

CITY OF MILTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1139 SMITH STREET
MILTON, WV 25541

MARCH 4, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Shane Evans, Recorder Phyllis Smith, Council Members Carl Harshbarger, Troy Nicely, Scott Foster, Scott Bias, and Chase Bryant. The invocation was given by Council Member Nicely and the pledge of allegiance was said in unison.

Council Member Foster introduced the Milton Middle School Girls Basketball Team and recognized them for winning the 2025 Cabell County Championship.

Mayor Evans introduced guest speaker, David Crabtree, who is the owner of Appalachian UAV Academy. Crabtree is bringing his business to Milton and hopes to be open by early May 2025. The Academy will train its students to become professional drone pilots who will work with Law Enforcement, EMS, and various organizations to provide life-saving services.

Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the agenda. Second by Recorder Smith. Motion carried.

Mayor Evans presented the minutes from the February 6, 2025 Council Meeting and the February 13, 2025 Special Meeting. Council Member Bias moved to approve the minutes. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

The City bills were presented for January 2025 totaling \$130,486.17 for the General Fund. Council Member Bias moved to approve the bills. Second by Recorder Smith. Motion carried.

Recorder Smith read the City Financial Report for January 2025. General Fund Total: \$1,499,067.99; Coal Severance Total: \$12,163.77; Cemetery Total: \$87,696.15; Opioid Settlement Fund Total: \$131,827.32; American Rescue Plan Act Total: \$0.00; Building Commission Total: \$4,784.89. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the Financial Reports. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

Chief Kyle O'Dell read the Police Report for January 2025. Council Member Nicely moved to approve the Police Report. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

Chief O'Dell addressed Council requesting approval for the Police Department's use of Opioid funds up to \$50,000 on approved transactions. O'Dell said he has contacted the Attorney General's office for guidance regarding what the funds may be used for. He stated that every purchase would be documented as to how it would be used to fight the opioid epidemic, and invoices will be provided to show exactly where the funds were spent. Council Member Bryant moved to approve the Police Department's use of Opioid funds up to \$50,000 on approved transactions. Second by Council Member Bias. Motion carried.

Council discussed the prior annexation of the new Milton Elementary School property and of the portion of Newman's Branch Road from the Interstate 64 bridge overpass to the school. Mayor Evans stated that the City's Attorney recommended adding the annexation to the City's Ordinance book. Council member Harshbarger moved to add the annexation to the City's Ordinance book. Second by Council Member Bryant. Motion carried.

Council considered signing the Letter of Agreement between the City of Milton and Laura Cox Planning and Design, LLC for Grant Administration Services pertaining to the Emergency Generator Project. Council Member Foster moved to approve the agreement. Second by Council Member Bryant. Motion carried.

Mayor Evans gave the first reading of an Ordinance enacting Article 116 "Municipal Activity Board". Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the first reading. Second by Council Member Bias. Council Member Harshbarger requested roll call vote, and all Members voted YES. Motion carried.

Council discussed the proposal for financial consulting and grant services by Justin Williams and asked that the proposal be added to the April agenda to be voted on.

Council Member Bryant spoke about establishing a Business Planning Committee. Bryant invited Troy Dunn to speak about his experience with this type of committee. Dunn said giving businesses incentives to come to Milton and supporting the businesses that are here now is the general idea. Bryant stated that members of the Business Planning Committee will operate on a voluntary basis and that Troy Dunn will be the Chairperson for the first 18 months. The committee will be comprised of ten to twelve area business leaders or outstanding community members who wish to lend a hand.

Council Member Foster spoke about having met with the Pumpkin Festival Board. Foster stated that the Pumpkin Festival Board is planning to do a cruise in car show and fireworks display on West Virginia Day, which is June 20, 2025. They anticipate that fireworks will cost about \$20,000 and the Pumpkin Festival is willing to pay half of that. They are asking for the City's participation for the other half through donations from local businesses. Foster says the event will also include food vendors and free parking. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the City's \$10,000 portion of the cost of fireworks. Second by Council Member Foster. Council Member Harshbarger requested a roll call vote, and all members vote YES. Motion carried.

There was not a report from the Milton Housing Authority.

Jonathan Black gave a report from the Milton Volunteer Fire Department. Black apologized for not being present at the February meeting and explained that the reason was because he and other members of the department were on a water rescue call on East Mud River Road. He provided a rendering of the new engine 406 that is currently in production and said it is the first of its kind in the county. Black says he expects the truck to be completed by the end of the month and that it will take approximately one month to get the tools and equipment mounted for the truck to be in service. Milton VFD has had 91 total calls for the year, 46 total calls for January, 43 total calls for February, and 2 total calls as of March 4th. Black said that burn laws are now in effect from March 1 to May 31. Milton Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a Spring Open House on Saturday, May 3rd. Black said a time for the event will be announced at a later date. The open house is planned to showcase

the newly renovated venue, Engine Company 4, and their new fire engine. The event is open to the public and demonstrations will be available. Council Member Foster moved to approve the report. Second by Council Member Nicely. Motion carried.

A Resolution was presented authorizing the transfer of \$12,081.14 from the Police Savings account to the General Fund account to reimburse for expenses incurred in December 2024. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Council Member Smith. Motion carried.

A Resolution was presented authorizing the transfer of \$16,591.10 from the Police Savings account to the General Fund account for expenses incurred in the month of January 2025. Council Member Nicely moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Council Member Harshbarger. Motion carried.

A Resolution was presented authorizing the Recorder to open a new Municipal Activity Board checking account at the Ohio Valley Bank for the purpose of paying bills, construction and Improvement. Council Member Nicely moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Council Member Harshbarger. Motion carried.

A Resolution was presented authorizing the transfer of \$95,000 from the City's Rainy-Day Fund at Putnam County Bank and \$25,000 from Milton Police Department's Savings account to the City of Milton's Municipal Activity Board account at the Ohio Valley Bank for the purpose of paying bills, construction and improvement. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Council Member Bias. Council Member Harshbarger requested a roll call vote, and all members voted YES. Motion carried.

Comments from the Public-
Dawn Kesgard
Karey Fugate

Council Member Harshbarger moved to go into Executive Session at 8:30 pm to discuss yearly payroll increases for City and Utilities employees. Second by Council Member Bias. Motion Carried.

Mayor Evans called the meeting back into session at 8:57 pm and stated that no business was conducted.

Council Member Harshbarger moved to adjourn at 8:57pm. Second by Council Member Bryant. Motion carried.

Mayor Shane Evans

Recorder Phyllis Smith