

CITY OF MILTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1139 SMITH STREET
MILTON, WV 25541

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

3:00 P.M.

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 Harshbarger moved to approve the agenda. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

Mayor Evans presented the minutes from the January 6 Special Meeting, the January 7 Regular Meeting, and the January 23 Special Meeting. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the minutes. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

The City bills were presented for December 2024 totaling \$153,947.52 for the General Fund. Council Member Foster moved to approve the bills. Second by Council Member Nicely. Motion carried.

Recorder Smith read the City Financial Report for December 2024. General Fund Total: \$1,416,299.75; Coal Severance Total: \$9,860.70; Cemetery Total: \$87,696.15; Opioid Settlement Fund Total: \$97,173.31; American Rescue Plan Act Total: -\$1,057,429.30; Building Commission Total: \$4,784.89. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the Financial Reports. Second by Council Member Bias. Motion carried.

Chief Kyle O'Dell read the Police Report for December 2024. Council Member Nicely moved to approve the Police Report. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

Council considered upon promoting Officer Winston Lloyd to Sergeant. Council Member Nicely moved approve the promotion of Officer Lloyd. Second by Council Member Bryant. Motion carried.

Council considered upon opening a Dog Park on the lot owned by the City located at 804 Mason Street. Council Member Bryant moved to consider creating a Dog Park Committee to discuss details such as location, style and cost. Second by Council Member Foster. Council Member Bias requested a roll call vote on the topic of creating a Dog Park Committee. Council Member Harshbarger voted NO. Council Member Nicely voted NO. Recorder Smith voted YES. Council Member Foster voted YES. Council Member Bias voted NO. Council Member Bryant voted YES. Mayor Evans voted NO. With three (3) AYES and four (4) NAYS the motion to not create a Dog Park Committee carried.

On the topic of opening a Dog Park at 804 Mason Street, Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve opening a Dog Park. Second by Council Member Nicely. Mayor Evans requested a roll call vote. Council Member Harshbarger voted YES. Council Member Nicely voted YES. Recorder Smith voted NO. Council Member Foster voted NO. Council Member Bias voted YES. Council

member Bryant voted NO. Mayor Evans Voted YES. With four (4) AYES and three (3) NAYS, the motion carried to open a Dog Park at 804 Mason Street.

Council considered upon holding a Farmer's Market on the City owned lot located at 1179 N. Main Street. Council Member Bias moved to approve the Farmer's Market. Second by Council Member Bryant. Council Member Harshbarger requested a roll call vote on the topic of a Farmer's Market and all Council Members voted YES. Motion carried.

There was discussion of hiring two part-time employees for concrete finishing. Council Member Harshbarger moved to go into executive session at 3:20 pm. Second by Council Member Bias. Motion Carried.

Mayor Evans called the meeting back into session at 3:28 pm and stated that no business was conducted. Council Member Harshbarger moved to bring the meeting back into session. Second by Council Member Nicely. Motion carried. Council member Bryant moved to hire two part-time employees for concrete finishing. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

Council Member Bryant discussed April Dawn Park and the need for updates to the park. Bryant moved to go to the Huntington Parks Board and request that the park receive upgrades to be a nicer place for our community. Second by Council Member Bias. Motion carried.

Council Member Foster discussed the possibility of organizing a Milton Business Development Committee. Foster said it would consist of local business leaders, having 10 to 12 members to discuss helping the city grow and bring new business into the city. Milton resident Troy Dunn spoke about his experience working with a Business Development Board in a neighboring city and incentives that can be offered to bring new businesses to Milton and to retain the business we currently have.

Delegate Daniel Linville spoke, thanking Mayor Evans for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State of West Virginia and the City of Milton regarding the rights and responsibilities for the Lower Mud River Flood Risk Management Project in Milton. He stated that once the MOU is stamped by the Corps of Engineers, property acquisitions should be able to begin. Linville read a letter he wrote to President Trump asking for his help in building the much-needed flood wall. He asked for assistance financially, as costs continue to rise. Linville invited President Trump to visit Milton, home of Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel "Woody" Williams.

There was not a report from the Milton Housing Authority.

There was not a report from the Milton Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Wilson, a Board Member for the Milton Volunteer Fire Department, spoke on the importance of the Fire Department reporting to the City and to Council at each City Council meeting.

A Resolution was presented authorizing City Clerk, Jessica Ramsey, to be added as a signatory on all City and Utility bank accounts at Ohio Valley Bank and Putnam County Bank and to remove former City Clerk, Susan Elliott, as a signatory on all City and Utility accounts at Ohio Valley Bank and Putnam County Bank. Recorder Smith moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Council Member Foster. Motion carried.

Mayor Evans opened the floor for public comment.

Betty Sargent spoke, voicing her concern about the location of the Dog Park. She suggested talking with Jeff Hoops about the possibility of him donating a couple of acres near the walking path on which to locate the Dog Park. She also suggested holding an Open House at the former Milton Elementary School before renovations begin.

Laura Cox spoke, congratulating the City for receiving a grant from FEMA for five different emergency generators. She said there are grant funds available for a Farmer's Market, a Dog Park, and for a Community Center. She stated that her firm, Laura Cox Planning and Design, would like the opportunity to work with the City and assist with grant writing.

Council Member Bryant recommended establishing a committee for the new Community Center.

Council Member Foster recommended a cross walk from April Dawn Park to the Dog Park.

Council Member Harshbarger moved to adjourn at 4:15 pm. Second by Council Member Bryant. Motion carried.

Mayor Shane Evans

Recorder Phyllis Smith