

**Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
January 2, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Millen City Council was held on January 2, 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, Ed Fuller, and Robin Scott. Absent was Regina Coney. 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 Mayor King Rocker, Council Member Darrel Clifton, and Council Member Robin Scott**

State Court Judge Duff Ayers conducted the swearing in ceremony for Mayor King Rocker, Councilmembers Darrel Clifton and Robin Scott for their 2024 – 2027 term of office.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**Approve Minutes from December 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting**

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

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

Main Street Millen executive director Mandy Underwood presented the Mayor and Council with s 2023 review of events for Main Street Millen, the Downtown Development Authority and The Chamber of Commerce. A copy of the report will be attached to the minutes.

**6. Vote to Appoint Mayor Pro-Tem for 2024**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to appoint Robin Scott as Mayor Pro Tem for 2024. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**7. Vote to Appoint City Attorney for 2024 – R. Hubert Reeves III currently serving**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to appoint R. Hubert Reeves, III as the City Attorney for 2024. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to appoint Reddick, Riggs, Hunter & Colson PC as the City Auditor. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to appoint April Stafford as the Municipal Court Judge. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to appoint Sam Derocco as the Municipal Court Solicitor. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to appoint Christopher Gohagen as the Municipal Court Public Defender. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**12. Vote to Appoint Council Member to the Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center – Dr. Giovanni Shumake formerly serving**

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to appoint Council Member Regina Coney to the Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center Board. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to appoint Council Member Darrel Clifton to the Jenkins County Health Department Board. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**14. Approve Bid for 2021 CDBG Demolition on Parcel M22-043 on Palmer Row**

- **Marks Demolition & Environmental Group - \$12,400.00**
- **Coastal Tree & Land - \$19,820.00**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to approve the bid from Marks Demolition & Environmental Group in the amount of \$12,400.00 to demolish the structure on parcel M22-043. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**15. Approve Resolution to apply for 2024 Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) grant in the amount of \$500,000.00**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to approve a Resolution to apply for a 2024 Community Home Investment Program grant in the amount of \$500,000.00. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**16. Approve Engineer for the 2024 CDBG**

Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to approved Parker Engineering as the engineer for the 2024 CDBG grant. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**17. Approve Engineer for the Southeast Cresnet Regional Commission Grant (SEID)**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to approve Cranston Engineering as the engineer for the City's SEID grant. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**18. Discuss Pay Increase for Municipal Court Judge, Solicitor and Public Defender**

Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to set the pay for the Municipal Court officials as follows Judge \$850.00/month; Solicitor \$850.00/month; Public Defender \$750.00/month all to be effective with the January 2024 court. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**19. Discuss and Variance Request for Nellie Hardaway on building square footage requirements for 248 Palmer Row**

After discussion and an opinion from the City Attorney based on the City and State Codes Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to deny the request for a variance to the minimum residential building square footage for 248 Palmer Row. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**20. Allgreen Services sanitation rate increase based on the Consumer Price Increase effective 4-1-2024**

The Mayor and Council reviewed a letter from Allgreen Services dated December 22, 2023 notifying the City of their intent to raise the sanitation rate per the contract. Effective April 1, 2024 the sanitation collection cost will increase by 16% based on the 3-year increase in the CPI for garbage and trash collection in the US. Allgreen is giving the City a \$1/month polycart and \$5/month dumpster discount for reduction in fuel cost. The Mayor and Council will discuss price increases for residents and businesses at the February meeting to offset the cost.

**21. City Manager Report**

**A. Financials**

City Manager Brantley reviewed the monthly financials. He noted the City has positive cash flow year to date of \$150,898.67.

**B. Norfolk Southern – Community Impact Grant**

At last month's meeting Council was informed that the City had received \$54,000 from Norfolk Sothern from a Public Safety Grant. Norfolk Southern has also awarded a Thriving Community Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to be used to install pedestrian sidewalks along Old Waynesboro Road. The funds in the amount of \$154,000 have been received from Norfolk Southern.

**C. Various Grant Updates**

City Manager Brantley updated Mayor and Council on 10 grants that have started or are in application phase.

**22. Mayor's Report**

No Report

**23. City Attorney Report**

No Report

**24. Council Member Comments/Reports**

Council Member Clifton commented on several topics.

- More Detail Code Enforcement Sheet
- City County work together on Blight Property
- Update nuisance property list
- Christmas Lights – Winthrope Ave or Hwy 25
- Millen Cemetery Repairs – wall and garden
- Community House lighting and brick roll-lock

**25. Executive Session**

Not Needed

**26. Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Rocker adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.

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

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

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