

# **Council Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting**

### **June 6, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Millen City Council was held on June 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor King Rocker, Council Members Darrel Clifton, Regina Coney, Ed Fuller, Robin Scott, and Giovanni Shumake. Also present was City Manager Brantley.

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Rocker called the meeting to order 6:01 p.m.

**2. Invocation**

Council Member Clifton gave the invocation.

**3. Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

Mayor Rocker opened the Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget at 6:02 p.m. City Manager Brantley discussed the proposed budget with Mayor and Council. The total budget increase for all departments is \$765,443.00 for the fiscal year. The natural gas department budget increased by \$915,740.00 due to increased commercial usage and price uncertainty. After discussion and no further questions, Mayor Rocker closed the hearing at 6:10 p.m.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approve Minutes from May 2, 2023 Regular Council Meeting**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**5. Review and Approve procedures for requesting a street name change on a public street in the City of Millen.**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve procedures for requesting a street name change on a public street in the City of Millen. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**6. Review Request for Honorary Street naming on Williams Avenue in honor of Walter Thomas, Jr.**

Council Member Shumake made a motion, seconded by Scott to approve the request by Council Member Shumake to designate Williams Avenue in honor of Walter Thomas Jr. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**7. Review request from Main Street Millen for a donation to assist with the annual Hometown Patriotic Celebration**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve a donation of \$1400.00 to Main Street Millen to assist with the annual Hometown Patriotic Fireworks Celebration. The motion carried by a vote of 5-1. Voting for were Councilmembers Coney, Fuller, Scott, Clifton and Mayor Rocker. Opposed was Councilmember Shumake.

## **8. Discuss dying trees at the Cemeteries**

Council discussed the number of trees that were dying in the Millen Cemetery due to disease and beetles. Council also discussed paving White Oak Road. Plans for the paving project have started. The City workers will remove the smaller dead trees. Bids were taken for the removal of 15 large oak trees, 3 dogwoods, including grinding stumps, and trimming 10 large oaks. The following bids were received:

Brinson's Tree Removal - \$21,000.00

Coastal Tree Care, LLC - \$17,600.00

East Georgia Tree Service - \$40,000.00

Lewis Tree and Stump - \$28,000.00

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to approve the bid from Coastal Tree Care, LLC in the amount of \$17,600.00 and to make payment from the General Fund after July 1, 2023 in the new budget year. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **9. City Manager Report**

### **A. Financials**

City Manager Brantley reviewed the financials with council. He noted that during the month of May net revenues were -20,000 and year to date net revenues were - \$57,710. During the month of May the City paid annual cost of \$21,264 for annual software expenses that cover the periods July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

### **B. 2018 CDBG Closeout**

Council reviewed the final closeout number for the 2018 CDBG. The Total spent was \$1,000,000.00 grant funds, \$194,173.50 city match, and \$2750.00 property owner portion.

### **C. 2020 CDBG Update**

City Manager Brantley informed Council that the 2020 CDBG should be complete by the end of June, 2023. Remaining work to be completed is to complete construction of the home at 219 Warren Street and demolition of 2 structures.

### **D. 2021 CDBG Update**

City Manager Brantley informed council that all infrastructure work is complete on the 2021 CDBG. Current plans are to rehabilitate a house on Buckhead Road and demolish a structure on Palmer Row.

### **E. 2023 CDBG Application Update**

Council was informed the application for the 2023 CDBG was submitted on Friday June 2, 2023 for \$1,000,000.00. Approval notifications will be released in late September 2023. Due to high infrastructure cost estimates, housing was not included in the CDBG application. Housing for this area will be included in the next CDBG application.

**F. Foggy Field Road improvements**

Due to high-cost estimates for the 2023 CDBG infrastructure the water line replacement on Foggy Field Road was removed from the project. ARPA funds are available to fund this project. Council instructed City Manager Brantley to get the City engineer to update the project cost estimate. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project which is to remove approximately 15 trees in the right of way.

Council Member Shumake made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to request bids for the tree removal on Foggy Field Road with the funding source to be determined at bid approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**G. Lift Station Replacement Update**

Council was informed that the 3 lift stations have been replaced and are working as expected. The work remaining on the project is to replace the electrical panels and pour concrete after the panels are installed. The amount left to pay the contractor is \$67,474.10 after the work is complete.

**H. Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program (STAR)**

Council was informed that the City is looking to apply for a joint grant through the Environmental Protection Division with the County, and Atlantic Waste to fund a scrap tire pickup program. The application will be submitted in July and the proposed pick-up week is October 30, 2023 thru November 4, 2023.

**I. Georgia Lottery – County Analysis**

Council was presented with the Georgia Lottery Corporation County Analysis of Lottery Proceeds, Fiscal Year 1994-2022 for Jenkins County.

**J. Water Tank Painting**

City Manager Brantley informed Council that the water tank located at City Hall was repainted in May. This was part of the city's annual maintenance contract with American Tank Maintenance Company. They will be flushing the inside of all the tanks over the next few months.

**K. Set up work session to discuss City fees – possible after June 20<sup>th</sup> called meeting**

Council discussed and set up a work session to follow the June 20, 2023 call meeting. The work session is to discuss city fees.

**10. Mayor's Comments/Report**

Nothing to report.

**11. City Attorney Comments/Report**

City Attorney was not present for the meeting.

**12. Council Member Comments/Reports**

Council Member Clifton asked about potential Cyber Attacks. City Manager Brantley stated the City uses the IT company Intellisystems to provide IT support and system security. Even with the security the system is not fully immune to attacks. He also asked for a follow up on broken utility poles in the City. He was informed the City has ongoing talks with Georgia Power and they are still waiting on other utilities such as Comcast and AT&T to move lines from the old poles to new ones. The local Georgia Power engineer has been helpful assisting with the removal.

Council Member Shumake asked about storm water issues in area around Toby Drive and Beale Street. Public Works Director Boulineau stated the water is backing up due to drainage issues along the railroad tracts on railroad property. He stated he would seek assistance from the railroad to clean the ditches.

**13. Executive Session**

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

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Shumake to leave regular session at 7:32 p.m. and enter executive session. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to exit executive session at 8:18 p.m. and enter regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to approve employee raises to begin July 1, 2023. The increase rate would be \$0.50 per hour for any employee earning below \$15.00 per hour and \$0.25 per hour for any employee earning above \$15.00 per hour. Raises will be re-evaluated for January 2024. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Rocker adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

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

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

