

**CITY OF MILLER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 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 October 6, 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 Auch, seconded by Alderman Price to approve the agenda as amended to include a building permit to remove a house and build a garage for John Beaner on agenda item #11. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve the minutes as printed for the regular meeting held on September 15, 2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Input: Will Page thanked the city street department for their assistance in resealing the parking lot at the county courthouse. Greg Droz requested permission to host a neighborhood garage party with a live band at his residence at 528 West 7th Street on Saturday, November 1 and to use a city-owned lot for parking. Alderman Price asked if he has spoken with his neighbors. Droz stated his neighbors are in favor of the event. This item will be placed on the agenda for official approval at the next regular city council meeting.

Department Head Reports

All department heads were present. Water Superintendent Terry Manning said paving of streets on the Phase IV water/wastewater project is set for Monday, October 13 before the weather turns.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation Requests: Kristi Lichty was present to request a donation of \$2,750 for the Wheels and Meals Corporation for the required local match on their state funding for the transportation program. No one was present for Hand in Hand Childcare who submitted a request of \$15,000 for utility assistance and \$8,629 for other donations. No one was present for Ginny's Safe House who submitted a request for \$2,000. Laine Warkenthien and Jansen Naber were present for On Hand Economic Development to ask for \$132,000. Naber stated they have 4 active revolving loans totaling \$295,000. She reviewed other programs available through On Hand. In the next 18-24 months, On Hand is going to place a Governor's home on a lot in Miller. They also plan on bringing back the annual wine event that was originally organized by the health and wellness program. Laine listed a couple of "victories" for On Hand: Runnings, Miller Shine Car Wash, and 3rd Street Station. Laine said, "There's a lot of things we do, but nobody sees it because we are behind the scenes."

7:15 p.m. Bid Opening: The city council conducted a bid opening for the surplus 2018 Ford Explorer at 7:15 p.m. as published in the public notice to bidders. 2 bids were received. Mayor McGough opened the bids and read them as follows: Scott Gibson - \$2,850 and Ringwood Motors, Inc., Ringwood, Illinois - \$2,080. The reappraised value of the 2018 Ford Explorer is \$5,000. Motion by Alderman Gab, seconded by Alderman Auch to award the bid to Scott Gibson for \$2,850. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Donation Requests – cont'd.

Kevin Hofer was present for the Historical Society who turned in an application for donation requesting a \$1,600 utilities credit on their city bill for the McWhorter House Museum. Dave Blachford was present to request a donation of \$3,000 for fireworks on behalf of the Miller Fire Department.

Ron Hoftiezer – skid steer loader: Ron stated that the Minnesota state bid for a John Deere 325G 2025 is \$72,000. C&B Operations in Miller has the same skid steer for \$70,900 and the 2024 carryover for \$68,200. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to purchase the 2024 John Deere 325G skid steer loader from C&B Operations for \$68,200. All members voted aye. Alderman Price – abstained. Motion carried.

Ron Hoftiezer – park picnic tables: Ron would like to purchase new blue picnic tables for the park. The old wooden tables have been rotated out over the years. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to purchase 4 picnic tables for approximately \$950 each. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Dustin Graham – category 4 suit: The electric department needs to purchase a suit with a higher fault rating that is required by safety standards to work on some of the equipment in the electrical system. He plans to purchase one suit for the department to share. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to purchase a category 4 suit for the electric department for up to \$2,000. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Cindy Deuter – computer: The 3 computers in the finance office are on a rotation to replace one computer every year. Infotech Solutions, the city's IT professional currently contracted to monitor emails, suggests all computers be the same brand to make security practices easier. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to purchase a new computer on the current rotation as quoted from Infotech Solutions for \$1,571.99. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Muniworth – Continuous Revenue Management: The city's water and sewer departments have not had a professional rate study conducted in over 8 years. A quote has been obtained from AE2S Nexus for a water and sewer rate study, cost of services analysis, rate design, and provide an adequacy model for a one-time estimated fee of \$39,000. They provide their customers with software for capital planning for \$2,500/year. Alderman Price, Mayor McGough, Terry Manning, and Finance Officer Cindy Deuter reviewed Muniworth's Continuous Revenue Management cloud-based software solution with Nick Fahey over the past few weeks. Muniworth will provide cost of service analysis, rate design, long term financial model, asset replacement schedule, and scenario exploration along with unlimited support and advising for water, sewer, and electric for \$13,200/year. It is necessary to implement routine rate studies like what DGR Engineering does for the electric department. Alderman Price stated that the city needs to be proactive in setting rates to avoid reactively changing rates to make up for what could be potentially lost in cash flow. The rates need to be equitable and fair and still allow for future projects and continued service with a healthy net position. Mayor McGough reached out to a couple of communities who have Muniworth's management software. He received great reviews. The reporting capabilities allow for better transparency to the public about how rates are set. Alderman Auch asked for the billing schedule. Alderman Hargens would be okay with getting started if the fee is prorated for the year or on a rolling 12-month schedule as of the contract date. Cindy will get clarification about the fee from Muniworth. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to accept Muniworth's quote of \$13,200 if the fee is not \$13,200 for 2025 and \$13,200 for 2026 and it's a rolling 12-month or prorated contract. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Hand County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: There was a mitigation planning meeting held at the Hand County Courthouse last month. Alderman Price, Cindy Deuter, Allison Nelson, Terry Manning, and Dustin Graham attended on behalf of the city. Main discussion points included hazard risk assessment, how to engage the public in the process, and the National Flood Insurance Program. A public survey has been posted in the window at city hall, on the city's Facebook page, and on the city's website to encourage the public to participate in planning. Participating in the plan and adopting it allows each jurisdiction to apply for FEMA grants for items such as backup generators, storm shelters, and other projects. The next planning meeting is Tuesday, October 14 at the Miller Fire Hall from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Airport Improvement Project: Helms & Associates Invoices – Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Auch to pay Helms & Associates invoices 36895 and 36906 for a total of \$21,340.58. All members voted aye. Motion carried. **State AIP Agreement:** Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to authorize Mayor McGough as the city's

authorized representative to sign and execute the AIP Agreement for Project No. 3-46-0035-16-2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Phase IV Utility Improvements: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to pay **TLC Olson Construction Pay Application No. 12** for \$378,717.50 contingent upon receiving funds from the last drawdown request. All members voted aye. Motion carried. SPN invoices were found on pages 25 and 26 of the agenda packet. Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Auch to pay **SPN invoices** 34651-34563 for a total of \$52,027.09. All members voted aye. Motion carried. *Clarification – The SPN invoices included in the agenda packet are numbered 37020 through 37022 for a total of \$52,027.09. Item number 10. b. on the agenda misstated the invoices as 34651-34563. Invoices 37020 through 37022 are vouchered for payment and listed in the claims list for the agenda item “Approval of Bills.”*

Building Permits: Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Auch to approve Prairie View Vet Clinic’s application to build a new office building at 321 East 14th Street. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve a building permit for Michael and Alica Nicholson for a carport at 516 West 1st Avenue. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Hargens to approve a removal permit for Nancy Froning to remove a house and deck at 304 East 5th Street. All members voted aye. Alderman Jones – abstained. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Auch to approve a building permit and a removal permit for John Beaner to remove a house and build a garage at 517 West 3rd Street. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Set Date for Special Meeting – 2025 Budget Review: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Hargens to hold the budget review meeting on Monday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Change December 15 Meeting Date: The elementary school K-6th grade winter concert is scheduled for Monday, December 15. Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Gab to move the regular meeting from Monday, December 15 to Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Special Event Liquor Licenses: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve special event liquor licenses for Willie’s Bar & Grill to serve alcohol at the community center on October 20 and October 25. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Award Hay Land Bid: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to accept the hay land bid from Art Wenzel for \$74.00/acre, total of \$15,688.00/year for 5 years. Other bids received were \$66.00/acre, \$65.00/acre, and \$59.50/acre. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Award Farmland Bid: Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Hargens to accept the farmland bid from Harrell Bros. for \$100.26/acre, total of \$5,320.00/year for 5 years. No other bids were received. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Hargens to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 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 October 2025 (1)

A-Ox Welding	Welder	3,999.90
Avera	Prof Fees	75.40
Bds	Garbage	400.00
Border States	Supplies	490.41
City Utilities	Utilities	7,746.17
Code Enforcement	Code Enforcement	476.56
Dakota Energy	On-Call	455.00
Dakota Pump & Control	Service Call	423.47
Dgr	Prof Fees	4,182.00
Dollar General	Supplies	16.75
Evans Construction	Gravel	6,933.07
Flight Light	Supplies	640.66
Galls	Supplies	10.95
Helms & Associates	Prof Fees	21,340.58
Ron Hoftiezer	Reimb	138.80
Hughes Electric	Labor	80.00
Landis+Gyr	Prof Fees	11,908.28
Lunch Box	Supplies	25.00
Miller Ace	Supplies	3,839.53
Mmua	Prof Fees	7,165.75
Napa	Parts	390.76
Northern Testing Services	Maint.	2,500.00
Northwest Pipe Fittings	Supplies	995.96
Ohed	80% Bbb	3,423.11
Overhead Door Company	Maint.	318.88
Postmaster	Presort Permit #2	\$425.00
Prairie Wind Promotions	Supplies	125.00
Ramkota	Lodging	238.00
Runnings	Supplies	579.49
Sd Attorney General	24/7 Program	119.00
Sd Dps	Teletype Service	2,340.00
Sd Fpa	Supplies	60.75
Share Corp	Supplies	2,211.12
Spn	Prof Fees	52,027.09
Titan	Snow Bucket	2,200.00
Tlc Olson Construction	Water Phase Iv	378,717.50
Tony's Repair	Maint.	64.80
Twin Valley Tire	Repairs	930.00
Us Bank	Loans	18,165.39
Wesco	Supplies	1,273.00
World Insurance	Insurance Premiums	110,124.93
	Accounts Payable Total	<u>\$647,578.06</u>

Payroll Salary plus		09/25/2025, 09/30/2025,		
Benefits by Department:		10/09/2025		
Department		w/o OT	OT	Total
41101	COUNCIL	3,746.24	0.00	3,746.24
41402	FINANCE OFFICE	6,558.61	0.00	6,558.61
41902	BUILDING	296.15	0.00	296.15
42101	POLICE	26,881.36	1,532.52	28,413.88
43101	STREET	18,859.55	985.20	19,844.75
43201	SEWER	13,144.38	1,588.95	14,733.33
43305	WATER	13,137.42	1,570.62	14,708.04
43403	ELECTRIC	30,817.70	85.87	30,903.57
45202	PARK	2,365.30	0.00	2,365.30
		<u>\$115,806.71</u>	<u>\$5,763.16</u>	<u>\$121,569.87</u>