

At a regular meeting of the Milnor City Council held on Monday, May 6, 2024, 5:00 p.m. the following members were present: Curtis Anderson, Monty Haugen, Jodi Ost, Jasmine Smith and Ryan Weber. Absent: Austin Roeder. Also present: LeeAnn Even, LaJuana Hayen, Scott Johnson, Robert Lotzer, Ryan Smith, Terry Dusek and Jennie Hanna. Mike Bassingthwaite joined the meeting later.

Meeting called to order by Mayor, Terry Dusek.

Motion to approve the meeting agenda (Haugen/Weber, unanimous).

Motion to approve April and Board of Equalization meeting minutes (Haugen/Anderson, unanimous).

Ryan Smith presented bids from Valley Plains Equipment for 2 lawnmowers. The mowers, one with a 60" deck and one with a 72" deck, were both quoted at the same price of \$21,000. Smith stated he'd rather have the mower with the smaller deck. He stated he is currently waiting on a trade-in quote for the city's 2015 John Deere mower. Council discussed a clean-up week with Smith, who stated he'd talk to Storbakkens about maybe supplying extra dumpsters.

Motion to approve Ryan Smith to move forward with the purchase of the John Deere mower with the 60" deck from Valley Plains Equipment, with the cost coming out of the Equipment Fund (Ost/Anderson, unanimous).

Attorney LeeAnn Even reviewed the letter she had sent Kenneth Lauinger discussing the clean-up of his yard and his required appearance at that night's council meeting. Lauinger was not present at the meeting. Mayor Dusek stated a letter may need to be hand delivered by the Sheriff's Department. Member Haugen had been checking in on the progress since he'd spoken to Lauinger originally, and he was not satisfied with it. Even asked Haugen to make up a list of specific items he wants removed and his expected timeline, and once Even receives the list, she will send Lauinger a second letter, which will be hand delivered.

Tax Director LaJuana Hayen was in attendance to answer further questions regarding the proposed 2024 tax assessments. She said she had done more research regarding the increased valuations and stated higher sales ratios were driving up valuations; house sale prices are higher than what the property is valued. She also informed council that if they didn't accept the county's numbers, it would go to the state, and the state would most likely increase valuations more than the county had.

Motion to accept the Sargent County Tax Director's Tax Assessments for the year 2024 for Milnor City as presented at the Board of Equalization meeting in April (Ost/Smith, with a roll call vote taken with all members presenting voting aye. No nays. Absent: Roeder). Motion passed.

Mayor Dusek discussed the cement pad for the proposed basketball court in Northview. Carol Peterson had been quoted \$7000 by Buskohl Construction for the cement. The city has \$2500 from donations to go towards the project. Council recommended getting other bids and going forward with the project.

Motion to approve building permits to Zack Serebin – roof replacement, John Lien – roof replacement for house addition, Shawn Reilly – Fence and Deck, Keely Lehmann – fence and Milnor Satellite Club – New Keg Building (Anderson/Haugen, unanimous).

Motion to approve raffle permit to the VFW (Haugen/Weber, unanimous).

Mike Bassingthwaite informed council the cement pad was being laid for the pumphouse generator.

Jennie Hanna discussed a phone call and email she'd received from the NDLC regarding rejected audits the city had submitted. The last accepted audit from the city was from 2016. There were concerns over the audits being submitted by Harold Rotunda, who the city had been having complete their audits. Every review was a cost to the city. The state allows cities with less than \$2,000,000 in annual receipts to submit an audit report to the state in lieu of having a formal audit completed, and it also can be done for delinquent audits. Council recommended discontinuing formal audits and complete the audit reports, starting with 2017.

Mayor Dusek stated he had talked to Wyatt Lyon about repairing the brick at the grocery store. Lyon quoted \$2500 to \$3000 for the project, depending on how much work was needed.

Motion to accept Wyatt Lyon's bid to repair the grocery store brick (Haugen/Smith, unanimous).

Mayor Dusek discussed a Grafton incentive that pays residents \$200 to paint their houses and asked council if this was something the city could employ. Dusek stated the incentive could come out of the Sales Tax fund. He asked council to think it over.

Council discussed possible changes to fence regulations, maybe limiting fences to certain materials and styles. There was also discussion regarding yard percentage and suitability. Member Ost stated the city already has ordinances in place to regulate and maintain yards and fences, and if there is an issue, a complaint can be filed. Mayor Dusek stated the fence regulations would remain as they are.

The following bills were presented and approved (Haugen/Weber, unanimous).

<u>Check #:</u>	<u>Fund:</u>	<u>To Whom:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
19943	General	Debt Service Fund	59,715.55
19944	General	Sargent County Auditor	2814.48
19945	General	Carol Peterson	1362.00
19946	General	Catalis LLC	3917.99
19947	General	Chemistry Lab	58.26
19948	General	D Excavating	2500.00
19949	General	Dickey Rural Networks	367.65
19950	General	Interstate Engineering Inc	8253.96
19951	General	Lee's Service Station	87.00
19952	General	Lesmeister Gravel, Inc.	4800.00
19953	General	Marshall County Conservation	349.40
19954	General	Midwest Pest Control Inc.	85.00
19955	General	Milnor Postmaster	154.00
19956	General	Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.	215.83
19957	General	Capital One Trade Credit	39.99
19958	General	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	151.49
19959	General	Otter Tail Power Company	2155.31
19960	General	Ryan Smith	381.59
19961	General	The Sargent County Teller	451.88
19962	General	Waste Management of WI-MN	1360.20
19963	General	Payroll Account 61-639	6620.11
19964	General	Verizon Wireless	126.73

19965	General	Storbakken Sanitation Inc	4845.00
19966	General	Milnor Merchants Club	2400.00
19967	General	Milnor Satellite Club	20,000.00
19968	General	Milnor Park Board	937.89
19969	General	Library Fund	162.86
19970	General	Airport Authority	540.60
19971	General	Debt Service Fund	3129.73
19972	General	Debt Service Fund	1686.53
19973	General	Payroll Account 61-639	6620.11
3547	Debt Service	Southeast Water Users	2860.33
3548	Debt Service	Dakota Valley Electric Coop	623.00
3549	Debt Service	City of Fargo	14.00
3550	Debt Service	John Deere Financial	24.88
3551	Debt Service	North Dakota One Call Inc	9.00
3552	Debt Service	Zions Bank	190,696.88
3553	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	1176.57
3554	Debt Service	Milnor Postmaster	169.07
3555	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	1211.85
3556	Debt Service	Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	3031.41
6056	Payroll	Jeremy M. Bixby	1083.33
6057	Payroll	Terry J. Dusek	138.52
6058	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1655.15
6059	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	2067.30
6060	Payroll	ND Child Support Division	522.50
6061	Payroll	Jeremy M. Bixby	1083.33
6062	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1675.50
6063	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	2148.99
6064	Payroll	ND Child Support Division	522.50
6065	Payroll	Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	447.69
6066	Payroll	Unum Life Insurance Company	12.34
221E	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solution	414.62
222E	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solution	425.28
EFTPS 5	Payroll	Internal Revenue Service	3413.52
1022	Airport	Dickey Rural Networks	128.26
1023	Airport	Heritage Insurance	981.00

The regular June meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., June 10, 2024.

Motion to adjourn (Haugen/Weber, unanimous).

Jennie Hanna, Auditor

Terry Dusek, Mayor