



CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2024
5:30 PM
6738 Dixon Street
Milton, FL 32570

1. Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 05:30 PM.

Members Present:

Council Member, Ward I, Seat I Mike Cusack
Council Member, Ward II, Seat I Marilyn Farrow
Council Member, Ward III, Seat I Gavin Hawthorne
Council Member, Ward IV, Seat I Ashley Fretwell (*sworn in*)
Council Member Ward I, Seat II Tom Powers (*sworn in*)
Council Member Ward II, Seat II Larry McKee (*sworn in*)
Council Member Ward III, Seat II Robert Leek (*sworn in*)
Council Member Ward IV, Seat II Casey Powell (*sworn in*)

Outgoing Members present:

Council Member, Ward I, Seat II Matt Jarrett
Council Member, Ward II, Seat II Roxanne Meiss
Council Member, Ward III, Seat II Jeff Snow
Council Member, Ward IV, Seat I Shari Sebastiao

Members Absent:

Members of the Public in Attendance

Joy Powers, Patsy Lunsford, Brian M'Guire, Rick Rogers, Donna Long, Patti & Jim Hawthorne, George Jordan, Pam Mitchell, Vicki McKee, Christina Schweiger, Glenn Schweiger, David Farrow, Art Brown, Susan Brown, Thomas Olsen, Mike Kelley, Glenna Kelley, Vickie Mullins, Dan Mullins, David Sample, Jean Sample, Frederick Smith, James Anderson, Beth H, Mandy P., Sherman Gomez, Lynwood Hurston, Catherine Watson, Chris Curb, JD Blake, Anita Johnmyer, Carol Rich, Walter Bailey, Cindy Hall, Gwen Sachar, Buddy Fisher, Vera Cooper, Bobby Burkett, Larry Brewton, Steve Dobbs, Michelle K., David Snellgrove, Kirk Kennedy, Desi Lee, Elijah Purcell, Jimmy Messick, Linda Smith, Rick Weeks, Dwayne Smith

Staff in Attendance

City Manager, Ed Spears
City Attorney, Alex Andrade
City Clerk, Molly Turnes
IT Director, Krystle Nowlin
IT Systems Analyst, Brittney Ballard
Public Information Officer, Bethany Anderson

Planning Director, Tim Milstead
Public Works Director, Joe Cook
Events Coordinator, Jay Conrad
Assistant City Manager, Sandra Woodbery
Economic Dev Dir, Stephen Prestesater
HR Director, Nicki Vickery
Purchasing Officer, Michele Williams
Fire Chief, John Reble
Chief of Police, Tony Tindell

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Nicole Jackson

3. Honoring of Outgoing Elected Officials

City Manager, Ed Spears honored the outgoing elected officials for their service to the City of Milton

- Matthew Jarrett
- Roxanne Meiss
- Jeff Snow
- Shari Sebastiao

4. Swearing-In Ceremony

City Clerk, Molly Turnes swore in the returning Councilmember and Councilmembers Elect

- Tom Powers
- Larry McKee
- Robert Leek
- Ashley Fretwell
- Casey Powell

5. Reception

**Reception held from 5:45p - 6:30p
(Councilman Powell was excused)**

6. Approval of Minutes

Item # 2024-2894
November 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

ACTION:

Motion to Approve by Marilynn Farrow;
second by Mike Cusack;

YEAS: Motion passed - 7:0
Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Robert Leek, Tom Powers

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Approval of Agenda

- City Manager, Ed Spears added a council ratification for an Emergency Purchase for lift station to consent agenda (information was emailed to council earlier in the day)
- Councilman Cusack made a statement welcoming the new council members and spoke about addressing the budget. He requested possibly holding a special called meeting in January to discuss the budget.
- Mayor Lindsay added Tappie Villane as an Invited Speaker

ACTION: Motion to Approve as amended by Marilynn Farrow; second by Gavin Hawthorne;
Motion passed - 7:0

YEAS: Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Robert Leek, Tom Powers

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Public Announcements, Awards, Proclamations & Recognitions

Mayor Lindsay spoke on legislative appropriations from Rep. Rudman; Liberty Partners

Mayor Lindsay recognized the following:

- PIO Bethany Anderson and Events Coordinator Jay Conrad for their hard work coordinating and promoting the events the past weekend, along with the Fire, Police and Public Works Departments
- Junior Miss Milton (picture taken with council)
- Christie Haarman, Wreaths Across America

City Manager Ed Spears thanked the staff for all the hard work that went into arranging the Swearing-In Ceremony.

9. Mayoral Appointments

Item # 2024-2952
Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Lindsay reported to council regarding Council Liaisons
(Mayoral Appointments)

Recommendation:

TPO – Heather Lindsay
ECRC – Heather Lindsay
TDC – Tom Powers
Growth & Development – Tom Powers
Finance – Mike Cusack
Planning – Mike Cusack
HPB – Marilynn Farrow
Administration - Marilynn Farrow
Stormwater – Larry McKee
Board of Adjustment – Larry McKee
CIB – Gavin Hawthorne
Park & Rec – Gavin Hawthorne
Public Works – Robert Leek
Public Safety – Ashley Fretwell
LEAP – Casey Powell
Youth Council – Casey Powell

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Mike Cusack; second by Marilynn Farrow; Motion passed - 7:0
YEAS:	Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Robert Leek, Tom Powers
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Item # 2024-2953
Selection of Mayor Pro Tempore

ACTION:	Motion to Appoint Marilynn Farrow as Mayor Pro Tem by Mike Cusack; second by Larry McKee; Motion passed - 5:2
YEAS:	Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Tom Powers
NAYS:	Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek
ABSTAIN:	None

Council appointed, with majority vote, **Marilynn Farrow** to

serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.

10. Public Hearings

No Public Hearing

11. Invited Speakers

Santa Rosa County Supervisor of Elections, Tappie Villane reported to council concerning the upcoming Special Election.

Special Election for congressional District 1:

Primary on Jan 28th; (Jan 18-25th early voting)

General Election: April 1st

12. Persons to Appear

Public input was provided by: Lauren Odgers

(Christmas Sock Competition)

13. General Consent Agenda

Item # 2024-2959

General Consent Agenda

ACTION:

Motion to Approve by Mike Cusack;
second by Ashley Fretwell;

Motion passed - 7:0

YEAS:

Mike Cusack, Marilyn Farrow, Gavin
Hawthorne, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee,
Robert Leek, Tom Powers

NAYS:

None

ABSTAIN:

None

- Added to Consent Agenda: Ratification of emergency purchase of the WWTP Main influent PS Pump/ lift station for \$14,840.00

Item # 2024-2896

Renewal of the Interlocal Agreement Between SRC Supervisor of Elections & City of Milton

Item # 2024-2899

City Clerk Contract Renewal

Item # 2024-2905

Holiday Bonus

14. Ordinances & Resolutions

Item # 2024-2954

Resolution #2024-41 Amending the FY2025 Budget

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Mike Cusack; second by Gavin Hawthorne; Motion passed - 7:0
YEAS:	Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Robert Leek, Tom Powers
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

City Attorney, Alex Andrade read Resolution 2024-41

Item # 2024-2955

Resolution #2024-42 Amending the FY2024 Budget

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Gavin Hawthorne; second by Mike Cusack; Motion passed - 7:0
YEAS:	Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Robert Leek, Tom Powers
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

City Attorney, Alex Andrade read Resolution 2024-42

15. City of Milton Events

16. Planning Board

Councilman Cusack reported to council

17. Administration, Emerald Coast Regional Council

Item # 2024-2946

Next ECRC Meeting Date & Time

Councilwoman Farrow reported to council.

The next meeting for the Emerald Coast Regional Council is
December 12, 2024, at 11pm at the Walton County
Courthouse.

Item # 2024-2945

Acknowledging Recent Improvements Made by Staff

Councilwoman Farrow reported to council
Acknowledged the following recent improvements:

1. Sign posted in lobby regarding how to make public records requests
2. Buttons on the city website for ease of navigation

Item # 2024-2956

City of Milton Board Vacancies (**discussion**)

Councilwoman Farrow reported to council.
HPB - 2 vacancies
CIB - 1 vacancy
Both vacancies have been advertised for.

18. Parks & Recreation, Community Improvement Board

Councilman Hawthorne reported to council.

19. LEAP

No Report

20. Board of Adjustments

Planning Director Tim Milstead reported to council
The next meeting will be held the last Monday in January 2025.

21. Historic Preservation Board, Transportation Planning Organization

No Report

22. Growth, Development & Annexation, Tourist Development Council

Item # 2024-2904

Business Improvement Program Grant Application - SRHS Henderson House (**action item**)

ACTION:	Motion to Approve as amended by Tom Powers; second by Larry McKee; Motion passed - 5:2
YEAS:	Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Tom Powers
NAYS:	Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek
ABSTAIN:	None

Grant request was \$10k and was amended to \$5K

Economic Development Director, Stephen Prestesater reported to council.

Public input was provided by: Theresa Messick, Howard Steele

23. Finance, Public Works

City Manager Ed Spears reported to council.

Item # 2024-2949

WWTP Project Layout - Location of Plant, the 100 acres and 3
Sprayfields (**discussion item**)

Councilman Cusack led the discussion and raised questions concerning moving the location of the sprayfield, county involvement as well as the grant funding.

Council discussed the project layout and location of the plant and sprayfields

Assistant City Manager, Sandra Woodbery reported to council regarding the grants/ funding for the project and timelines.

Public input was provided by: Pam Mitchell, David Samples, Rene Johnmeyer, Lauren Odgers, Art Brown, Chris Curb, Kyle Holley

Item # 2024-2810

Invitation to Bid #2024-10 Effluent Disposal System and Sprayfields 1 & 2
(**action item**)

ACTION: Motion to Reject all bids and enter into contract with BDI to redesign the disposal system on the 80acres by Robert Leek; second by Tom Powers;

Motion passed - 7:0

YEAS: Mike Cusack, Marilyn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

City Manager Ed Spears reported to council

Council discussed further moving various locations of the project as well as losing ARPA funds

Public input was provided by: Orrin Smith, Chris Curb, Pam Mitchell

2nd motion - ARPA FUNDS

ACTION: Motion to Approve Staff to identify ARPA eligible projects to utilize proceeds before they expire by Gavin Hawthorne; second by Ashley Fretwell;
Motion passed - 7:0

YEAS: Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Item # 2024-2887

ITB 2024-09 North Santa Rosa Regional Water Reclamation Facility (**action item**)

ACTION: Motion to Reject all bids, withdraw grant applications and explore the redesign on the SE side of the 80 acres by Robert Leek; second by Tom Powers;
Motion passed - 7:0
YEAS: Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Council discussed item to reject bid

- Jim from BDI addressed questions from council in regard to changing the location of the plant.
- Public input was provided by: Lauren Odgers
- Sandra Woodbery reported to council and asked for council to authorize her to pull/ withdraw the grant applications.
- Special Called meeting may be called to approve the BDI task order for redesigning

Item # 2024-2947

Discussion on Possible RFP for PFAS Removal System to Include Wetlands Discharge System

Move to a future meeting

Item # 2024-2948

Discussion on Communication with Council and Public Regarding Recent Sewage Discharge

Councilwoman Farrow asked that the City Manager communicate/ inform the council and public right away if there are any future issues

*Move to next work session in January.

Item # 2024-2950

Public Works Vehicles Ready for Auction (**action item**)

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Gavin Hawthorne; second by Mike Cusack; Motion passed - 7:0
YEAS:	Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee, Robert Leek, Tom Powers
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

City Manager Ed Spears reported to council

24. Mayor Report: Public Safety, Ordinance Committee

Mayor Lindsay reported to council concerning Rep Rudman postponing the effective date of his resignation so council can put together a Legislative Priority/ Appropriations list to be filed.

City Manager Ed Spears agreed to send out a list to council.

25. City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Andrade announced that the 2 Person Delegation Meeting will be held January 9th at St. Sylvester's Church at 5:30pm.

26. City Manager's Business

No Report

Councilman Leek asked City Manager Ed Spears to put Ordinance 13-24 on the next meeting for discussion.

27. Public Input

Public input was provided by: Orrin Smith, David Farrow, Theresa Messick
Councilwoman Fretwell thanked City Manager Ed Spears and Staff for all the hard work they have done and will do for the WWTP

28. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Mayor

Date

City Clerk

Date