

**CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, August 4, 2022 MINUTES**

Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers 5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Steve Hass, Alderpersons Michael “Gus” Caylor, Steve Sabatke, Mike Rick. Other committee members present: Bryan Bloch, Brad Becker and Becky Meyer.

Absent: City Administrator Dave Johnson - excused

Others Present: Festival Grounds Manager Rick Bjorklund, City Clerk Lori Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, David Buck and Merrill Productions video operator

I. **Call to Order** - Chair Hass called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

II. **Agenda Items for Consideration:**

1. **Discussion on campgrounds on Festival Grounds Site** – Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund brought information to the meeting for camp sites not included in the agenda packet. Discussion between the committee members regarding shower facilities for campers; possible key pad access. He will get more information from Tomahawk and other areas with additional information including drop boxes for cash payments. Other topics that were discussed included permits that might be required, garbage and recycle bins and dump stations. No action was taken.

2. **Discussion of gun shows being held in the Expo Building** – Mayor Hass reported on a discussion City Administrator Johnson had with Gene Bebel. Mr. Bebel has concerns regarding gun shows being held at the Expo Center. City Attorney Hayden and Mayor Hass will meet with Mr. Bebel to discuss further.

3. **Discussion and possible action on advertising in a publication for venue to hold Quinceanera events** – Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund reported on the possibility of advertising for Quinceanera events at the Expo Center. Currently word-of-mouth is bringing families in for these events. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund will reach out to Tony Gonzales regarding these events.

4. **Fair Update** – Fair Association Rep Becker reported on the upcoming fair. There are no issues that were reported. There will be added security this year. Some of the events will be the Demolition Derby on Friday and Tractor Pulls on Saturday. There will also be a Christian music group on Thursday with free admission to the grandstand.

5. **Rodeo Update** - Rodeo Association Rep Bloch stated the Rodeo was very successful. A community impact information sheet was handed out at the meeting. The economic impact for the 3-day event was \$192,871.000. People from 8 states came to the rodeo. They used expanded advertising including the digital billboard, radio and television.

City of Merrill - Festival Grounds Committee minutes – Thursday, August 4, 2022

6. Food Vendor Update – Permanent Vendor Rep Meyer stated the Eagles and VFW will be sharing entertainment this year. Prices will remain pretty much the same for soda and beer. Burger prices will be going up .50 cents.

7. Calendar of Events

List of dates for July through September 2022 events was included in the agenda packet.

8. Lighting Update – Mayor Hass gave the lighting update. All lights are up and aimed properly. The speaker system is set up and working.

III. Monthly Reports:

1. Meeting minutes from May 5th and June 2nd – Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 5th and June 2nd. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

2. Festival Grounds Report – The report was in the agenda packet. An additional piece of information was handed out at the meeting regarding the possible use of the Brickyard School for some days in September. City Attorney Hayden will contact the party interested.

IV. Public Comment Period – None.

V. Establish date, time and location of next meeting – The next regular scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 1 at 6:00 PM.

VI. Adjournment – Alderperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk