CITY OF MILLER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2026
The City of Miller is an equal-opportunity employer.

The City Council met in regular session at city hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tom McGough, Aldermen: Will Jones, Patrick Price, Gale Auch, and Landon Gab. Alderman Dale Hargens and Alderwoman Susan Hargens were absent.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McGough called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

AGENDA: Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Auch to approve the agenda with one deletion. Item number 4 – street loader will be discussed at a later date. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on September 21, 2026. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Input: Alderman Jones addressed recent public concerns regarding utility rates and billing changes. He clarified that the Council's discussion of a potential 12% increase in water revenues involved hypothetical figures and long-term planning for the maintenance and replacement of infrastructure installed or improved over the past ten years. He noted that even with a 12% increase to water, sewer, and electric rates, Miller's rates would remain below the state average when applicable surcharges are included.

Alderman Jones stated that the claim that the Council was attempting to drive residents out of the community through rate increases was untrue. He also addressed the two utility bills scheduled to be due in November, noting that the change in the billing cycle had been approved at a public meeting several months earlier, providing residents an opportunity to plan accordingly.

Alderman Jones expressed concern that, despite significant public discussion and criticism of these matters, no members of the public were present to address the Council directly. He encouraged residents with questions or concerns to attend Council meetings or contact him directly by phone or text. Mayor McGough was likewise available to hear questions, comments, and concerns from the public.

Department Head Reports The written reports were reviewed. Mayor McGough noted that Street Superintendent Ron Hoftiezer makes every effort to notify residents who may be affected by street oiling. While assisting the County with oiling South 3rd Avenue, a last-minute change required the available oil to be used elsewhere, as it was not sufficiently heated for use on South 3rd Avenue. Rather than allow the oil to go to waste, Hoftiezer used it on streets within the City. Hoftiezer made every effort to notify affected residents under the circumstances, including obtaining permission from some residents to move their vehicles. He noted that the City does not have access to residents' unlisted cell phone numbers and that, due to the limited notice, staff did the best they could to notify residents and worked around several vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Huss – 2025 Edward Byrne Jag Memorial Grant Funding: Chief Huss needs to buy body armor and a lightbar for $6,685.78. Both are eligible for 100% grant under the Edward Byrne Jag Memorial Grant. Motion by Alderman Gab, seconded by Alderman Jones for Chief Huss to apply for the grant. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Donation Requests: 4 applications were received to request funds from the city for the 2027 appropriations: Wheels and Meals Corporation - $3,000, Hand in Hand Childcare - $9,000 plus a $5,000 utility credit, Miller Fire Department - $3,000 for fireworks, and On Hand Development Corporation - $100,000. Kristi Lichty was present on behalf of Wheels and Meals, no one attended for Hand in Hand Childcare, and Dave Blachford was present for MFD. On Hand Development Director Jansen Naber will present their quarterly report and formally request 2027 funding at the next regular city council meeting.

Tre Blasdell – Wastewater Class 1 completion: Alderman Price stated that the wages for the water department need to be discussed. Alderman Auch suggested taking this issue to the utilities committee to research and review. Motion by Alderman Gab, seconded by Alderman Jones to give the utilities committee authorization to discuss the wage increase for Tre Blasdell's successful completion of Wastewater Class 1 certification and bring their recommendation to the full council. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Snow blower: Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to purchase a snow blower for the skid steer at the airport for $4,800. Mayor McGough commented that sometimes the public is not fully aware of how much the airport is used, especially in emergency situations. Alderman Jones stated that equipment upgrades for the airport are long overdue. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Watermain relocation: Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Price to approve SPN invoice 39503 for $735.00 for services in relocating watermain. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Airport Improvement Taxiway & Access Road: Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Auch to pay **Webster Scale Payment Application No. 3** for $232,310.03. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to approved **Helms & Associates invoice 39485** for $26,346.95. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to accept the proposal from **Aaron Swan & Associates**, Pierre, SD for quality assurance asphalt testing for $4,240.80. One other proposal was received from American Engineering Testing, Sioux Falls, SD for $5,800.00, and Braun Intertec, West Fargo, ND did not submit a proposal. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Phase IV Utility Improvements: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to accept **TLC Olson Construction Change Order No. 6** that amends the contract scope by updating all remaining quantities to those installed to date, reducing the overall cost of the project by $26,552.45. All members vote aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Gab to pay **TLC Olson Construction Payment Application No. 17** for $2,450.00. $2,000 is what remains for retainage to be paid, and $450 for seeding. All members voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Gab to acknowledge the **Notice of Acceptability of Work** from SPN for Phase 4 Utility Improvements. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Apptegy website and mobile app: The City discussed ongoing issues with its current website, including security breaches, downtime, inconsistent customer support, and network accessibility concerns. Christian Hood of Apptegy presented a new website platform that includes a mobile app and social media integration. The platform is currently used by the Miller School District and offers enhanced communication, security, accessibility, performance, and data privacy.

The proposed platform would provide the City with a centralized system for its website, mobile app, notifications, and social media. The system is intended to improve accessibility, streamline communication for City staff, and keep residents informed.

A three-year agreement beginning January 1, 2027, would cost $18,036, including implementation and subscription fees. A five-year agreement with the same terms was also presented as an option.

Alderman Price expressed support for the platform's transparency and ease of access for contacting the City. Alderman Jones expressed concern that the expenditure could be a waste of taxpayer dollars if the public does not utilize the platform. Alderman Gab suggested asking Christian Hood if the number of downloads and users of the website and mobile app can be tracked. Street Superintendent Ron Hoftiezer expressed support for the ability to send notifications directly from a mobile device, particularly for snow removal updates. He noted that this would allow him to notify residents while working in the field rather than needing to access a radio station's website from a desktop computer during snow removal operations.

No action was taken.

GIS Services: Electrical Superintendent Dustin Graham provided an update on the City's Geographic Information System (GIS). The City's zoning map has been successfully loaded into

the new GIS system with assistance from DGR. The next phase is to enter the City's electrical system GPS data, which was collected by Fast Forward. Graham noted that most of the electrical system has already been GPS mapped; however, Fast Forward did not include the primary and secondary wires due to the additional cost. Note: The Water Department's infrastructure GPS data is in a GIS system with SPN & Associates.

DGR estimated the cost to enter and organize the electrical data in the GIS system at less than $5,000, compared to an estimated $10,000 for the project from start to finish. Services will be provided at DGR's hourly professional service rate and billed monthly, with no contract or bid required. Costs will be divided between the current and next fiscal year budgets. The annual GIS licensing fee of approximately $700 will be allocated among zoning, electrical, and water/wastewater. Graham noted that maintaining the City's GIS license will allow City staff to update the system as needed, and he will maintain the electrical data once it has been entered by DGR.

Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to authorize Graham to obtain DGR's services to input the City's electrical system data into the GIS mapping system on a monthly billable basis. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Wesco Wire Purchase: Superintendent Graham requested authorization to purchase wire for the future DOT project on South Broadway/Highway 45, which will require the Electrical Department to refeed three residences. Graham stated that current wire market conditions make future pricing uncertain and that funds are available in the current budget for the purchase. The City has used Okonite wire throughout the community, and Wesco is the authorized distributor for Okonite wire in South Dakota. Therefore, only one quote was obtained for the specified wire.

Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to purchase the wire from Wesco for $13,530.00. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Finance Office copier lease: Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve the 5-year copier lease proposal from A & B Business Solutions for $247.41/mo. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Building Permit: Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Auch to approve a building permit for Joe Miller for a shed at 621 E 3rd Avenue. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Review: The Finance Committee met Thursday, October 1, to review the proposed 2027 appropriations. Alderman Jones commented that it was the smoothest budget meeting he had participated in. Mayor McGough thanked the department heads for their preparation and for providing their respective departmental budget figures for committee review.

The Committee also discussed a plan for police vehicle rotation, which would maintain two vehicles in service while establishing a continuous capital outlay for the ongoing replacement of vehicles.

2027 Budget Workshop: Alderman Jones suggested reviewing the 2027 appropriations at the next regular City Council meeting rather than holding a special meeting, as has been done in previous years. A public hearing notice will be published for the first reading of the 2027 Appropriations Ordinance at the regular City Council meeting on November 2, 2026.

Change October 19 meeting date: The Wall Lake Hunting club night will be held at the Miller community center on Monday, October 19. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gab to hold the next regular city council meeting on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2026-12 – Contingency Transfer: Mayor McGough read Resolution No. 2026-12 authorizing a contingency transfer for Promotion of the City and Debt Service. Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Gab to approve Resolution No. 2026-12. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

2027 Health and Dental Insurance rates: The city's 2027 health insurance premiums with the Health Pool of South Dakota are increasing by 13%. The 2027 dental insurance premiums with Delta Dental of SD are increasing 2.5% - 2.7%. Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the 2027 insurance premiums. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Correspondence: MMUA sent a letter to the city council informing them of the rate changes for fiscal year 2027 beginning January 1, 2027. The city's increase will be held at 5% for the Apprentice Lineworker program which is commensurate with the 5% increase in the dues rate that MMUA members voted to levy upon themselves.

Approval of Bills: Motion by Alderman Auch, seconded by Alderman Price to approve the bills for payment. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Alderman Price, seconded by Alderman Jones to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

_____
Tom McGough, Mayor

_____
Cindy Deuter, Finance Officer

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT
Copy of the official proceedings
was received on: _____
Published once at the
approximate cost of: _____

Bills October 2026 (1)

Vendor Name	Invoice Description	Total
Aa Motorsports	Repairs	296.54
Agtegra	Fuel	6,367.36
Avera	Prof Fees	139.00
Bds	Garbage	425.00
City Utilities	Utilities	8,073.55
Code Enforcement	Code Enforcement	313.66
Fire Protection Solutions	Maint.	113.50
Flint Hills	Asphalt	31,217.88
Galls	Supplies	666.83
Hand County Pub	Publications	715.35
Helms & Associates	Prof Fees	26,346.95
Jdf	Loader	4,148.00
Kiesler Police Supply	Supplies	171.42
Lunch Box	Supplies	44.00
Marc	Supplies	966.58
Mmua	Prof Fees	7,525.00
Napa	Parts	1,009.19
Northwest Pipe	Supplies	648.10
Ohed	80% Bbb	7,207.96
Postmaster	Presort Permit #2	425.00
Runnings	Supplies	365.83
Safety Benefits	Prof Fees	225.00
Sd Dps	Prof Fees	2,340.00
Spn	Prof Fees	735.00
Storey Kenworthy	Supplies	821.38
Stuart C Irby	Supplies	10,001.85
Tlc Olson Construction	Prof Fees	2,450.00
Tony's Repair	Maint.	67.40
Us Bank	Loans	18,165.39
Webster Scale	Prof Fees	232,310.03
Wesco	Supplies	2,730.00
	Accounts Payable Total	$376,300.06

Payroll Salary plus Benefits by Department: 9/24/2026

	Department	w/o OT	OT	Total
41101	COUNCIL	3,477.11	0.00	3,477.11
41402	FINANCE OFFICE	3,415.97	0.00	3,415.97
41902	BUILDING	294.14	0.00	294.14
42101	POLICE	10,413.40	204.86	10,618.26
43101	STREET	10,105.23	403.57	10,508.80
43201	SEWER	6,705.35	47.79	6,753.14
43305	WATER	6,705.20	47.78	6,752.98
43403	ELECTRIC	16,458.69	0.00	16,458.69
45101	BALLPARK	312.19	0.00	312.19
45202	PARK	1,474.81	0.00	1,474.81
		$59,362.09	$704.00	$60,066.09