying temporary water while his area of town was under construction. His driveway was returned to a better condition than it was before the line was placed. He appreciates the time city workers commit to serving citizens day-to-day and after business hours.

Dave Nelson is concerned about noxious weeds growing inside city limits and would like the matter to be addressed.

Mayor McGough stated that handicapped ramps, while not requiring building permits, still need to be reviewed and approved by zoning administrator, Dustin Graham before they are erected.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The city council approved a building permit at the last regular meeting for the Catholic Church to build a dog run; however, the fee was not addressed via motion. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to waive the building permit fee for the Catholic Church's dog run. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**7:15 p.m. Bid Opening:** Mayor McGough began the bid opening for the 2018 Ford Explorer police car at 7:15 p.m. One bid was received by the published time of 5:00 p.m. today. Mayor McGough opened the bid and stated it was in the amount of \$1,050.00 from Gracie Graham. Discussion was held about how to proceed. Alderman Jones asked for clarification regarding the city's right to reject any and all bids. Finance Officer Deuter read the instruction from the SDML Handbook for Municipal Officials which references SDCL 6-13-5 giving the city authority to do so. Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Gab to reject the bid, reappraise, and rebid the surplus police car. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quotes:** A summary comparison was prepared by Finance Officer Cindy Deuter in an attempt to compare 2 quotes for property and liability insurance coverage. Tokio Marine HCC (ATI) quoted \$112,550.00. The renewal quote for cybersecurity was applied for last week and generally runs for about \$2,000.00. South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance quoted \$98,645.20. Joe Beranek, American Trust Insurance noticed

the large difference in premium and would have suggested going with the lower quote but realized a few reasons as to why the gap is near \$16,000.00. Ultimately, it's difficult to give an apples-to-apples comparison for some possible reasons that lie within the details as presented by Beranek: TMHCC increases property values every year to keep up with inflation and cost of materials. 1 – The values increased by 5% from 2024 figures to 2025. SDPAA quoted based on the 2024 values that Finance Officer Deuter provided. Deuter did not have the new values when the requests for proposal were sent. 2 – On the Inland Marine portion (equipment list), TMHCC's value is at \$1.3 million, SDPAA is at \$1.1 million. 3 – TMHCC has 43 vehicles listed, SDPAA has 31. Beranek stated that TMHCC lists all vehicles whether they are fully covered or liability only. 4 – Business Income & Extra Expense: TMHCC has a \$1 million limit. Beranek did not see this listed in SDPAA's quote. 5 – Professional Liability: TMHCC has this piece quoted at \$6,000 alone, but Beranek did not see it in the competitor's proposal. Given the matters covered by Beranek, the difference in premiums can be justified and "the gap is not as big as it appears." Mayor McGough stated that this would be a good time to allow SDPAA to answer questions. Alderman Price suggested that the Finance Committee continue to research and review these issues and bring its findings to the next regular meeting. The renewal date for the current policy is September 9, 2025.

**Resolution No. 2025-7 – Convey Substation Property to School:** Resolution No. 2025-7 was read by Mayor McGough. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve Resolution No. 2025-7. Alderman Gab stated that Electric Supt. Dustin Graham and Miller School Supt. Eric Norden have agreed that the outside fence will be given back to the city once the school is ready to have it removed. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Alderman Price gave credit where credit is due and recognized the electric department for the exceptional job at making the area look nice after the substation infrastructure was removed.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter was received from Mid-Dakota Rural Water regarding their planned rate increases for 2026: the minimum charge remains unchanged, the demand charge is increasing by \$1.00 per gpm per month, and the water flow charge is going up \$0.02 per 1,000 gallons.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 7:39 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor McGough returned the meeting to regular session at 7:53 p.m.

Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Hargens to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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Tom McGough, Mayor

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Cindy Deuter, Finance Officer

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT

Copy of the official proceedings

was received on: \_\_\_\_\_

Published once at the

approximate cost of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bills August 2025 (2)**

44i	Prof Fees	249.00
A & B Business	Prof Fees	221.90
AA Motorsports	Taillight	119.99
ARS Protec Roofing	Repairs-Roofing	1,993.00
Avera	Prof Fees	160.00
Axon Enterprise	Supplies	2,391.68
Bob's Gas	Fuel	520.80
Border States	Supplies	240.67
Code Enforcement	Code Enforcement	244.49
Dakota Energy	On-Call	1,040.00
Dakota Land Management	Spraying	4,020.32
Dakota Pump & Control	Service Call	1,097.96
Christi Danburg	Reimb.	196.80
Fisher's Detailing & Auto	Oil Change	70.50
Hand County Publishing	Publications	956.17
Harkins Enterprises	Repairs	674.64
First Bank & Trust	Power	19,581.18
Infotech	Prof Fees	1,331.94
Insurance Benefits	Liab Ins	1,551.00
Jim's Auto Repair	Repairs	90.00
JDF	Parts	774.88
Milbank Winwater	Supplies	2,717.88
Miller Ace	Supplies	1,020.98
Napa	Parts	416.13
OHED	Industry	5,500.00
Prairieland Collections	Prof Fees	8.75
Riter Rogers	Prof Fees	160.50
Runnings	Supplies	291.45
Rural Development	Loans	16,403.00
SD DOR	Sales Tax	9,042.94
Servall	Service	121.70
Storey Kenworthy	Supplies	765.39
Strasburg,Rich	Refund	35.00
Sturdevant's	Parts	163.99
Twin Valley Tire	Tire&Stem	351.99
Visa	Supp./Wtr Purchased/Fuel/Etc	25,301.11
WAPA	Power	47,285.85
	Accounts Payable Total	<u>\$147,646.40</u>

**Payroll Salary plus  
Benefits by**

<b>Department:</b>		8/14/2025 & 8/21/2025		
	Department	w/o OT	OT	Total
	FINANCE			
41402	OFFICE	3,244.40	0.00	3,244.40
42101	POLICE	14,831.91	1,027.55	15,859.46
43101	STREET	9,177.78	497.47	9,675.25
43201	SEWER	5,755.97	717.91	6,473.88
43305	WATER	5,755.92	717.91	6,473.83
43403	ELECTRIC	14,589.33	12.58	14,601.91
45101	BALLPARK	2,024.32	5.63	2,029.95
45202	PARK	1,013.81	0.00	1,013.81
45103	POOL	3,748.79	0.00	3,748.79
		<u>\$60,142.23</u>	<u>\$2,979.05</u>	<u>\$63,121.28</u>