

AUGUST 6, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Canterbury called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Tom Canterbury, Recorder Dana Walters, Council Members Tennis Adkins, Carl Harshbarger, Dakota Miller, Troy Nicely and Deborah Conard. The invocation was given by Council Member Adkins and the pledge of allegiance was said in unison.

Chief Parsons read the Police Report for May 2024. He advised that charges surrounding the death of an infant in Milton would be brought before the Grand Jury, but that it would not happen until later in the year. Chief Parsons reminded Council that the exercise facilities at City Hall are available to all employees and Council. Council Member Nicely moved to approve the Police Report. Second by Council Member Harshbarger. Motion carried.

Bill Sanders, representing the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District, addressed Council. He advised that after the school levy on the May election ballot failed to pass, Cabell County Schools hired a new superintendent, and a revised levy will be on the November election ballot. He encouraged everyone to vote in favor of the Cabell County Board of Education's amended levy stating that it was supportive of the Library and the Park Board. Mr. Sanders spoke about the addition of the roof over the splash pad pump house and advised that new dividers were recently installed in the bathrooms at April Dawn Park. The GHPRD hopes to add more play equipment to the park next year if the levy passes.

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

Recorder Walters presented the Minutes from the July 2, 15, 18 and 22 Council Meetings. Council Member Adkins moved to approve the minutes. Second by Council Member Miller. Motion carried.

Mayor Canterbury spoke to the audience about the Lower Mud River Flood Risk Management Project. He wanted the record to show that he is supportive of the construction of a flood wall, but he feels that the current design does the City of Milton a disservice. He believes the original design allowed for more developable land which would allow the City to grow. The redesign shifts the levee/floodwall north into the City, and also requires them to take more acreage for ponding areas. Further, he believes that a concrete floodwall, although more expensive to construct, would save the City a vast amount of money over the years in operation and maintenance costs. He is concerned about the long-term costs of the floodwall, costs which will ultimately be the burden of the City of Milton and its residents.

The City bills were presented for June 2024 totaling \$254,568.50 for the General Fund. Council Member Adkins moved to approve the bills. Second by Council Member Conard. Motion carried.

Recorder Walters read the City Financial Report for June 2024. General Fund Total: \$1,159,540.75; Coal Severance Total: \$12,202.42; Cemetery Total: \$81,791.86; American Rescue Plan Act Total: \$1,078,809.99; Building Commission Total: \$4,782.89. Council Member Harshbarger moved to approve the Financial Reports. Second by Council Member Miller. Motion carried.

There were no reports from the Milton Housing Authority or the Milton Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Canterbury advised that he has again heard noise complaints about the emergency siren located in the Pike Street area. He attended the Milton VFD board meeting on August 5th to discuss this issue; options included moving the emergency siren, removing the siren, or only using the siren when something dangerous is approaching, such as a tornado.

A Resolution was presented authorizing the transfer of \$12,003.57 from the Police Savings account to the General Fund account to reimburse for expenses incurred. Council Member Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Second by Recorder Walters. Motion carried.

Mayor Canterbury gave the second reading of an Ordinance enacting Article 1739 “Treatment and/or Rehabilitation Houses or Service Centers” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Milton. Council Member Miller moved to approve the second reading. Second by Council Member Nicely. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the Single Audit Engagement Letter from David L. Howell, CPA. Council Member Miller moved to approve signing the Engagement Letter. Second by Council Member Adkins. Motion carried.

Delegate Daniel Linville updated Council on his discussions with other elected officials’ offices regarding the City’s concerns about the US Army Corps of Engineers’ redesigned flood risk management project since the meeting on July 22nd. He stated that the USACE does have a budget, however, the Water Resources Development Act states any money appropriated by the USACE can and shall be used to complete this project. It is his belief that USACE could allocate additional funds to this project if needed, and that the USACE is responsive to federal elected officials and to public feedback. He also stated that federal agencies are more responsive to federal representatives. He will try to coordinate with each of the different federal representatives to make sure leadership is applied where it is needed.

Delegate Linville reiterated that the USACE is trying to follow all federal laws and Supreme Court precedents, and they also must complete this project in the most economical way. For that reason, if there is something the City wants done but it is not the most economical choice, the USACE could require that any modification be done as a betterment, which would require that it be paid for using non-federal sponsor funds. Since the federal/non-federal split has changed from 65/35 to 90/10, he anticipates that there will be allocated State funds remaining. He advised he will advocate for using the remaining funds for betterments for this project.

Delegate Linville also gave Council an update regarding his telephone conversations with the Division of Highways regarding the traffic light at Bill Blenko Drive. He was told that the pressure switch needed to be replaced, but the pavement was too brittle, and a more in-depth repair would need to be done. He was advised that they installed a manual switch to cycle the

light if necessary. Mayor Canterbury told him that there was already a manual switch at that light, and it has been there for years.

He also advised that it is likely that Governor Justice will call a Special Session. He requested that the City consider writing a letter to the Governor in support of a Resolution to modify the statues at Statuary Hall at the United States Capitol by replacing one of the existing statues with a statue of Woody Williams.

Mayor Canterbury wished good luck to all the candidates running for municipal office.

Council Member Harshbarger moved to adjourn at 8:04pm. Second by Council Member Miller. Motion carried.

Mayor Tom Canterbury

Recorder Dana Walters