

# **Council Minutes**

## **Millen City Council**

### **January 6, 2026**

Prior to the meeting Probate Judge Wanda Burke administered the oaths of office to Andrew Allen, Joel Carter, Sr and Regina Coney.

A regular meeting of the Millen City Council was held on January 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor King Rucker, Council Members Andrew Allen, Joel Carter, Sr, Darrel Clifton, and Regina Coney. Council Member Robin Scott arrived during executive session at 7:48 pm. Also, present were City Manager Jeff Brantley, City Attorney Andrew Lavoie and others on the attached list.

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Invocation**

Council Member Clifton gave the invocation.

**3. Approve Amended Agenda adding line items #5**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote 5-0.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approve Minutes from December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to approve the Consent Agenda with addition under Council Members Comments, adding comments by Council Member Carter on needed improvements to the Westside Cemetery. The motion carried by unanimous vote 5-0.

**5. Approve closing Cotton Avenue for MLK Parade on January 17, 2026 at 10:00 am.**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carter to approve the parade request on Cotton Avenue for January 17, 2026 at 10:00 am. The motion carried by unanimous vote 5-0.

**6. Mandy Underwood - Main Street Millen Annual Report**

Mandy Underwood the Executive Director of Main Street Millen gave a summary of all the event sponsored, revenues and expenses for 2025. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

**7. Vote to Appoint Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to appoint Council Member Coney as the Mayor Pro Tem for 2026. The motion carried by unanimous vote 5-0.

**8. Vote to Appoint City Attorney for 2026 – Bruce, Mathews and Lavoie Law Group currently serving**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to appoint the law firm of Bruce, Mathews and Lavoie Law Group as city attorney for 2026. The motion carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

**9. Vote to Appoint City Auditor – Reddick, Riggs, Hunter & Colson PC currently serving**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to appoint Reddick, Riggs, Hunter & Colson PC as the City Auditor for 2026. The motion carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

**10. Vote to appoint Municipal Court Judge – April Stafford currently serving**

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to appoint April Stafford Municipal Court Judge for 2026. The motion carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

**11. Vote to appoint Municipal Court Solicitor – Sam Derocco currently serving**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to appoint Sam Derocco as the Municipal Court Solicitor of 2026. The motion carried by a vote of 3-2. Voting yes was Clifton, Allen, Rocker and voting no were Carter and Coney.

**12. Vote to Appoint Municipal Court Public Defender – Christopher Gohagan currently serving**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to appoint Christoher Gohagan as the Municipal Court Public Defender for 2026. The motion carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

**13. Vote to Appoint Council Member to the Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center – Regina Coney currently serving**

Council Member Carter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to appoint Council Member Regina Coney to the Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center for 2026. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**14. Vote to Appoint Council Member to the Jenkins County Health Department – Darrel Clifton currently serving**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carter to appoint Council Member Darrel Clifton to the Jenkins County Health Department for 2026. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**15. Vote to Appoint two members to the Downtown Development Authority for a four-year term from 1/1/2026-12/31/2029 – Robin Scott and Steve Rathbun currently serving**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to appoint Robin Scott and Krystal Coney to the DDA board for a four-year term from 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2029. The motion carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

**16. Adopt amendment to the City of Millen Language Access Plan 2023 – 2028 for CDBG Grant Number 25b-x-082-2-6801**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to approve the amendment to the City of Millen Language Access Plan 2023-2028 for grant 25b-x-082-2-6801. The motion was approved by unanimous vote 5-0.

**17. Review and Approve bid for the GEFA SEP Grant replacing several HVAC systems in City buildings**

- **Crowes Comfort Solutions – Base Bid - \$98,429.20**
- **Hagan Heating and Air – Base Bid - \$124,500.00**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the low bid in the amount of \$98,429.20 from Crowes Comfort Solutions for the GEFA SEP Grant HVAC replacement project. The motion carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

**18. City Manager Report**

**A. Financials**

Financials were reviewed with Mayor and Council. The month end net revenue for December was \$27,930.27 and the year-to-date net revenue is \$183,655.24. The first payment for the 2026 Workers Compensation insurance was made in the amount of \$13,713.50 which is 25% of the annual premium. Also, five weekly payrolls were processed during the month.

**B. Various Grant Updates**

The following grant updates were given by City Manager Brantley:

The 2023 CDBG sidewalk curbing and the stormwater pipe under Williams Street are complete. The remaining items to finish this grant are the speed humps and the road patching over the storm pipe. These will be complete as soon as the asphalt plant runs and weather permits.

The 2025 CDBG is on tract to bid out in October 2026 with construction to start in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2027.

The SEID grant for the new water main along North Avenue is still waiting on the railroad permit. The railroad engineering department has approved and passed it to their real estate department for final approval. The project will be bid out for construction as soon as the railroad permit is approved.

The LMIG paving project is having a pre-construction meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> with the contractor Sikes Brothers to sign contracts and finalize paving plans. The roads being resurfaced are Tanglewood, Lee, Hill, and Dixie Crescent.

Council was informed of a new grant request for funding through GEFA called the Hurricane Resilience Decentralization Waste Water Fund (HRF) for the improvements of areas on septic tank systems to be converted over to City sewage systems. The target area for this grant is Ada Drive, and Dekle Avenue which could convert approximately 25 lots to sewer.

**19. Mayor's Report**

No report

**20. City Attorney Report**

No report

**21. Council Member Comments/Reports**

Council Member Coney inquired about the heating system not working at the Community House. Public Works director Boulineau stated that the contractor had been called to check it on Monday January 5<sup>th</sup> and found out the gas line had been turned off at the meter. Once the gas was turned on the units worked properly. It's unknown who turned off the gas.

**22. Executive Session**

Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(2),

Consultation with the city attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, Settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the city or any officer or employee or in which the city or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1)

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(b)(2);

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton at 6:47 p.m. to exit regular session and enter executive session to discuss tax matters, legal consultation with city attorney and personnel matter. The motion carried by unanimous vote 5-0. Council Member Scott arrived during executive session.

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney at 8:00 p.m. to exit executive session and enter regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

**23. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Rocker adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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

**Mayor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

