**Council Minutes**

**Millen City Council**

**December 3, 2024**

**A regular meeting of the Millen City Council was held on December 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor King Rocker, Council Members Joel Carter Sr, Darrel Clifton, Regina Coney, Ed Fuller and Robin Scott. Also present were City Attorney Hubert Reeves and City Manager Jeff Brantley.**

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Rocker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Invocation**

City Attorney Hubert Reeves gave the invocation.

1. **Consent Agenda**
2. **Approve Minutes from November 5, 2024 Regular Meeting**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Citizen Request to Address Council – Wanda Williams – Storm Drain Issues**

Wanda Williams addressed Council about storm water issues at her home on 255 North Avenue. During high rain events her home is prone to flooding. She presented an estimate of the damages to her residence from the flood. She asked what could be done to address the flood problem. City Manager Brantley stated that engineer Wesley Parker was reviewing the issue and the City had replaced the storm pipe that runs under Georgia Avenue in April 2023 at a cost of $11,000.00. The pipe was increased from a 15 inch to an 18-inch pipe to help move the water off faster and the storm drain was cleaned the afternoon the storm started. The storm produced 10 inches of rain in less than 24 hours and that amount was not predicted. There is a possibility when the City is installing the new water main along North Avenue next year the water coming from the railroad can be diverted.

1. **Citizen Request to Address Council – Krystal Coney and LaSwan Spell – Parade Request**

Krystal Coney addressed Council about permitting a parade on January 18, 2025 for the MLK Jr Holiday. The parade would be held on Cotton Avenue at 10:00 am.

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to permit the parade on January 18, 2025 at 10:00 am along Cotton Avenue. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Approve Employee Christmas Party to be held at City Hall on December 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM and approve funding**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the Employee Christmas Party for December 20, 2024 at 11:00 am and provide funding of $800.00 from the Coke Fund. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to Approve Employee Christmas Bonus (Recommend same as previous years, $60 with < 1-year service, $160 with > 1-year service plus additional $5/year for every year over 7 years and $50 for part time)**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to approve the Employee Christmas Bonus as presented: $60 with < 1-year service, $160 with > 1-year service plus additional $5/year for every year over 7 years and $50 for part time. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **City Manager Report**
2. **Financials**

Financials were reviewed and the net revenue for November -$35,355.00 compared to last year’s being $114,163. Compared to last year to date Revenues are down $84,028 and total expenses are up $59,928. The 2024 LMIG payment was made for the paving of Walnut Street in the amount of $53,293. This was part of the expenses for November. The 2024 property tax bills were mailed mid November.

1. **Christmas Lights Update**

The Christmas lights for the decorative poles on Cotton Avenue are expected to be delivered by December 6th. As soon as they arrive the City public works department will mount them.

1. **Storm Debris Update**

Council was informed that 1218 tons of vegetative debris has been picked up. The City employees completed the second pass around the City on November 22nd. The cleanup has begun in the county with a US Corp of Engineers contractor. They may may a pass through the City, if not the City crews will make one more pass. FEMA will reimburse the City 100% for expenses incurred.

1. **House Bill 581**

City Manager Brantley reviewed House Bill 581 which included a floating homestead exemption on property taxes. The bill goes into law on January 1, 2025 and will affect tax collections in the future. Council was encouraged to view a webinar located on the Georgia Municipal Association website, that explains all the components of the law. The City would need to work with the county on whether to opt-in or opt-out on the exemption. If we choose to opt-out the process would need to be completed by March 1, 2025.

1. **Integral Recoveries Update**

City Manager Brantley informed Council that he received no response back on the City Manager Community information site on Integral Recoveries. The use of Integral Recoveries was tabled for lack of references.

1. **Mayor’s Comments/Report**

No comments

1. **City Attorney Comments/Report**

No comments

1. **Council Member Comments/Reports**

No comments

1. **Executive Session**

**Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a city officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6)**

**Discussion of the future acquisition, disposal or lease of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A 50-14-3(4)**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller at 6:50 pm to exit regular session and enter executive session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a city officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6), and discussion of the future acquisition, disposal or lease of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A 50-14-3(4). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney at 7:24 pm to exit executive session and enter regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Rocker adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.

**Approved by Mayor and Council: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mayor’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Attest by City Manager: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**