

At a regular meeting of the Milnor City Council held on Monday, January 8, 2024, 5:00 p.m. the following members were present: Curtis Anderson, Monty Haugen and Jodi Ost. Absent: Austin Roeder and Ryan Weber. Also present: Carol Peterson, LeeAnn Even, Scott Johnson, Travis Paeper, Caleb Christianson, Kylie Christianson, Ryan Smith, Terry Dusek and Jennie Hanna. Member Jasmine Smith joined the meeting later.

Meeting called to order by Mayor, Terry Dusek.

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

Motion to approve the December meeting minutes (Anderson/Haugen, unanimous).

Sheriff Travis Paeper reviewed the Sheriff's report and stated December had been a busy month. He informed council the school resource officer would spend a full day at each school in the county, during the school week. Paeper also stated a new deputy had been hired.

Caleb and Kylie Christianson asked council about making a zoning change to farmland they own within city limits. They are seeking an agricultural tax exemption for the land, but aren't eligible at this time, because the land is platted. Mayor Dusek proposed changing the zoning from residential to agricultural, but the city would need to review it with the county first.

Ryan Smith reviewed the Maintenance Report and informed council the landfill had been burned, and residents should call the shop for entry into the landfill.

Carol Peterson reviewed the Economic Development Report and stated the NDDOT sidewalk grant request had been submitted. Peterson informed council of Phase Two of the Food Sustainability Grant, in which the city could receive up to \$300,000 to expand the grocery store. Peterson advised council that a resolution should be passed, which showed support towards pursuing the grant.

Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the Economic Development Coordinator to pursue the Food Sustainability Grant to expand the grocery store in order to facilitate the business and to better serve the community (Ost/Haugen, unanimous).

Peterson passed around a copy of last year's Southeast North Dakota Visitor's Guide and asked council if they would be interested in advertising in this year's issue. Council declined.

Peterson presented a proposed Business Incentive Plan she would like to offer, on behalf of the city, to a potential barber, who will be graduating from barber school in April. Peterson stated a barber is a needed business in this area and having a barber would help other businesses in town. The potential barber is also being pursued by other communities. Council suggested some changes to the incentive plan. Member Ost questioned why the city was singling out a barber with this incentive plan, and shouldn't every potential business be offered the same. Ost stated she would like to see a better incentive plan for potential businesses. Mayor Dusek requested Ost work with Peterson to rework the current business incentive contract the city currently has.

Motion to approve the Business Incentive Plan to be offered to the potential barber for a proposed barber shop (Anderson/Haugen, with a roll call vote taken with Haugen, Anderson and Smith: aye. Ost: nay. Absent: Roeder and Weber.) Motion carried.

Motion to approve gaming permit to the Milnor Satellite Club – 2 Superbowl Boards (Haugen/Ost, unanimous).

Motion to approve off-site liquor permit to Lakeview Golf Course – Inferno Night at MACC - 1/27 (Anderson/Smith, unanimous).

Mayor Dusek discussed employee reviews he and Member Haugen had conducted, and they recommended to council a 5% wage increase for the 3 city employees and to increase the Economic Development Coordinator’s salary to \$1362/month. Member Ost questioned whether council salaries could be raised, citing additional unpaid meetings for council members, and a better salary would attract more people to run for council. Mayor Dusek stated council could revisit the issue in May or June and suggested a possible utility incentive for council members.

Motion to approve Employee Reviews and 2024 Wage & Benefit Recommendations (Haugen/Ost, with a roll call vote taken with all members present voting aye. No Nays. Abstain: Smith. Absent: Roeder and Weber). Motion carried.

Motion to approve Stock Grower’s Bank as the City Depository for 2024 (Haugen/Anderson, unanimous).

Member Ost questioned if the meeting time could be adjusted to a later time, to accommodate members and potential meeting attendees who work until 5. Ost also stated a later meeting time would be more appealing to residents who may be considering running for a council seat. Mayor Dusek stated a later time could be considered.

Council discussed making changes to the regulations regarding fences, making them more stringent. Mayor Dusek asked Member Smith to review and suggest changes in the coming meetings.

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

<u>Check #:</u>	<u>Fund:</u>	<u>To Whom:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
19839	General	Sargent County Auditor	2655.17
19840	General	Carol Peterson	1426.00
19841	General	Crandall Construction Inc.	7600.00
19842	General	Dakota Plains Ag	268.67
19843	General	Dickey Rural Networks	369.66
19844	General	EDND	300.00
19845	General	Interstate Engineering Inc.	4918.02
19846	General	J&M Printing Inc	175.27
19847	General	Lee’s Service Station	136.00
19848	General	Midwest Pest Control Inc.	85.00
19849	General	Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.	348.79
19850	General	ND League of Cities	140.00
19851	General	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	139.11
19852	General	Otter Tail Power Company	2049.71
19853	General	The Sargent County Teller	254.12
19854	General	Waste Management of WI-MN	1326.26
19855	General	Heritage Insurance	57.00
19856	General	Sargent County Auditor	4492.50
19857	General	Milnor Postmaster	66.00

19859	General	Payroll Account 61-639	6830.87
19860	General	Storbakken Sanitation Inc	4860.00
19861	General	Verizon Wireless	64.85
19862	General	Milnor Park Board	665.63
19863	General	Library Fund	760.11
19864	General	Airport Authority	5267.54
19865	General	Debt Service Fund	20,649.82
19866	General	Debt Service Fund	661.22
19867	General	Payroll Account 61-639	6829.78
3513	Debt Service	Southeast Water Users	3445.50
3514	Debt Service	City of Fargo	14.00
3515	Debt Service	Interstate Engineering Inc	470.98
3516	Debt Service	North Dakota One Call Inc	3.90
3517	Debt Service	Dakota Valley Electric Coop	552.00
3518	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	1238.44
3519	Debt Service	Milnor Postmaster	170.13
3520	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	1273.40
6012	Payroll	Jeremy M. Bixby	1083.33
6013	Payroll	Terry J. Dusek	138.52
6014	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1655.15
6015	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	2230.93
6016	Payroll	ND Child Support Division	522.50
6017	Payroll	Jeremy M. Bixby	1313.34
6018	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1675.50
6019	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	2115.42
6020	Payroll	ND Child Support Division	522.50
6021	Payroll	Unum Life Insurance Company	10.00
207E	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solution	429.46
208E	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solution	440.06
EFTPS 1	Payroll	Internal Revenue Service	3565.58
1014	Airport	Dickey Rural Networks	110.82

The regular February meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., February 12, 2024.

Motion to adjourn (Haugen/Anderson, unanimous).

Jennie Hanna, Auditor

Terry Dusek, Mayor