

CITY OF MILTON

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 4, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Canterbury called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Council Member Adkins and the pledge of allegiance was said in unison. All were present.

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

Recorder Ryalls read the minutes from the July 7, 2020 meeting. Council Member Miller moved to approve the minutes. Second by Council Member Adkins. Motion carried.

Recorder Ryalls presented the City bills for June totaling \$155,993.23 for the General Fund, \$40.51 for the Cemetery Fund, and \$2,500.00 for the Coal Severance Fund, all of which are posted in the lobby. Council Member Miller moved to approve the bills. Second by Council Member Legg. Motion carried.

The following permits were approved by our Building Inspector/Code Official:

- #1646 – Charles Conard, New Build @ 526 Florida Street
- #1647 – Paris Signs, New Lighted Sign @ 323 East Main Street
- #1648 – Accelerated Electric, Electrical @ 1441 Smith Street
- #1649 – Paul Clagg, Jr., New Build @ 1354 Adams Avenue
- #1650 – Excel Utility Contractors, Conduit Installation for MMI Project
- #1651 – Louis Bailey, General Bathroom @ 1253 Pike Street
- #1652 – Norman Lunsford, General Block Work @ Lebanon Lodge
- #1653 – Classic Construction, Roof @ 1663 3rd Street

Recorder Ryalls read the City Financial Report for June. General Fund Income: \$173,117.33, Expenses: \$221,734.39, Net: \$-48,617.06; Checking: \$6,714.28, Rainy Day: \$426,228.34, Miscellaneous Accounts: \$570,412.23, Total: \$1,003,354.85; Cemetery Income: \$221.14, Expenses: \$40.51, Net: \$180.63; Checking: \$4,871.71, Savings: \$61,691.33, CDs: \$32,883.55, Total: \$99,446.59; Coal Severance Income: \$0, Expenses: \$2,500.00, Net: \$-2,500.00, Total: \$12,382.01. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the Financial Reports. Second by Council Member Taylor. Motion carried.

Chief Parsons read the Police Report for June 2020. He also announced that following the death of K9 Joe, he was contacted by Delegate Daniel Linville and Senator Eric Tarr who offered to see if they could help to obtain a replacement K9 for the Milton Police Department. Their kind consideration is greatly appreciated! Since then, an agreement has been reached with Makor K9 to breed Milton's K9 Debbie with a male Malinois on loan from Germany. Makor K9 will train the pups and give two of them to the Milton Police Department. This is a great opportunity for us, and Chief Parsons is pleased with this agreement. Chief Parsons also stated that Stephen's Auto Center advised him that he will be able to order replacement cruisers in the few weeks. At this time we need three new cruisers, but will order two right now and use one of the old cruisers as a spare. Recorder Ryalls moved to approve the report for June. Second by Council Member Taylor. Motion carried.

Mayor Canterbury read a Sewer Project Draw Resolution (Draw 14) for the payment of invoices in the amount of \$37,851.00 from the Account Titled 2018 Sewer Project. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Recorder Ryalls. Motion carried.

Mayor Canterbury read a Resolution of Council to authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$42,481.00 from the General Savings Account to the General Fund Account for payment to Akers Paving for paving on Stewart Street. Council Member Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Council Member Adkins. Motion carried.

West Virginia State Delegate Daniel Linville advised that the State of West Virginia has confirmed funding of Six Million Dollars for the Milton flood wall project this year. He stated that additional funds are in next year's budget as well to keep up with obligations to the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Government for this project. Delegate Linville spoke briefly about some of the benefits the construction of the flood wall will bring to the area.

Delegate Linville also referred to the permit section of the August 4th Agenda, particularly #1650 for conduit installation for the MMI Project. He announced that MMI is a subsidiary of the Facebook Fiber Installation Project, and MMI will be running conduit to house world-class broadband fiber between its data centers. Delegate Linville happily announced that the route of this project, which has been years in the making, will run through the City of Milton along Route 60. He stated that this will ultimately result in a tremendous difference in the internet quality and speed in the surrounding areas.

Cabell County Schools Superintendent Ryan Saxe and Assistant Superintendent Kim Cooper provided information to Council and guests pertaining to the proposed School Bond. Mr. Saxe stated that Cabell County Facility Planning Committee came up with four major priorities over the next ten years: first, no school consolidations to occur over that time period; second, addressing outdated schools; third, ensure each facility has a safe-schools entrance; and, fourth, focus on career and technical education, both modernization and expansion. He stated that one option they have considered if the School Bond were to pass is to relocate the Career and Technical Center to the old Sears building at the Huntington Mall, where there would be more space for expanding class size and adding educational opportunities so that more students could be served, more parking and closer proximity to existing internships. Superintendent Saxe went over other projects dependent on passage of the School Bond, including the construction of a new Milton Elementary School. He stated that if the School Bond passes, the School Board would then have community meetings as to site locations.

Superintendent Saxe went on to say that the total costs for all the projects listed is approximately \$107.2 million. They anticipate receiving approximately \$20 million from the School Bond Authority and the County Budget, leaving the total for the School Bond at \$87.5 million. If approved, these projects could begin in April 2021. He also gave information on the projected impact on taxpayers with the passage of the School Bond. He said, depending on the interest rate obtained, the owner of property valued at \$100,000 (Class II), could expect to pay about \$75.48 per year. Superintendent Saxe encouraged all to vote in favor of the School Bond.

Mayor Canterbury asked if there were questions or comments from the floor.

Mr. Jordan directed questions to Superintendent Saxe about the proposed opportunity for Meadows Elementary to be an arts-centered school and asked about what options were available to arts-talented students in Milton and other areas. Mr. Jordan indicated he would like to see schools educate children in all areas, to include daily physical education and the arts.

Mr. Peterson asked Superintendent Saxe to clarify the estimated amounts Cabell County citizens would pay if the School Bond passes.

Recorder Ryalls recommended to Mr. Saxe that the Career and Technical Center add a Water Operator Class to their program.

Mayor Canterbury read a Resolution of Council declaring the City's full support of the 2020 Cabell County Schools School Bond. Recorder Ryalls moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Council Member Miller. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Legg, Adkins, Miller, Taylor, Harshbarger and Recorder Ryalls voting yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Canterbury thanked Beth Williamson for allowing WQBE to utilize the Milton Flea Market for the Drive-In Movie Night.

Mr. Peterson also advised that the Milton Rotary made a donation to the Police Department of masks, and batteries for their portable defibrillators. Chief Parsons acknowledged receipt of these items and he and Mayor Canterbury thanked Mr. Peterson and the Milton Rotary for their support.

Council Member Harshbarger moved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Second by Council Member Taylor. Motion carried.

Mayor Tom Canterbury

Recorder Benita Ryalls