CITY OF MERRILL

FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES ● THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 2019

Regular Meeting **Bierman Building** **6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Alderman Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Caylor	Food Vendor Rep.	Present	
Rob Norton	Alderperson - Seventh District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Alderperson - Fifth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	
Bryan Bloch	Rodeo Assn. Rep.	Absent	
Brad Becker	Fair Assn. Rep.	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Bryan Moodie, Alderman Paul Russell, Alderman Steve Hass, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Krista Mitchell, LaDonna Fermanich, Bill Bialecki, Ryan Schwartzman, Chris Vorpagel and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Minutes of previous meeting(s):

1. Minutes of June 13, 2019 meeting

Because there was no quorum at the June 13th, 2019 meeting, no action on the minutes was necessary.

III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Consider 2020 Captial Improvements/Budget Items

Proposed 2020 budget information was in the meeting packet.

City Administrator Johnson began by reviewing the 2020 Budget Proposed Summary. He then reviewed the 2020 Operating Budget Festival Grounds accounts, including the Tractor Pull, Merrill Festival Grounds, Bierman Building and Room Tax accounts. He noted that the total proposed budgeted amount is less than then 2019 budgeted amount, due primarily to the fact that no major operating fund projects are planned in 2020.

City Administrator Johnson then reported on the 2020 Capital Budget. $40.000 has been included for Cattle Barn rehabilitation. It is hoped that a grant will be received to pay for this, but it needs to be budgeted in case the City is not awarded the grant. It is critical to maintain this historic building.

Motion (Caylor/Becker) to recommend approving the proposed 2020 Festival Grounds Operating Budget and the 2020 Festival Grounds Capital Budget and refer this recommendation and both budgets to the 2020 budget process.

RESULT:	**REFER TO BUDGET PROCESS**

2. Consider amending Code of Ordinance Chapter 2, Article VI, Division I, Section 2-151, to change the Mayor from a voting member of the Festival Grounds Committee to an ex-officio, non-voting member and change the City Administrator from an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Festival Grounds Committee to a voting member.

The proposed ordinance was in the meeting packet. It would remove the Mayor as a member of the Festival Grounds Committee and change the City Administrator from an ex-officio member to a voting member of the committee.

Alderman Norton reported that he requested this agenda item after being asked to do so by some committee members.

Motion (Woellner) to table. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion (Caylor/Woellner) to postpone indefinitely. Motion failed.

Motion (Woellner/Caylor) to remove the Mayor from the Festival Grounds Committee and add a citizen member to the committee. The citizen member would be subject to Common Council approval.

Ryan Schwartzman remarked that he was opposed to the City Administrator being a voting member of the committee.

Motion (Caylor) to remove the Mayor from the committee and add a Beer Stand Representative. Food Vendor Rep. Caylor then requested that his motion be withdrawn. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Motion (Caylor/Norton) to recommend removing the Mayor as a voting member of the Festival Grounds Committee, and adding a citizen voting member appointed by the Mayor (subject to Common Council approval), and to refer this recommendation to the Committee of the Whole.

RESULT:	**REFERRED TO COMM. OF THE WHOLE**

3. Rodeo Update

On behalf of the Lincoln County Rodeo Association, Bryan Moodie reported. All data is not yet available, but the 2019 rodeo was definitely a positive event. The weather was great, the turnout was average and the entertainment was popular. The entertainers were impressed with the grounds and facilities.

4. Fair Update

Fair Association Rep. Becker reported. The fair is two weeks away. Current plans still call for the Wrestling Alumni beer tent to be relocated farther to the west. However, due to several issues related to the original new site, the tent will not be located as far west as was originally planned.

5. Calendar of Events

Krista Mitchell reported. Events for the spring of 2020 are already being booked.

Alderman Sabatke noted that the MASH blood drive held in the Bierman Building earlier in the day was highly successful.

IV. Monthly Reports:

1. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The report was in the meeting packet.

The next wrestling event is scheduled for Friday, September 27th. The first wrestling event drew approximately 250 people.

The Labor Day temporary vendor agreements are being prepared.

2. Permanent Stands Rep. Caylor

The report was in the meeting packet.

V. Public Comment Period

On behalf of the V.F.W., Alderman Sabatke reported that the fair opening ceremony will be held at 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 14th. Public officials and the general public are invited to attend. The ceremony will take place near the fair office.

VI. Establish date, time & location of next meeting

Thursday, September 5th, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the Bierman Building.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Caylor/Becker) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:00 P.M.