

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 8, 2023 MINUTES**

Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers 7:00 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following elected officials, department heads and residents were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Department Heads present: Mayor Hass, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Unertl, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Fire Chief Klug, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek, Information Technology Manager Brown, Park & Recreation Director Wendorf, Street Superintendent Bonack, and Utility Operations Manager Steinagel.

Others in attendance: Pastor Mike Southcomb, Boy Scout Troop 503 with parents and leaders, Hollie Stoerzer, Mike Ravn, Scott Steele, John Greenwood, Steve Osness, Dave Sousek, John Geiss, Arthur Merget, Andy Geiss, Chuck Bolder, Donald Mootz, Todd and Renea Frederick, Anna Wright, Jeff Troupe, Bob and Peggy Johnson, Corey Nowak, Kendall Nelson and Merrill Productions.

- II. **Invocation** – Pastor Mike Southcomb from St Stephens United Church of Christ gave the invocation.

- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

- IV. **Roll Call** was taken and the following alderperson's were in attendance:

Paul Russell – First District	Present
Michael “Gus” Caylor – Second District	Present
Nathan Meyer – Third District	Present
LaDonna Fermanich – Fourth District	Present
Dick Lupton – Fifth District	Present
Mike Rick - Sixth District	Present
Mark Weix – Seventh District	Present
Steve Sabatke – Eighth District	Present

- V. **Public Comment** –

Mike Ravn – W4397 Eagle Ridge Road, Pine River – represented AAC and thanked the Council and Marketing Committee regarding the marketing position for the city. He urged the Council to keep momentum going with marketing Merrill.

Scott Steele – 13675 S County Road, Merrill – spoke regarding moving forward with marketing Merrill. He stated marketing and branding is only one piece of the puzzle.

- VI. **Minutes from previous meeting:**

Aldersperson Russell made a motion to approve the July 11th Common Council meeting minutes. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

- VII. **Revenue & Expense Reports:**

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to approve the July 2023 revenue and expense reports. Aldersperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

VIII. General Agenda Items:

1. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Christine Brahos – 25 years – Police Department

Andrea Bennett – 15 years – TB Scott Library

Corey Nowak – 15 years – Fire Department

Mayor Hass congratulated all employees and thanked them for serving the Citizens of Merrill. He also presented Corey Nowak with his certificate.

IX. City Plan Commission:

1. Consider rezoning request from R-1 to Thoroughfare Commercial for a vacant property behind 1003 S Center Avenue (Plant Garden Center) – Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the rezoning request with a 30 foot buffer. Alderperson Sabatke seconded for discussion.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey spoke regarding the request and asked to remove the 30 foot buffer restriction. Alderperson Rick amended the original motion to remove the buffer. Alderperson Sabatke seconded the revised motion and the motion carried.

X. Health & Safety Committee:

1. Consider temporary Class “B” picnic licenses for the Lincoln County Fair Association –

Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the picnic licenses for the Lincoln County Fair Association. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried on a 7/0 voice vote.

Alderperson Meyer abstained from the vote.

2. Consider an Amusement Arcade Permit for Funtime Action Center from the previous held special Health & Safety meeting – Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve the amusement arcade permit for Funtime Action Center. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

XI. Board of Public Works:

1. Consider allowing Geiss Meats/Little Florida Trailer Court to connect and dispose of sanitary waste to our system – PWDCE Akey mentioned Utility Operations Manager Steinagel

looked at other communities who have completed this type of connection. He also stated Andy and John Geiss will be hiring an engineering firm regarding the operation.

Alderperson Fermanich stated she would like to see a map and a financial guarantee for this future development. Alderperson Russell asked City Attorney Hayden if a MOU or agreement would be created. City Attorney Hayden stated there would be a MOU and/or agreement however this is just in the concept stage.

After discussion, Alderperson Russell made a motion to allow Geiss Meats/Little Florida Trailer Court to connect and dispose of sanitary waste to our system concept. Alderperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried.

2. Consider the delinquent property bid of \$5,500.00 for 503 Wisconsin Street – Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve. Alderperson Lupton seconded.

Alderperson Caylor asked the intended use. BIZA Pagel stated the intention is to turn into a duplex with conditions that were stated at the Board of Public Works meeting.

Following a brief discussion, the motion carried.

3. Consider the delinquent property bid of \$25,695.00 for 1704 E Second St – Alderperson Sabatke made a motion to approve. Alderperson Meyer seconded.

Alderperson Caylor asked the intended use. BIZA Pagel stated there is no intended use however there will be agreements with conditions. After the questions were answered favorable the motion carried.

XII. Redevelopment Authority:

1. Consider listing the Lincoln County Highway G Industrial/Business Park with real estate broker, Tony T.J. Morice from NAI Pfefferle. – Alderperson Meyer made a motion to approve the listing. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried after a brief discussion.

XIII. Place Committee Reports on File:

Alderperson Russell made a motion to place the committee reports on file. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

XIV. Resolution

City Attorney Hayden read the following resolution:

A Resolution granting the Haunted Sawmill a street use permit in October for a period of 10 years at Hendricks Street, Merrill

WHEREAS, The Haunted Sawmill has requested a street use permit to close the street in the area in front of The Haunted Sawmill (Hendricks Street from E 7th Street to E 8th Street) from 5:00 pm to 1:00 am on the following dates in 2023: October 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 and 29th, 2023, in conjunction with a haunted house event; and,

WHEREAS, a similar permit would be applied for during approximately the same dates for the next 10 years; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works has reviewed the Application, has recommended approval of said application; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 8th day of August, 2023, that a street use permit shall be issued to The Haunted Sawmill to close the street area in front of the Haunted Sawmill on the above stated dates and times in 2024 and on similar dates through 2033; and The Haunted Sawmill shall notify the Public Works Director by July 1st of each year of the exact dates the permit shall be used; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that commencing in 2024, a street use permit shall be granted to The Haunted Sawmill through 2033 for their haunted house event on approximately the same dates and times as the previous year.

This street use permit may be revoked by the City of Merrill upon 90 days' notice to The Haunted Sawmill.

Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the resolution. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

XV.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Hass read the following communications:

August 9 - is the last City Band Concert at Normal Park.

August 9 – bring your own book club at the Library from 4:00 to 5:00

August 9 – Aspirus Comfort Care session at 1:00 pm at the Enrichment Center

August 10 – Trades and consumer protection at the Enrichment Center from 1:00 – 3:00 and will talk about identity theft and common scams.

August 15 – 10:00 am at the Fire Memorial honoring Chief Talbot

August 16 – Dream Flights will be at the airport terminal, veterans will fly over Merrill in a war plane. Veterans from Bell Tower are participating in this event.

August 16 – 20 is the Lincoln County Fair

August 17 and 24 – Wiggle, Giggle and Shake at the library at 10:30 for ages 0-5

August 29 – 1:00 pm at the library – Common scams and frauds targeting seniors

August 30 – Bankers Square – bring lunch and enjoy music from 11:00 – 1:00

September 4 – Labor Day Parade and car show at the Festival Grounds

September 9 – Riders Club at the Festival Grounds

September 9 – City Wide Garage Sale

September 12 – Budget season is fast approaching; we will be having a Committee of the Whole with a presentation from Clifton Larson Auditors at 6:00 pm

XVI.

Adjournment – Alderperson Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori L Anderson-Malm – City Clerk