

# **Council Minutes Regular Meeting December 5, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Millen City Council was held on December 5, 2023 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, and Ed Fuller. Absent was 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.

**2. Invocation**

City Attorney Reeves gave the invocation.

**3. Swearing in Ceremony for Joel Carter, Sr. to fill unexpired council term**

Probate Judge Wanda Burke conducted the swearing in ceremony for new Councilmember Joel Carter, Sr filling the unexpired term of Giovanni Shumake.

**4. Discuss Variance request by Nellie Hardaway for property located at 248 Palmer Row**

The council members by common consent agreed to add the decision on the variance to the January 2, 2024 Council meeting.

**5. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approve Minutes from November 7, 2023 Regular Meeting**

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

**6. Review and Approve bid for Kirkland Building Restoration**

• **MMI Construction, LLC - \$662,000.00**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the bid from MMI Construction, LLC in the amount of \$662,000.00 for the 2020 RFD Grant to stabilize the Kirkland Building. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**7. Norfolk Southern Public Safety Grant Award - Approve Equipment Purchase**

• **Police Department Server - Intellisystems - \$18,978.00**

• **Dispatch Radio - MCA - \$34,902.41**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the purchase of a computer server from Intellisystems in the amount of \$18,978.00 paid from grant funds received from Norfolk Southern. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to approve the purchase of a dispatch radio system from Mobile Communications America in the amount of \$34,902.41 paid from grant funds received from Norfolk Southern. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**8. Approve Employee Christmas Party to be held at City Hall on December 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM and approve funding**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to approve the City Employee Christmas Party for December 22, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. and provide funding up to \$800.00 from the Coke and Snack Fund. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**9. 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 Fuller to approve Christmas Bonuses to be paid 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.

**10. Approve Language Access Plan for 2023 CDBG**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve the City's Language Access Plan for the 2023 CDBG project. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**11. City Manager Report**

**A. Financials**

City Manager Brantley reviewed the financials and income statement for the month of November.

**B. Christmas Lights Update**

Council was informed that work began in February of 2023 to add the needed infrastructure to the power poles on Winthrope Avenue. After the City received and engineering report in early November from a contract engineering group for Georgia stating that most of the poles were owned by ATT and a pole attachment contract would need to be secured with ATT. Georgia Power also had an invoice for \$31,755 that would need to be paid to move forward. The City would in addition need to pay its electrician about \$13,000 to install the outlets and weather heads needed to plug in the decorations. The Chamber of Commerce is planning to purchase lights for the poles on Cotton Avenue. These poles have electrical outlets and the pole attachment agreement with Ga Power covers these poles.

**C. Update on Leave and Limbs Pickup**

The Allgreen grapple truck used to pick up leaves and limbs has been out of service for repairs. The truck is back in operation as of December 4<sup>th</sup>. Allgreen was using a rear load garbage truck for pickup of leaf piles but were not able to gather large piles of limbs. Allgreen has agreed to reduce the City's November sanitation bill by \$1500.00.

**D. 2020 CDBG Final Closeout Cost**

Council was updated on the final amounts spent on the 2020 CDBG from the closeout Public Hearing that was held November 16, 2023. The total grants funds spent were \$1,000,000 and the total match by the City was \$124,044.52.

**E. Public Hearing for 2023 CDBG December 18, 2023**

Council was informed of a Public Hearing set for December 18, 2023 at 4:30pm to discuss the city's 2023 CDBG award. The grant is for \$1,000,000 and will include water, sewer, storm water and road improvements in the Waters Avenue and Buckhead Road areas.

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

No Comment

**13. City Attorney Comments/Report**

No Comment

**14. Council Member Comments/Reports**

Council Member Clifton inquired about several complaints about the utility bills not being received. Bills were mailed out on November 28, 2023. It was mentioned that other local power utilities were seeing delayed delivery with there utility bills due to the US Postal Service.

By common consent the Mayor and Council gave City Manager Brantley authority to extend the penalty date past the 10<sup>th</sup> to assist residents that may have received their bill late.

**15. 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)**

**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)**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to leave regular session and enter executive session at 6:39 p.m. to discuss personnel and consultation with the City Attorney on legal matters. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller at 7:05 p.m. to exit executive session 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 as follows: anyone making less than \$12/hour be raised to \$12/hour; anyone making less than \$15/hour be given \$.50/hour; anyone making greater than \$15/hour be given \$.25/hour effective with the pay period beginning January 5, 2023. The motion carried by unanimous vote. A copy of the raise schedule will be attached to the minutes.

**16. Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Rocker adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

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

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

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