

**CITY OF MILLER**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 6, 2026**

*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, April 6, 2026.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Tom McGough, Aldermen: Dale Hargens, Will Jones, Patrick Price, 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 Jones to approve the agenda. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Hargens to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held March 16, 2026. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Aryan Chawla, Waterworth – Financial Model Presentation: Aryan Chawla is with the client success team at Waterworth. The city signed on for their professional services in October 2025 to provide cost of service analysis, rate design, a long-term financial model, an asset replacement schedule, and scenario exploration. Tonight’s presentation is at no additional cost and is included in their unlimited support and advising. The overall goal of having the services provided by Waterworth is to clearly and effectively communicate the city’s financial planning to council members, department heads, and the city’s customers by 1) establishing a financial baseline, 2) building long-term financial forecasts, 3) determining revenue needs and funding strategies, and 4) communicating, refining, and repeating the process. Aryan presented a baseline of the city’s financial position for the water fund for the last 3 years of actual figures, the current year’s budgeted figures, and the next 15 years of forecasted expenses, revenues, and future capital improvements. Prior years will be loaded into the model later for historical reference. Potential capital improvements for 2026 to relocate water main near the Legion, purchase and install new AMI water meters, and install meter pits have been loaded into the model to reflect what was included in the State Water Plan that was submitted to DANR by the April 1 deadline (further discussed with new business agenda item number 2). If the water rates are not increased from year-to-year, the cash in the water fund will be exhausted in 2028. Therefore, rate increases and funding will need to be implemented to ensure the water fund operates toward a healthy cash reserve with reliable, revenue-capturing infrastructure. Aryan presented proposed solutions for consideration: loan funded projects which would increase the city’s debt expense, and new revenue requirements to operate, maintain and reinvest in infrastructure. The proposed solution requires rate increases of 15% each year for 2027-2029 and annual 5% rate increases beginning in 2030. Dan Coss asked if investments, interest rates, and projections are included in the model. Aryan replied, “Yes.” Rate design to establish equitable rates according to customer use will be reviewed later.

**Ted Dickey, NEOG – State Water Plan:** Mayor McGough introduced Ted Dickey with Northeast Council of Governments. He provides crucial services to the city to help find and establish funding for the various capital improvement projects within the city. Ted and Cindy Deuter, Finance Officer, have been discussing how to fund 3 upcoming water improvements: move a 6-inch water line under Highway 45 near the Legion, get a new AMI water meter system, and install meter pits. Ted and Cindy, with the Mayor’s authorization, placed these 3 separate projects on the State Water Plan with DANR and submitted it by the April 1 deadline. The State Water Plan does not cause the city to commit to these projects; it simply communicates to DANR the city’s potential projects. Ted explained, “It’s meant to be a broad spectrum of what may be coming down the pipeline.” Normally, a motion is recommended to submit the plan; however, given the approaching deadline, there was no time to bring this to a council meeting for formal approval. At this point, there is no cost to the city. The deadline for the actual application for funding through the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources is July 1. If approved by DANR and city council, no work can commence until funding is in place in September. This poses a tight time frame as far as relocating the 6-inch water line this year. Ted thinks it is a time

frame we can meet. Within the next month, the city council needs to decide which of the 3 projects, if any, to move forward on and submit for funding: the water line is estimated at \$57,850, the meter pits are \$232,800, and the AMI water metering system is \$505,366 for a total of 796,000. It would not be in the best interest of the city to only apply for the water line as it would more than likely result in zero grant dollars being awarded. Ted also explained that if the city decides to move forward with applications, the state will require a public hearing of the city council, and he asked the council to decide by May to allow NECOG and the engineers time to complete the application. Alderman Price would like this to be moved to committee to discuss the projects and financial model. Thank you to Ted for all the work he does for Miller. If the city has any other projects, Ted would like to know. He quickly reviewed the city's current application for FEMA funding for a storm shelter at the ballpark. The state asked for more information and a cost variation of the cost estimate for the project which Dean Marske, HKG Architects provided approximately 3 months ago. NECOG hasn't heard anything since given current events with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**PUBLIC INPUT** None.

### **Department Head Reports**

Mayor McGough noted the recent airport inspection. The airport looks great and commendation was given to Terry Manning and his crew. Also, the bid opening for the AWOS-III-P project is Thursday, April 9 at 2:00 p.m. Water has not been turned on for the park or ballpark yet. No other comments were made regarding the written department head reports as presented within the agenda packet.

### **NEW BUSINESS** cont'd.

**Landlord/Tenant Utilities Accounts:** Terry and Trudy Steven, Dale and Susan Hargens, and Dan Coss were all present as landlords who provide properties for rent to their customers in Miller. Coss also represents S&S Rentals, and Dale Hargens was present on behalf of Tammy Lichty. The council welcomed them to discuss bad debt accounts. Currently, over the course of a decade, bad debt utility accounts submitted to collections by the city total \$40,000, \$30,000 of which is due to rental properties. Not only does the city "get stuck" with unpaid accounts, but landlords are also affected negatively by renters who do not pay their rent due. Unfortunately, it is a built-in cost of doing business. Dan Coss stated that Miller is fortunate in that the city is able to provide water, sewer and electric as a service and that landlords also provide a valuable service to the community. Without them, a large demographic of people could not live in Miller. Both the city and landlords can take steps to help reduce the amount of unpaid bills that are sent to small claims and/or collections. First and foremost, the monthly billing cycle needs to be shortened. Better communication between landlords and the city offices can help reduce the amount incurred on a renter's utility bill by knowing approximately when a renter leaves that residence. Improved efforts by landlords and city staff can be implemented to help renters understand when bills are processed and due. Coss also stated, "It's really incumbent on us as landlords to stay on top of our renters, too, and to screen them pretty tightly when they come in." Alderman Price and Alderman Gab would like the city to charge a higher deposit to renters unless they provide a good letter of credit from their previous utility provider. Coss recommended speaking to legal first. Alderman Jones stressed the importance of collecting bills due to ensure the city can pay its outstanding loans. Water and sewer surcharges were calculated based on the number of meters in service with a 10% margin for loss knowing that not 100% of bills will be collected. Dale Hargens wants to go through the last 5 years of bad debt accounts to contact and collect on those who might still be in town. Terry Stevens stressed that the postal service isn't what it used to be and that phone calls are necessary to collect. Coss stated that city staff members already do a great job calling customers on the shut-off list and informing landlords of their properties being shut off due to such; however, he thinks these calls can possibly be made earlier. Alderman Price recommends that this go back to the utilities committee to take the insight received from the landlords present this evening and review the legalities of some potential solutions.

**Swimming Pool Project:** Terry Manning obtained quotes for construction fence and storage containers. The best price he found for construction fence for the new swimming pool project is from Vosika Fencing for \$10,854.00. Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve the quote from Vosika Fencing for construction fence for \$10,854.00. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Terry would like to wait on purchasing storage containers until he gets prices from Terry Stevens's supplier. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman

Jones to approve invoice number SC50329 from Certified Testing Services for the geotechnical report for \$7,660.00. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Auch to approve SPN invoice #38143 for the topographic survey for \$11,200.00. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Resolution No. 2026-6 – surplus:** Mayor McGough read Resolution No. 2026-6 to surplus municipal property for sale or scrap. Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Price to approve Resolution No. 2026-6. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Resolution No. 2026-7 – amend Resolution No. 2026-3:** Mayor McGough read Resolution No. 2026-7 to amend Resolution No. 2026-3 to correct the legal description for the land that was vacated near the football field. Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve Resolution No. 2026-7. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Resolution No. 2026-8 – rescind Resolution No. 2026-4:** Mayor McGough read Resolution No. 2026-8 to rescind Resolution No. 2026-4 of intent to convey land to the Miller School District. Motion by Alderwoman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Hargens to approve Resolution No. 2026-8. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Airport Taxiway and Access Road Improvement Project:** Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Auch to approve Webster Scale Pay Application No. 2 for \$49,476.12. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve Helms & Associates invoice 38127 for \$3,489.86. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Building Permits:** Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve a building permit for Arisbet and Ramiro Flores for an addition at 304 S Broadway Avenue. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve a building permit for the Miller School District for the elementary school expansion project contingent upon Resolution No. 2026-7 and Resolution No. 2026-8 becoming effective 20 days after publication and upon Dustin Graham, zoning administrator signing the building permit application. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Jones to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 8:25 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor McGough returned the meeting to regular session at 9:10 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS cont'd.**

**Hire Seasonal Maintenance:** Motion by Alderman Gab, seconded by Alderman Jones to hire Gordon Gross at \$20/hour for seasonal grounds maintenance on an as needed basis. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Open Police Officer Position:** Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Auch to give the public safety committee the option to offer the open police officer position at a starting wage of \$24/hour plus a relocation bonus of \$3,000 in conjunction with On Hand Development Corporation's Employee Recruitment Program. \$1,500 will be reimbursed to the city through the program after the first year of employment. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Funds for the recruitment program come from South Dakota's Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Hargens to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 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 April 2026 (1)**

Ames, Wayne	Reimb	30.00
BDS	Garbage	400.00
Blasdell, Tre	Reimb	19.00
Bloomendillys Performance	Supplies	950.00
Border States	Supplies	124.28
Builders Solutions	Supplies	111.75
Certified Testing Servics	Swimming Pool Project	7,660.00
City Utilities	Utilities	12,374.06
CNH	Supplies	412.95
Fastenal	Supplies	172.19
Dan Fritzsche	Reimb	19.00
Dustin Graham	Reimb	19.00
Brandon Hammill	Reimb	19.00
Hand County Treasurer	License Plates	28.70
Dale Hargens	Reimb	102.95
Helms & Associates	Prof Fees	3,489.86
Ron Hoftiezer	Reimb	19.00
Knox, Andrew	Reimb	167.22
Lamb Chevrolet & Implement	2026 Chevrolet	49,888.00
Terry Manning	Reimb	19.00
MARC	Supplies	771.52
MMUA	Prof Fees	7,525.00
NAPA	Parts	143.63
OHED	80% Bbb	2,309.85
Postmaster	Presort Permit #2	400.00
Runnings	Supplies	686.86
SDDOT-AC	Registr.	50.00
SD PHL	Water Samples	40.00
SD FPA	Supplies	296.00
SDML WCF	Workers Comp	1,478.00
Servall	Service	137.19
SPN	Swimming Pool Project	11,200.00
Sturdevant's	Supplies	141.95
Tony's Repair	Maint.	66.40
Twin Valley Tire	Repair	58.00
US Bank	Loans	18,165.39
Webster	Prof Fees	49,476.12
	Accounts Payable Total	<u>\$168,971.87</u>

**Payroll Salary plus Benefits  
by Department:**

		3/26/2026 & 3/31/2026		
Department		w/o OT	OT	Total
41101	COUNCIL	2992.7	0	2992.7
41402	FINANCE OFFICE	3494.43	0	3494.43
41902	BUILDING	348.62	0.00	348.62
42101	POLICE	14,611.70	455.04	15,066.74
43101	STREET	10,048.85	756.80	10,805.65
43201	SEWER	6,894.13	61.00	6,955.13
43305	WATER	6,894.01	61.00	6,955.01
43403	ELECTRIC	16,383.58	0.00	16,383.58
		<u>\$61,668.02</u>	<u>\$1,333.84</u>	<u>\$63,001.86</u>