

Council Minutes Millen City Council December 2, 2025

A regular meeting of the Millen City Council was held on December 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor King Rocker, Council Members Joel Carter Sr, Darrel Clifton, Ed Fuller and Robin Scott arriving at 6:06pm. Council Member Regina Coney attended by phone and did not vote. Also, present were City Manager Jeff Brantley, City Attorney Matt Mathews and others on the attached list.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

Council Member Clifton gave the invocation.

3. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Minutes from November 4, 2025 Regular Meeting

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Council Member Scott was not present for the vote.

4. Approve Employee Christmas Party to be held at City Hall on December 19, 2025 at 11:00 AM and approve funding

Council Member Carter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the City employee Christmas Party for December 19, 2025 with a budget of \$1000.00 paid from the City Coke Fund and to close City Hall from 11:00 am through 1:00 pm for the party and meal. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Council Member Scott was not present for the vote. Council Member Scott arrived after the vote and before discussion of the next topic.

5. 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 Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the employee Christmas bonus as follows, \$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.

6. Review, Discuss and Approve Revised Alcohol Ordinance

After review and discussion, Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to approve an ordinance to amend Chapter Four "Alcoholic Beverages" of the City of Millen Code. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. City Manager Report

A. Financials

Financials were reviewed with Mayor and Council. The month end net revenue for November was -\$92,787.09 and year to date net revenue is \$155,724.97. November is historically a low revenue month. Tax bills were mailed and are starting to be collected and will help the December and January revenues.

B. Grant Updates

The following grant updates were given by City Manager Brantley:

The 2023 CDBG curb installation in the Buckhead Road sidewalk began on Thanksgiving week. This along with the storm pipe at the intersection of Buckhead and Williams, and speed humps on Buckhead should be complete before Christmas. The GEFA SEP grant to install new HVAC systems at City Hall was out for bid, with a bid opening scheduled for December 10th. Since this grant has to be invoiced before the end of December, Council by common consent agreed to allow City Manager Brantley to approve the low bid recommended by the engineer.

The RDF Grant for the Kirkland Building is having a closeout hearing on December 4th at 10:00 am. The DCA can close it out afterwards.

The SEID Grant to install a 12-inch water main along North Avenue has been delayed in completing the engineering due the railroad's delay in issuing the permit to cross under the tracks. This approval should be given in the next two weeks.

The 2026 CDBG application is in process. The City workers are passing out income surveys with housing needs/repair questions. These surveys will need to be submitted with the application in April 2026 to determine the low to moderate income status for the target area. The area is the west side of US Highway 25 from Acorn Avenue south to the railroad tracks and the wastewater treatment plant.

C. Cemetery Upgrades

Both cemeteries have been assigned dirt dumping areas for the funeral homes to use for excess dirt. This will eliminate the piles of dirt scattered around the edges of the cemetery. The City recently had a contractor mulch a sewer main easement next to the Millen Cemetery, allowing for the clearing of an area adjacent to the cemetery for the dirt. The Westside Cemetery has a spot behind the City's new well and wellhouse for the dirt. Trash polycarts are going to be placed at each cemetery.

Council reviewed a copy of an email from the Georgia Lottery showing the amount of lottery funds dedicated to the students of Jenkins County since the lottery inception in 1994. The lottery has funded 2576 Jenkins County Hope students receiving \$10,421,896 and 2079 Jenkins County Pre-K students receiving \$8,676,265.

8. Mayor's Comments/Report

Mayor Rocker thanked retiring Council Member Ed Fuller for his 12 years of service to the City.

9. City Attorney Comments/Report

City Attorney Matt Mathews discussed the Charter requirements for the elected official's oath of office to be received at the January council meeting and the Probate Judge or designee would administer the oath.

Mr. Matthews also reminded that a fee needed to be set for the distilled spirits consumption on premises license. It was discussed earlier in the meeting but never approved.

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to set the annual license fee for Distilled Spirits Consumption on premise at \$500.00. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

10. Council Member Comments/Reports

Council Member Clifton made the following comments: The leave and limb truck was not in town working the week of Thanksgiving. Provisions would need to be made for penalties in the next contract. The amount of furniture placed beside the road on the Code Enforcement sheet and fines needed to be given. Inquired if the amount of water leaks around town had increased, and that several street lights on Cotton Avenue were out. City Manager Brantley responded that the amount of water leaks is similar to before. We have some areas with old water mains and service lines. The street lights on Cotton had already been repaired by Georgia Power. There was an underground wire that needed replacing.

Council Member Carter mentioned the need for improvements at the Westside Cemetery by paving the roads inside and to the cemetery.

11. Executive Session

Executive Session was not needed.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Rocker adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Approved by Mayor and Council: _____

Mayor's Signature: _____

Attest by City Manager: _____