**Council Minutes**

**Millen City Council**

**January 7, 2025**

**A regular meeting of the Millen City Council was held on January 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor King Rocker, Council Members Joel Carter, Sr, Darrel Clifton, Regina Coney, Ed Fuller and Robin Scott. Also present were City Attorney Hubert Reeves and City Manager Jeff Branley.**

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Rocker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Invocation**

City Attorney Reeves gave the invocation.

1. **Consent Agenda**

**Approve Minutes from December 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion caried by unanimous vote.

1. **Citizen Request to Appear before Council – Shanelle Carr – Discuss transparency, public input, and decision process in local meetings**

Shanelle Carr expressed to Council asking for opportunities for public input at meeting addressing agenda items. Mayor Rocker responded that the City would look into the request.

1. **Citizen Request to Appear before Council – Avel Leon – Discuss Council adopting a resolution to place a Referendum on the November 2025 City Election Ballot for Distilled Spirits Restaurant Sales.**

Avel Leon, the owner of the soon to open El Mariachi Restaurant, along with Mandy Underwood addressed Council asking them to consider passing a Resolution to add a Referendum to the November 2025 City Election Ballot whether to allow restaurant sales of distilled spirits. City Attorney Reeves has drafted a resolution for Council to review at the next meeting.

1. **Review and approve a new beer and wine restaurant sales license for Avel Leon – El Mariachi Restaurant at 315 Highway 25 North**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to approve a new Beer and Wine Restaurant sales license for Avel Leon – El Mariachi Restaurant located at 315 Highway 25 North. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Mandy Underwood - Main Street Millen Annual Report**

Mandy Underwood presented to Mayor and Council the 2024 activities for MainStreet Millen, Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority. A copy of her report is attached to the minutes.

1. **Vote to Appoint Mayor Pro-Tem for 2025**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to appoint Joel Carter, Sr as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to Appoint City Attorney for 2025 – R. Hubert Reeves III currently serving**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to appoint Hubert Reeves, III as the City Attorney for 2025. The motion caried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to Appoint City Auditor – Reddick, Riggs, Hunter & Colson PC currently serving**

Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to appoint Reddick, Riggs, Hunter & Colson PC as the City Auditors for 2025. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to appoint Municipal Court Judge – April Stafford currently serving**

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to appoint April Stafford as the City of Millen Municipal Court Judge for 2025. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to appoint Municipal Court Solicitor – Sam Derocco currently serving**

Council Member Clifton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott to appoint Sam Derocco as the City of Millen Municipal Court Solicitor for 2025. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to Appoint Municipal Court Public Defender – Christopher Gohagan currently serving**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller to appoint Christopher Gohagan as the City of Millen Municipal Court Public Defender for 2025. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to Appoint Council Member to the Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center – Regina Coney currently serving**

Council Member Fuller made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to appoint Council Member Coney to serve on the Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center board. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Vote to Appoint Council Member to the Jenkins County Health Department – Darrel Clifton currently serving**

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Coney to appoint Council Member Clifton to the Jenkins County Health Department Board. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Approve Resolution to set qualifying fees for the City’s 2025 Election for District 1, District 2, District 3 at $72.00**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Clifton to Approve a Resolution to set the qualifying fees for the City’s 2025 Election. The motion carried by unanimous vote. A copy of the Resolution is attached to the minutes.

1. **City Manager Report**
2. **Financials**

Financials were reviewed and net revenue for the month of December was $15,158.26 compared to last years being $36,736. Year to date net revenue is - $14,635.25. 2024 property tax collection was $130,720 at the end of December. The billed amount was approximately $350,000.00

1. **Storm Debris -FEMA Update**

City Manager Brantley informed Council that the City streets department has completed 3 passes around the City collecting storm debris. The US Corp of Engineers has contractors collecting within the county and are also getting some piles in the city that were placed out after the City’s third round. The City has collected all the property damages for facilities from GIRMA (they city’s insurer) in the amount of $13,659.45. A claim to FEMA for our deductible has been submitted for $10,000.00. Paperwork for Category B (Emergency Work – 1st week after the storm) has been submitted to FEMA in the amount of $28,722.65. Paperwork for Category A (Debris Removal) is being processed. The labor total is $66,111.46 and the equipment total is not complete yet. The estimated total due from FEMA should be about $250,000.00

1. **Various Grant Updates**

EDA Grant – The waterline is complete and the well is about 90% complete. The City has collected all draws from the EDA and all current invoices for the project have been paid. The City has reimbursed itself for contingency money paid for the project.

2023 CDBG – The project is scheduled to start by the end of January 2025.

SEID Grant – Notice to Proceed has been given by the funding agency. Surveys will begin next week, and design will continue by the engineer. The project should go out for bid in the summer of 2025.

Kirkland Building – The building is complete and waiting on the architect and the contract to make the final walk through and punch list completion.

1. **House Bill 581**

City Manager Brantley informed Council that most City’s and Counties around Millen were leaning to op in but were still undecided. The County is leaning to opt in and are going to a training class on January 13th and should decide at their meeting on January 14th.

1. **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Rocker discussed the TIA – GDOT Road improvement projects. He mentioned the 1st project within the County was underway, which is the turn lane on US Hwy 25 into the Highway 25 industrial park. Also, the streetscape on Winthrope Avenue was next with final surveying taking place this week.

1. **City Attorney Report**

No Report

1. **Council Member Comments/Report**

Council Member Clifton inquired about collections of delinquent municipal court fines and the collection process.

1. **Executive Session**

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fuller at 6:52 p.m. to exit regular session and enter executive session to discuss future acquisition, disposal or lease of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Coney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott at 7:29 p.m. to exit executive session and enter regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Rocker adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

**Approved by Mayor and Council: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mayor’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Attest by City Manager: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**