



CITY OF MERRILL

COMMON COUNCIL

MINUTES • WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2020

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Excused	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Excused	
Steve Osness	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Present	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

2. Silent Prayer

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

5. Public Comment Period

Bill Bialecki urged the Common Council to approve the resolution supporting the aggressive use of the tax delinquent property sale mechanism and process.

Karen Krueger spoke against removing the fluoride from City water.

6. Minutes of Previous Common Council Meeting(s):

1. Minutes of July 14, 2020 Common Council meeting

Motion (Osness/Van Lieshout) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. Revenue & Expense Reports(s):

1. Revenue & Expense Report for the period ending July 31, 2020

Motion (Hass/Van Lieshout) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

8. General Agenda Items:

1. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Jamie A. Jaeger, 25 years (Police Department)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Jamie Jaeger.

Gabriel S. Steinagel, 20 years (Water & Sewer Utilities)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Gabe Steinagel.

Nicole M. Cimino, 15 years (Police Department)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Nicole Cimino.

2. Receive input and discuss November polling place locations (final decision expected at September 8, 2020 Common Council meeting).

City Clerk Heideman reported that both the T.B. Scott Free Library and the Prairie River Middle School will be unavailable for use as a polling site during the upcoming November election. Also, since it is anticipated there will be ice in the Smith Center, the maximum number of districts that can be housed for the election at the MARC is two (Alderman District #4 and Aldermanic District #5).

Based on this information, City Clerk Heideman stated that, in his opinion, the best option at this time would seem to be relocating Aldermanic District 3 and Aldermanic District 6 to the Enrichment Center at the Festival Grounds.

As the agenda states, no final decision will be made until the September 8th Common Council meeting. In the meantime, the option presented as well as other options will be evaluated based on circumstances. No action was taken at this time.

9. Board of Public Works:

1. Street Use Permit application from The Haunted Sawmill to close the street in the area in front of the Haunted Sawmill (Hendricks Street from East Seventh Street to East Eighth Street) from 5:00 P.M. to 1 A.M. on the following dates in 2020: October 9, October 10, October 16, October 17, October 23, October 24, October 30 and October 31, in conjunction with a haunted house event. The Board of Public Works recommends approval.

Alderman Hass requested that floor privileges be granted to Gerald Hersil. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Representing the Haunted Sawmill, Gerald Hersil distributed a "Haunted Sawmill 2020 Overall Covid-19 Plan" document. He also provided additional verbal information and answered questions.

Motion (Van Lieshout/Sabatke) to approve the Street Use Permit.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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10. Committee of the Whole:

1. Discussion and potential action(s) on final proposed Strategic Plan for 2020-2024.

Alderman Hass and Alderman Van Lieshout thanked Mike Ravn for his work during the entire process.

Mike Ravn stressed that it was critical to revisit and reevaluate the plan often and it is important to encourage continued citizen involvement.

Motion (Hass/Sabatke) to adopt the 2020-2024 City of Merrill Strategic Plan.

RESULT:	CARRIED
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11. Health and Safety Committee:

1. Consider application for "Class A" (liquor) license for Northwoods Maple Farm, LLC, Rebecca Renken, Agent, doing business as Northwoods Maple & More at 811 East First Street. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.

Motion (Hass/Rick) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Request from Caylor's Trophy Bar, LLC, for an extension of premises to allow the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in a tented area directly behind their building (808 East Main Street), along with the private walkway alongside the building. This event will be Saturday, August 29, 2020, from noon to 11:00 P.M. This event is being held in conjunction with the J.O.H. Memorial Raffle, to benefit the Lincoln County Humane Society. The extended premises with further allow social distancing. Alderman Hass is bringing this request directly to the Common Council.

Motion (Hass/Van Lieshout) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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12. Water & Sewage Disposal Committee:

1. Consider removing the fluoride from City water. The Water & Sewage Disposal Committee recommends removing the fluoride. Mayor Woellner requests that this agenda item be referred back to the Water & Sewage Disposal Committee.

Motion (Rick/Van Lieshout) to remove the fluoride.

Motion (Hass/Weix) to refer back to the Water and Sewage Disposal Committee (W & S).

RESULT:	REFERRED TO W & S
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Next: 8/26/2020 5:00 PM

13. Placing Committee Reports on File:

1. Consider placing the following committee reports on file: Board of Public Works, Health & Safety Committee, Library Board, Personnel & Finance Committee and Water & Sewage Disposal Committee.

Motion (Hass/Van Lieshout) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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14. Ordinances:

None.

15. Resolutions:

1. A Resolution in support of the aggressive use of the tax delinquent property sale mechanism and process (Resolution #2642).

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Tax records indicate that there are numerous parcels of Real Estate located in the City of Merrill that are delinquent in Real Estate Taxes for a period of 3 years or more; and,

WHEREAS, the non-payment of the taxes owed on those parcels and the resulting property value deterioration places a greater burden on the taxpaying land owners of Lincoln County; and,

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has demanded payment on these delinquent taxes through the statutory tax collection process with collection demands going unheeded; and,

WHEREAS, it becomes necessary for the City of Merrill to issue raze orders and demolish sub-standard and non-compliant structures on these properties; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill wishes to purchase many of these properties, and improve them, resulting in an increased tax base, a more attractive community, and a more vibrant city;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 12th day of August, 2020, that it encourages and promotes transfer of these tax delinquent properties by Lincoln County to the City of Merrill at the earliest date allowed by Wisconsin Statutes to effectuate the goals described above

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Steve Hass, Alderperson - Second District
SECONDER:	Steve Sabatke, Alderman - Eighth District
AYES:	Hass, Osness, Van Lieshout, Rick, Weix, Sabatke
EXCUSED:	Russell, Blake

2. A Resolution honoring Christopher P. Clabots for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill.

Mayor Woellner reported that a resolution honoring Christopher Clabots was adopted at the July 14th, 2020 Common Council meeting. Therefore, no action was necessary, requested or taken.

16. Mayor's Communications

Mayor Woellner thanked the poll workers and the National Guard for their help during the August 11th election.

17. Adjournment

Motion (Van Lieshout/Sabatke) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:47 P.M.