



CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026
6:30 PM
6738 Dixon Street
Milton, FL 32570

1. Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 06:33 PM.

Members Present:

Mayor Heather Lindsay
Council Member Ward IV, Seat II Casey Powell
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 III, Seat II Robert Leek
Council Member Ward I, Seat II Tom Powers
Council Member, Ward IV, Seat I Ashley Fretwell
Council Member Ward II, Seat II Larry McKee

Members Absent:

Members of the Public in Attendance

David Farrow, Buddy Fisher, Shari Sebastiao, Jimmy Messick, Carol B Rich, Tracy Hamilton, Percy Nesbit

Staff in Attendance

City Manager, Ed Spears
City Attorney, John Adams
City Clerk, Molly Turnes
IT Director, Krystle Nowlin
Public Information Officer, Bethany Anderson
Planning Director, Tim Milstead
Public Works Director, Joe Cook
Events Coordinator, Jay Conrad
Ec. Dev. Director, Stephen Prestesater
ACM, Sandra Woodbery
Chief of Police, Jennifer Frank
Grants Manager, Jacob Hullett

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Tim Milstead

3. Approval of Minutes

Item # 2025-3774

Meeting Minutes for the December 9, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Marilyn Farrow; second by Larry McKee; Motion passed - 8:0
YEAS:	Casey Powell, Mike Cusack, Marilyn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

4. Approval of Agenda

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Casey Powell; second by Tom Powers; Motion passed - 8:0
YEAS:	Casey Powell, Mike Cusack, Marilyn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Items moved to the consent agenda:

- Item 2025-3737 Policy for HB 683; Section 218.755 — Prompt Processing of change Orders
- Item 2026-3816 Russell Harbor Dock Change Order
- Item 2026-3822 Mini Excavator Equipment Purchase

Councilman Leek added item under Public Works "Carpenter's Park Bathrooms"

5. Public Announcements, Awards, Proclamations & Recognitions

Councilman McKee read a recognition from a citizen for City Manager, Ed Spears.

City Manager Ed Spears presented Planning Director, Tim Milstead, with a certificate of appreciation and recognition for his 19 years of service to the City of Milton.

6. Public Hearings

No public hearings

7. Invited Speakers

No invited speaker

8. Persons to Appear

Public input was provided by: Theresa Messick, David Farrow

9. General Consent Agenda

Item # 2025-3775
General Consent Agenda

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Robert Leek; second by Larry McKee; Motion passed - 8:0
YEAS:	Casey Powell, Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Items moved to the consent agenda:

- Item 2025-3737 Policy for HB 683; Section 218.755 — Prompt Processing of change Orders
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- Item 2026-3822 Mini Excavator Equipment Purchase

10. Ordinances & Resolutions

Item # 2025-3777
Ordinance #14-25 Community Improvement Board - 2nd Reading

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Marilynn Farrow; second by Tom Powers; Motion passed - 8:0
YEAS:	Casey Powell, Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

City Attorney, John Adams read second reading of Ordinance 14-25

Item # 2025-3779
Ordinance #15-25 Board of Adjustments - 2nd Reading

ACTION: Motion to Approve by Ashley Fretwell;
second by Tom Powers;
Motion passed - 8:0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**City Attorney, John Adams read second reading of
Ordinance 15-25**

Item # 2025-3780

Ordinance #16-25 Planning Board - 2nd Reading (corrected)

ACTION: Motion to Approve by Mike Cusack; second
by Ashley Fretwell;
Motion passed - 8:0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**City Attorney, John Adams read second reading of
Ordinance 16-25**

Item # 2025-3781

Ordinance #17-25 Historic Preservation Board - 2nd Reading

ACTION: Motion to Approve by Gavin Hawthorne;
second by Marilynn Farrow;
Motion passed - 8:0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**City Attorney, John Adams read second reading of
Ordinance 17-25**

Item # 2026-3820

Resolution #2026-01 Safe Streets for All

Grants Manager, Jacob Hullett reported to council regarding the Safe Streets for All Grant.

Motion 1

ACTION: Motion to Approve Accepting the Safe Streets for All Grant by Mike Cusack; second by Tom Powers;
Motion passed - 8:0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion 2

ACTION: Motion to Approve Adopting the Amended Resolution #2026-01 safe streets for all by Mike Cusack; second by Tom Powers;
Motion passed - 8:0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

City Attorney, John Adams read Resolution #2026-01.
Councilwoman Farrow had an request during the work session to amend the language in Resolution 2026-01 to reflect the following:

1. Fix spelling error in title
2. 6th Whereas - add "*significantly reducing or*" eliminating roadway fatalities.
3. Section 3 - add "*significantly reduce or*" eliminate

11. City of Milton Events

Jay Conrad reported to council

12. Finance, Planning Board

Councilman Cusack reported to council

Item # 2025-3810

Jeff Snow Video at City Facility (discussion)

City Manager, Ed Spears and Council discussed the agenda item.

13. Administration, Historic Preservation Board

Councilwoman Farrow reported to council

Item # 2025-3737

Policy for HB 683; Section 218.755--Prompt Processing of Change Orders (action item)

Item was passed on Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Farrow requested 2 small changes to be added to the Change order policy during the work session. *Motion reflected approval with the amended language.*

1. "The council group will be notified by the City manager by email within one business day of any change orders issued by contractor.""
2. "A Special Meeting will be called by the Mayor, City Clerk or majority of the Council, if a council meeting is not scheduled within 34 days of receipt by following the necessary noticing requirements."

14. Parks & Recreation, Community Improvement Board

Councilman Hawthorne reported to council

15. Public Works

Councilman Leek added an item regarding Carpenters Park bathrooms. Council and staff discussed alternative options for restrooms at city parks.

Public input was provided by: Theresa Messick

Item # 2026-3815

Russell Harber Dock (Engineer and Contractor) Change Order (action item)

Item was passed on Consent Agenda

Item # 2026-3816

Workforce Utility Project Contractor Selection (action item)

ACTION:	Motion to Approve by Robert Leek; second by Casey Powell; Motion passed - 6:2
YEAS:	Casey Powell, Gavin Hawthorne, Robert Leek, Tom Powers, Ashley Fretwell, Larry McKee
NAYS:	Mike Cusack, Marilynn Farrow

ABSTAIN: None

Assistant City Manager, Sandra Woodbery reported to council that the project deadline date is June 30th with no extension. The lowest bidder did not include all required paperwork at the time of submission, the City Attorney was consulted and determined that the omission did not warrant disqualification. An affidavit was requested to supplement the bid file.

The motion is to approve going with the lowest bidder and the waiving of the bid formality as discussed.

Item # 2026-3822

Equipment Purchase: Mini Excavator (action item)

Item was passed on Consent Agenda

Item # 2026-3814

Discussion of County Courthouse RFP

ACTION: Motion to Withdraw City of Milton Submittal for County Courthouse by Casey Powell; second by Larry McKee;

Motion passed - 8:0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Councilman Leek reported to council

City Manager, Ed Spears related that four (4) proposals were received by Santa Rosa County for the disposition of the county courthouse. The City of Milton was not the highest bidder. The city wishes to work collaboratively with the bidder that is awarded.

The motion is for the City to withdraw their submittal for the SRC Courthouse RFP.

16. Board of Adjustments, Stormwater

No report

17. Growth, Development & Annexation, Tourist Development Council

No report

18. LEAP, Youth Council

No report

19. Public Safety

No report

20. Mayor Report: ECRC, TPO

Mayor Lindsay reported to council

21. City Attorney's Report

No report

22. City Manager's Business

Ed Spears reported to council and announced the city is signing an agreement with Attorney John Trawick as Special Magistrate to hear the City Code Enforcement cases.

23. Public Input

Public input was provided by: Howard Steele, Theresa Messick

24. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 07:50 PM.

Mayor

Date

City Clerk

Date