

The Town Council of the Town of Millport met on Monday, November 13, 2023, for the regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. Members present were as follows:

Mayor Stanley Allred
Councilmember Cynthia Hood
Councilmember Tracey Wriley
Councilmember Tina Pollard – joined at 6:09
Councilmember Lane Gilliam

ABSENT:
Councilmember Nicky Leonard

Also, present was Renee Reeves of the Lamar Democrat, Elaine Moody of the West Alabama Gazette, several citizens, Chief Charles White, and Clerk Linda Ferguson.

Mayor Allred called the meeting to order and asked Councilmember Wriley to give the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Allred asked the Council to review the minutes from the meeting on October 2, 2023, and state their wishes. Action taken as follows:

Motion: Councilmember Hood
Second: Councilmember Wriley

Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on October 2, 2023, as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Allred asked the Council to review the financial statements for the month of October 2023 and November 2023 to date in all funds. Mayor Allred called for a motion. Action taken as follows:

Motion: Councilmember Hood
Second: Councilmember Gilliam

Motion to approve the financial statements for the month October 2023 and November 2023 to date in all funds. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Allred asked the council to review the department reports and state their wishes or questions. Action taken as follows:

Motion: Councilmember Gilliam
Second: Councilmember Wriley

Motion to accept the department reports as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

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Mayor Allred stated the Town has ordered the adult exercise equipment. It will take 10-12 weeks processing. We have also received an email this morning from Weyerhaeuser that our grant for this project from them has been granted in the amount of \$6,000. This amount along with the grant from Tombigbee RC&D will be a total of \$16,000 toward this project.

Mayor Allred informed the Council that the sewer pumps for the main pumping station have been ordered. One pump is already in the hands of the installer. The second pump is on its way to the installer. Once both pumps are delivered, the installer will schedule a time to come install them. Once this happens, the Town should not experience any more of the problems we have been experiencing.

Mayor Allred gladly informed the Council that the Town of Millport has been awarded a grant from ADEM in the amount of \$1.7 million for our water project upgrade. This project will consist of upgrades and repairs at the water plant and a new water tank. This tank will replace the one on Water Tank Road which at best guess was built in 1947 or 1948. It is just a matter of time before it will not pass testing.

Mayor Allred stated in line with the above grant, there will be a Public Hearing on the grant here at Town Hall on December 5, 2023, at 6:00 pm. At this meeting, the engineer and grant administrators will be present to answer any questions you may have.

Mayor Allred stated a grant has been submitted under the Edward J. Byrne JAG Grant program to purchase a new police car. This grant has recently changed the award amount from \$24,000 to \$50,000. This should be enough to cover the new car and all the equipment.

Mayor Allred stated the Town has hired a part-time police officer. Officer Will Samskar is a deputy for the Lamar County Sheriff's office. He has already begun working for the Town and is doing a good job.

Mayor Allred stated he, Councilmember Hood, and Councilmember Gilliam attended the Alabama League of Municipalities Municipal Leadership Institute last week. It was a very good conference. He asked Councilmember Hood for comments on the conference. Councilmember Hood began by thanking the Town for the opportunity to attend the conference. She stated there were several good sessions and speakers. She stated this conference contributed to her CEU's in the Municipal Officers Training. At next years Leadership Institute, she and Councilmember Gilliam will have completed enough hours and committee work to join Mayor Allred in the Emeritus status which is the highest level offered at this time. She attended a session on leading through conflict as well as one on the updates to the bid law. She also learned the League has a Reporting Guide Manual that covers all the different reports and when they need to be submitted. Mayor Allred then asked Councilmember Gilliam for his comments on the conference. Councilmember Gilliam also thanked the Town for the opportunity to attend. He attended sessions on the council working together to accomplish the tasks at hand and one on the bid law changes. Mayor Allred stated he would also like to thank the Town for the opportunity to attend. He attended a session on the importance of remembering the Council and Mayor are here to

serve all citizens. He stated we need to be more attentive to the citizens and investigate all questions before giving an answer.

Mayor Allred informed everyone of the weather radio giveaway being conducted by Lamar County EMA Director Mike Wisdom. Mr. Wisdom will be at Millport Town Hall on Monday, November 27, 2023, from 1:00 until 4:00 to distribute free weather radios to our citizens. These radios will come already programmed for Lamar County.

Mayor Allred stated the bids for the old Town Hall building were opened at noon on Monday, October 23rd. The notice for accepting bids and opening of bids was placed on the bulletin board at Town Hall for 3 weeks and ran in the West Alabama Gazette on September 27, October 4, and October 11. The building has been sold as surplus property.

Mayor Allred recognized citizen Art Rowland to address the Council. Mr. Rowland stated this was the 3rd time he had addressed the Council regarding the loose dog issue in Millport. He stated this is not a dog issue as much as it is a people issue. He cited Code of Alabama 1975 Section 3.1.5 which stated that dog owners are to confine their dogs to their own property. Dogs should not be allowed to run loose. Any owner whose dog is seen running loose can be fined as much as \$50 per day per offense. Mr. Rowland also stated the State of Alabama has a law that requires all animals to be vaccinated and spayed or neutered. He has spoken with State Representatives and County officials about this issue. He also stated it is illegal to shoot any animal by state law. He would like to see the Town Council pass an ordinance requiring animals to be tagged and leashed if outside of the owners premises. Mayor Allred thanked Mr. Rowland for his comments. Mayor Allred stated he, Councilmember Hood, and Councilmember Gilliam met with Rob Johnson, Senior Counsel for the Alabama League of Municipalities regarding Code of Alabama 1975 Section 3.1.5. Mr. Johnson stated this section states that IF the County passes a tag ordinance or already has a tag ordinance, then the Town can pass a tag ordinance, but we are not obligated to pass one. Lamar County does not have a tag ordinance; therefore, Millport cannot pass one. He stated he didn't know what the answer is for the dog/cat issue but does know that all towns face the same issue. He also stated it would be difficult to enforce a tag ordinance. Millport only has 1 full time police officer and 1 part time. He asked the citizens how we would be able to enforce it if Millport did have one.

Mayor Allred asked if there was any old business. As there was no further old business, Mayor Allred asked if there was any new business. As there was no further business to discuss, action taken as follows:

Motion: Councilmember Wriley
Second: Councilmember Gilliam

Motion to adjourn at 6:29 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor

Attested