

CITY OF MILLER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 18, 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, May 18, 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 Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the agenda. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held May 4, 2026. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: Stephen Davis asked the Council to consider changing the yield signs at the intersection of East 7th Street and East 3rd Avenue back to stop signs. In his first 6 months of employment with the SD DOT, he encountered 3 near misses due to drivers failing to yield at the intersection. Alderman Price asked if it's worse at certain times of day to which Davis responded, 7:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. Alderman Jones wondered if it's worse during the school year. Alderman Price stated that they will confer with the street and police departments about the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Fay Jandreau – Venture Communications: Venture Communications representatives Fay Jandreau and Mary Knox addressed the Council regarding plans to implement Venture Vision, a subsidiary of Venture Communications Cooperative headquartered in Highmore.

During the City's underground electrical project, Venture Communications was able to install duct work and complete infrastructure on the east side of town, allowing service to be provided to several commercial businesses. Construction on the west side of town is scheduled to begin in August and will include approximately 30 miles of cable installation and fewer than 100 handholes. Project completion is anticipated by the end of the year. Representatives expressed their commitment to working closely with the city to ensure a smooth construction season.

A pre-construction meeting with additional project details is expected to take place in July. Alderman Price inquired about the timeline for residential services to become available to Miller residents. Mr. Jandreau stated that the project has been fully staked, with mainline installation occurring first and some service cutovers expected by year's end. Alderman Jones requested a more detailed project map, which Venture Communications representatives indicated would be provided to City officials at the pre-construction meeting.

Levi Stoddard – fence/variance: Levi appeared to ask for permission to build a fence with decking running horizontally connected to steel posts concreted in place at about 9 feet into the city's right of way running perpendicular to his south property line at 305 W 5th Ave. Alderman Price, Mayor McGough, and Dustin Graham, zoning administrator have looked at the property and the proposed fence placement. A building permit was approved previously for a fence and will need to be updated along with a variance and easement to build on city right of way. Alderman Auch asked if his neighbor, Alan Joy, has been informed of Levi's plans. Levi stated that Alan is aware and is helping him out with the part of the fence that was already approved. The idea of a temporary fence was entertained as one point; however, a permanent fence makes structural sense when it comes to weather. Alderman Jones worries about setting a precedence allowing residents to build on city-owned property and/or rights of way. Alderman Price responded that it still needs to go through the variance process for case-by-case approval. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to start the variance process. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Mike Waldner, Director of SecureSD, DSU – cybersecurity: Mayor McGough welcomed Mike Waldner of Secure South Dakota at Dakota State University in Madison. Mike has been

involved in several major statewide technology initiatives, including establishing the first internet connection in Pierre and for South Dakota state government, developing the K-12 data center and statewide school connectivity, and leading broadband expansion efforts. He also worked on the nearly half-billion-dollar Connect South Dakota program to expand internet access for citizens across the state. In addition, he has collaborated with Venture Communications on rural expansion projects and with Infotech Solutions on the current SecureSD project. He is a state employee, he does not endorse any companies or vendors.

In 2024, the state legislature appropriated \$7 million dollars to the Attorney General's office to aid local governments in South Dakota in improving their cybersecurity posture. The Attorney General's office turned to DSU for their professional services. A board of 21 members was formed, and they created a program called SecureSD. To award cybersecurity grant dollars, it must be worked through an IT vendor which in turn promotes economic development and establishes a working relationship between the government and a reputable IT vendor for continued professional cybersecurity maintenance.

The first step in the process is to evaluate the current condition of the city's cybersecurity posture by performing technical and strategic assessments, scanning for vulnerabilities, reviewing firewall and DNS configurations, and providing education to those who work in and for government entities. Once the results come back from the assessments, SecureSD can purchase cybersecurity equipment to help improve security. The main priority is email and eliminating business email compromise.

The City of Miller is in a good spot because 1 – it already has a managed services provider (MSP), Infotech Solutions, who has already been accepted as a reputable vendor through the state's RFP process and testing, 2 – the city has already done the strategic and technical assessment, and 3 – the city has Homeland Security performing vulnerability scanning.

Mike explained government-level data centers and getting City data migrated to the government's cloud. Additional services and features include multifactor authentication (MFA), phishing campaigns, all elected officials can be on the email system using .gov emails, and ongoing education involving incident response plans. It costs more to purchase government licenses on the government's cloud as opposed to using a commercial vendor. Mayor McGough asked why it's more expensive. Mike understands the frustration and says that Microsoft does not understand the government's initiatives.

SecureSD will pay for the migration of the city's data from commercial to government which can cost anywhere from \$4,000 to \$15,000 dollars. They will also pay for the licenses from now until the end of the program on June 30, 2028, at which time the city may need to budget for ongoing licensing. SecureSD is working with the current Governor, other Governor candidates, and other federal programs to utilize dollars for ongoing cybersecurity. Mike said, "If this program continues to be successful, we think it will continue to be funded." 64 of the 66 counties are involved in this and 59 are already doing the secure data/email solution.

Alderman Price asked if SecureSD will pay for the city's firewall. Mike said it will pay for the firewall itself and for Infotech to install it. Mike also suggested talking to Infotech about what else can be established through SecureSD funding while the funding is there.

Finance Officer Cindy Deuter explained that the current security camera system will not be allowed through a network managed by Infotech due to their vulnerabilities. All new cameras will need to be purchased and installed. Mike said this is more of a physical security item versus a cybersecurity item and is not covered by SecureSD dollars but to check with UJS and Homeland Security for potential funding.

Justin Sell – Legion update: Justin Sell stated that the American Legion wants to install a wooden sign along the highway and needs electricity run to it. Electric Superintendent Dustin Graham stated the Legion already pays for power to the light pole, and they can tie into that. Justin also requested temporary electric service during the Miller Thriller event in September. The band will play in the parking lot of the ballfield. Alderman Price suggested getting a local electrician to hookup a temporary panel. The city does not have secondary temporary panels already built. Dustin said the closest tie in would be on the breaker at the concession stand.

Ron Hoftiezer – mower: Dan Fritzsche, city street department, spoke in place of Ron. He handed out proposals for mowers. Ron sought bids for a new lawn mower and received 4. Of the 4, only 1 is available. It is a Gravely 252 27 HP zero turn with a 52" deck from Titan Machinery for \$10,325 with a 5-year warranty. Other quotes gathered were a Gravely 352 27 HP 52" deck for \$10,800 – Titan Machinery with a 5-year warranty, a John Deere Z930M ZTrak 25.5 HP 54" deck for \$12,350 – C&B Operations with a 3-year warranty, and a John Deere Z760R ZTrak 27 HP 54" deck for \$10,700 – C&B Operations with a 3-year warranty. Motion by Alderwoman

Hargens, seconded by Alderman Auch to purchase the Gravely 252 HP zero turn 52” deck from Titan Machinery for \$10,325. All members voted aye. Alderman Price abstained. Motion carried.

City-wide cleanup: The annual city-wide cleanup is scheduled for June 11-12. Dan Fritzsche asked that individuals, who do not have the means of getting items out to the county’s free rubble site weekend, call to get on the city’s list before June 11. The items accepted are wood, furniture, carpet, metal, trees/limbs. No tires, no electronics such as TVs/computers, no paint, and no cardboard.

Miller School District – street requests: Mr. Eric Norden, Miller School District Superintendent, emailed a request to close East 8th Avenue (a.k.a. Rustler Drive) for the summer due to construction and to utilize East 7th Avenue as a 2-way street for that time. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to grant Mr. Norden’s request to close East 8th Avenue and use East 7th Avenue as a 2-way street during construction. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Miller C&C and MFD – fireworks permit: The Miller C&C and Miller Fire Department plan on shooting fireworks during Miller’s 4th of July celebration. Brandon Hammill, Fire Chief of the Miller Fire Department has requested written permission to have a display of fireworks on July 4 with July 5 as an alternate date. Mayor McGough asked what happens if those 2 dates do not work. Alderman Price stated the department does not shoot them for the year. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to grant the Miller C&C and Miller Fire Department a permit for a public fireworks display. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Special Event Liquor License – Willie’s Bar & Grill: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve a special event liquor license for Willie’s Bar & Grill to serve alcohol at the Miller Community Center on May 30, 2026. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Mayor McGough informed the council that 2 bills were added since the agenda was posted: Hand County Register of Deeds and DGR Engineering. Motion by Alderman Hargens, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the bills for payment. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderwoman Hargens to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 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 May 2026 (2)

44i	Prof Fees	249.00
A & B Business	Prof Fees	238.09
Americinn	Lodging	297.00
Anthem Sports	Supplies	280.11
Core & Main	Supplies	992.00
Dakota Energy	Prof Fees	1,135.00
Dgr	Prof Fees	2,678.07
Hand Co Rod	Filing Fee	30.00
First Bank & Trust	Power	6,545.00
Infotech	Prof Fees	1,331.94
Jdf	Parts/Repairs	3,053.64
Knox, Andrew	Reimb	122.00
Landis+Gyr	Prof Fees	1,444.83
Linde Gas & Equipment	Rent	121.70
Miller Ace	Supplies	450.37
Miller Fire Department	Fireworks	3,000.00
Northwest Pipe Fittings	Supplies	1,077.70
Ohed	Industry	5,500.00
Prairieland Collections	Prof Fees	113.33
Riter Rogers	Prof Fees	472.50
Royal River Hotel	Lodging	418.00
Runnings	Supplies	292.63
Rd	Loans	16,403.00
Danr	Cert Exam	60.00
Sd Dor	Sales Tax	11,269.68
Stan Houston	Supplies	1,647.74
Sturdevant's	Supplies	419.48
Tony's Repair	Oil Change	66.30
Visa	Supp./Wtr Purchased/Fuel/Etc	21,981.14
Wapa	Power	51,271.40
Wesco	Supplies	243.20
	Accounts Payable Total	<u>\$133,204.85</u>

**Payroll Salary plus Benefits
by Department:**

		5/7/2026 & 5/21/2026		
Department		w/o OT	OT	Total
41402	FINANCE OFFICE	6,917.46	0.00	6,917.46
42101	POLICE	24,449.55	537.80	24,987.35
43101	STREET	19,499.74	167.98	19,667.72
43201	SEWER	13,584.09	37.62	13,621.71
43305	WATER	13,890.58	76.51	13,967.09
43403	ELECTRIC	31,272.10	0.00	31,272.10
45101	BALLPARK	1593.22	0	1593.22
45202	PARK	2,562.08	0.00	2,562.08
		<u>\$113,768.82</u>	<u>\$819.91</u>	<u>\$114,588.73</u>