

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Orientation/Training Session
Friday, July 24, 2020 8:30 AM

- I. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Mayor Woellner with the following attending:

Alderspersons: Paul Russell, Steve Hass, Rick Blake, Steve Osness, John Van Lieshout, Mike Rick, Mark Weix and Steve Sabatke.

Other's present: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack, Fire Chief Klug, Park & Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel. There were other people present but I was not able to identify them from the video.

There was a written note on the agenda packet from City Clerk Heideman saying "the morning of the meeting I was informed by Mayor Woellner that I was not required to attend". Mr. Heideman started the video and left the meeting per the Mayor's instruction. The meeting minutes were never written down; these minutes are from the video only.

- II. **Silent Prayer**

- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**

- IV. **Opening Remarks and Ground Rules**

Common Council Chair Russell spoke about being civil during this session.

- V. **Public Comment**

John Sample from the Merrill Public Schools spoke in favor of keeping the students and teacher safe from COVID.

John Haggemeister spoke regarding COVID and is not in favor of mandatory face coverings.

- VI. **Agenda Items for Consideration:**

1. Teamwork Discussion City of Merrill leadership

Aldersperson Russell led the discussion between the city administration and the common council. Aldersperson Hass stated the council needs to be informed of what is going on so they can make informed decisions.

2. Department Head Information Briefings (Police, Fire, Library, Engineer/Streets/Utilities, Transit, Finance/Clerk, Parks & Recreation, Maintenance, Enrichment Center, Building/Zoning, City Attorney/Municipal Court)

The department heads gave a briefing of their departments.

3. Legal briefing municipal government/Legislative vs. Executive

City Attorney Tom Hayden and Outside Counsel Dean Dietrich gave a briefing.

4. Lincoln County Economic Development

Bill Bialecki from the Lincoln County Economic Development gave a brief overview of development.

5. Merrill's Strategic Plan Update

Mike Ravn gave an update of the Strategic Plan.

6. Future of vacant residential and business properties/tax delinquent properties with Lincoln County

Building Inspector Pagel and Mayor Woellner discussed vacant residential and business properties. County Clerk Marlowe also spoke regarding this issue.

7. Consider resolution in support of aggressive use of the tax delinquent property sale mechanism and process.

Building Inspector Pagel wanted the County to be aware of the city's recommendation to go after properties after three years of unpaid taxes. Aldersperson Hass made a motion for the recommendation. Aldersperson VanLieshout seconded and the recommendation will be forwarded to the Common Council.

8. Review and discuss committee/board/commission structure and discussion on future structure.

Mayor Woellner started a discussion on standing committees.

9. Future planning related to COVID-19 conditions and environment

Aldersperson Weix started the discussion regarding COVID 19 planning.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Aldersperson Russell made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Osness seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk from the agenda and meeting video.

Former City Clerk Heideman was informed he did not need to participate in this meeting so hand written notes were taken.