

**CITY OF MILLER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 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 Tuesday, September 2, 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: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the agenda as amended to include a quote from Northern Testing Services on agenda item #3. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to approve the minutes as printed for the regular meeting held on August 18, 2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Input: Mayor McGough stated that the public and private sectors make the community what it is and acknowledged all first responders for the jobs they perform.

Department Head Reports

All department heads were present. Printed reports were reviewed with no discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Property & Liability Insurance: The Finance Committee met last week to review the 2 insurance quotes. A revised quote was received from Tokio Marine HCC for \$107,550.00 which includes \$5,000 worth of credits. SDPAA's revised quote of \$93,297.51 includes updated building valuations and increased deductibles to match those of TMHCC for a difference of \$14,252.49. Alderman Price explained several aspects to consider for both companies including: TMHCC is regulated by the state's Division of Insurance, SDPAA is not; TMHCC is a claims-made insurance company; retro-active coverage was not quoted with SDPAA; both companies provide liability coverage for public officials and employment practices; each company differs in their limits and aggregate limit structures and the way in which coverages are listed. Joe Beranek, ATI was present with additional information and to address any questions. He commented, "You're buying insurance, you're not buying premium." Alderman Jones wants to be financially sound in knowing that if anything happens, the city is covered. When the city opted to switch companies 2 years ago, the council discovered that the city was "vastly" underinsured. Alderman Price urged more discussion and encouraged questions from Aldermen Auch, Hargens, and Gab. Alderwoman Hargens stated the sales tax is still down compared to prior year-over-year percentages. Alderman Gab likes the lower premium; however, he feels more comfortable with the detail of TMHCC's quote. One claim could potentially make up the difference in premium. Motion by Alderman Price to renew coverage with Tokio Marine, ATI for \$107,550.00, seconded by Alderman Jones. Alderman Auch reminded the council that the budget is still tight, and we may need to compensate for the difference in premium somewhere else in the general fund. Alderman Jones stated, "A tight budget is another reason to take surprises out of your fiscal year." Mayor McGough called for a vote for the motion on the table. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to increase the Uninsured/Under insured motorists coverage to the \$500,000 limit for an additional \$241. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Cybersecurity insurance is the main topic of discussion at insurance seminars and public officials trainings. The city is headed in the right direction by implementing best practices, hiring Infotech Solutions to monitor emails, and taking advantage of free services from DSU and CISA to help mitigate cyber incidents. Nonetheless, cyber liability coverage is essential. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to purchase cybersecurity liability insurance from Risk Placement Services, ATI with a \$1 million limit for \$2,376.93. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2025-8: Mayor McGough read Resolution No. 2025-8 to surplus structure material left over from retiring the old substation near the school. Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Auch to approve Resolution No. 2025-8. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Streetlights on Main Street: Dustin Graham, electric superintendent explained the 9 decorative lights on main street are going to be replaced during the SD DOT project coming up in 2027-2029. The DOT's lights are standard, non-decorative galvanized light poles. The city has the option to choose a decorative streetlight approved by the DOT and needs to start planning now for this future expense. The cost difference between the standard lights and decorative lighting will be at the expense of the city. The current lights have all been retrofitted for LEDs which cost approximately \$20,000. Rather than surplus these lights that will not be used on the DOT project, Alderman Price suggested placing them in Crystal Park. Graham encouraged the council to look at what other towns have and to send him pictures of anything they like.

Electric Department Quotes: Dustin Graham presented several quotes to the council to purchase equipment and services that are necessary for continued progress on current and future projects. The 2025 electric department budget has \$35,000 remaining in improvements and \$7,718 in machinery and equipment. Graham presented a quote from Northern Testing Services to top off the NW substation sub with nitrogen and to top off the 8601 breaker at the NW sub with SF6 gas. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve the Northern Testing Services quote for \$2,500. Next, a quote from Titan Machinery for a Jenkins snow bucket for \$2,200 was reviewed. Alderman Jones suggested checking with Paige Kilker for a price comparison as she also sells the Jenkins brand. Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Hargens to purchase a snow bucket attachment for up to \$2,200. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Border States provided a quote for a Milwaukee wand-style crimper/cutter hand tool for \$3,378. Graham will check with other suppliers for better prices. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to allow Graham to purchase a crimper/cutter hand tool for up to \$3,378. All members voted aye. Motion carried. The next quote was from Fast Forward for panoramic imaging services for the quoted amount of \$2,500 plus \$2.50 for any additional GIS locations outside of the 3 included with their Advanced Package. Graham estimates this to be about \$4,000 on the high end. He also checked with our electrical engineers who confirmed that the quote from Fast Forward is a good deal. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve the systemwide panoramic imaging for \$4,000. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Fast Forward will be back in town in January/February to complete thermal imaging services on the transmission line that was not done the last time their crew was in town due to lack of communication. Graham reviewed another quote from Stuart C. Irby for transformers. He is waiting for 3 more quotes from other companies. He plans on rotating a couple of transformers that need to be switched out and keeping what he needs in stock. It was noted that all city transformers have switches for consistency across the system to make it easier and safer to turn off a transformer in the case of emergency. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to purchase transformers for no more than \$12,705. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Discussion was held about purchasing a trencher attachment for a skid steer and an easy spotter. These will be addressed later.

Concrete in front of City Hall: Dustin Graham needs to do some concrete work and could have leftover cement. He wanted the council's thoughts about concreting the flower beds in front of the city hall building to help clean it up for easier year-to-year maintenance.

Last Payroll in December vs. First Payroll in January: The first payroll of 2026 lands on January 1, a federal holiday. When payday lands on a holiday it is city policy to deposit employee paychecks one day prior. Being cash basis, this would affect the city's 2025 budget and was not planned for. City employees agreed to have their paychecks deposited into their accounts on Friday, January 2 to avoid budget issues. Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to adjust the January 1, 2026, pay date to January 2, 2026. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Phase IV Utility Improvements: Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Price to pay **SPN invoices** 36781-36784 for a total of \$44,853.40. All members voted aye.

Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Auch to pay **TLC Olson Construction Pay Application No. 11** for \$211,108.56. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Airport Improvement Project: Helms & Associates Invoices – Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to pay Helms & Associates invoices 36680 and 36668 for a total of \$4,899.14. All members voted aye. Motion carried. **AIP Agreement:** Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Hargens to authorize Mayor McGough as the city’s authorized representative to sign and execute the AIP Agreement for Project No. 3-46-0035-17-2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried. **AIP Grant Offer:** Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Auch to give authority to Mayor McGough as the city’s authorized representative to sign the AIP Grant Offer for Project No. 3-46-0035-16-2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Airport CIP (AWOS-III-P) – Federal Grant Preapplications: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Hargens to have Mayor McGough as the city’s authorized representative sign the Federal Grant Preapplication for **AIP** funding for engineering costs for construction of an AWOS-III-P Weather Station. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to have Mayor McGough as the city’s authorized representative sign the Federal Grant Preapplication for **IIJA AIG** funding for construction of an AWOS-III-P Weather Station. All members voted aye. Motion carried. An updated CIP was included for reference and is on file in the finance office.

Special Event Liquor License: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve a special event liquor license for Willies Bar & Grill to serve alcohol at the community center on September 13. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Auch to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Tom McGough, Mayor

Cindy Deuter, Finance Officer

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT
Copy of the official proceedings
was received on: _____
Published once at the
approximate cost of: _____

Bills September 2025 (1)

American Solutions	Supplies	20.00
Avera	Prof Fees	37.70
Bds	Garbage	400.00
Border States	Supplies	386.97
Brownlee Aggregates	Gravel	31,674.75
Builders Solutions	Supplies	69.52
City Utilities	Utilities	9,381.54
Dgr Engineering	Prof Fees	217.50
Flint Hills Resources	Asphalt	29,158.44
Hand Co Rod	Filing Fee	30.00
Helms & Associates	Prof Fees	4,899.14
Marc	Supplies	213.36
Mcleod's	Supplies	181.73
Miller Ffa Alumni	Lifetime Membership	250.00
Ohed	80% Bbb	5,198.03
Postmaster	Presort Permit #2	400.00
Prairie Wind Promotions	Clothing	325.00
Prorate Services	Prof Fees	40.00
Safety Benefits	Registration	225.00
Sd Danr	Prof Fees	250.00
Sd Phl	Water Samples	120.00
Sd Dept Of L&R	Prof Fees	25.00
Spn	Prof Fees	44,853.40
Stuart C Irby	Supplies	1,350.00
Sturdevant's	Parts	21.94
Tlc Olson Construction	Water Phase Iv	211,108.56
Twin Valley Tire	Parts	2,464.00
Vandiest	Supplies	1,758.65
Wesco	Supplies	29.00
Acuity-Zep	Supplies	127.35
	Accounts Payable Total	<u>\$345,216.58</u>

Payroll Salary plus

Benefits by Department:		8/28/2025 & 8/29/2025		
	Department	w/o OT	OT	Total
41101	COUNCIL	2,831.21	0.00	2,831.21
41402	FINANCE OFFICE	3,313.04	0.00	3,313.04
41902	BUILDING	296.15	0.00	296.15
42101	POLICE	14,214.46	1,834.31	16,048.77
43101	STREET	8,779.73	495.51	9,275.24
43201	SEWER	6,531.17	831.60	7,362.77
43305	WATER	6,531.09	831.60	7,362.69
43403	ELECTRIC	16,078.03	0.00	16,078.03
45101	BALLPARK	995.22	0.00	995.22
45202	PARK	1,004.42	0.00	1,004.42
		<u>\$60,574.52</u>	<u>\$3,993.02</u>	<u>\$64,567.54</u>