

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

- I. Call to order at 5:00 pm 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, Mayor Derek Woellner, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, City Clerk Bill Heideman, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Police Chief Bennett, Library Director Zellers, Street Superintendent Bonack and Merrill Productions personnel.

Community members present: Jon Leistikau, Ryan Markowski

- II. Pledge of Allegiance

- III. Agenda Items:

1. Continue consideration of recently received applications for American Rescue Fund (City of Merrill) grant program.

The agenda packet contained a list of recently received applications. City Administrator Johnson reported on the balance and the criteria for applications.

The public was given floor privileges regarding the wrestling application.

Ryan Markowski spoke in favor of the athletic group applications and provided details on the wrestling application.

Aldersperson Hass made a motion to award \$6,000 to the Wrestling Booster program. Aldersperson Blake seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion a roll call vote was taken and failed on a 2-6-1 vote. Aldersperson's Hass and Sabatke voted yes, Aldersperson's Russell, Blake, VanLieshout, Rick, Weix and Mayor Woellner voted no and Aldersperson Osness abstained from the vote.

Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to award \$9,000 to the Wrestling Booster program. Aldersperson Rick seconded the motion for discussion. There was no discussion and the motion failed on a roll call vote of 4-4-1 Aldersperson's Russell, VanLieshout, Rick and Sabatke voted yes; Aldersperson's Hass, Blake, Weix and Mayor Woellner voted no and Aldersperson Osness abstained from the vote.

Mayor Woellner made a motion to deny the full amount for the Wrestling Club. Alderperson Hass seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion the motion failed on a 3-5-1 roll call vote. Alderperson's Hass, Blake and Mayor Woellner voted yes; Alderperson's Russell, VanLieshout, Rick, Weix and Sabatke voted no and Alderperson Osness abstained from the vote.

Alderperson VanLieshout made a motion to award the full amount to the Wrestling Club of \$17,762. Alderperson Rick seconded the motion for discussion. The motion failed on a 4-4-1 roll call vote. Alderperson's Blake, VanLieshout, Rick and Weix voted yes; Alderperson's Russell, Hass, Sabatke and Mayor Woellner voted no and Alderperson Osness abstained from the vote.

Mayor Woellner made a motion to approve the \$2,833 to the Lion's Club for the Labor Day Car Show. Alderperson Blake seconded. The motion passed on a 9-0 roll call vote.

Mayor Woellner made a motion to deny the VFW Food Stand request of \$9,823. Alderperson Hass seconded the motion for discussion. The motion carried on a 6-3 roll call vote. Alderperson's Hass, Blake, Osness, Rick, Weix and Mayor Woellner voted yes; Alderperson's Russell, VanLieshout and Sabatke voted no.

Mayor Woellner made a motion to deny the balance of the Lion's Club request \$12,165. Alderperson Osness seconded the motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

Alderperson Blake made a motion to deny the request from St. Francis; this would be for their Sportsman's Banquet. Alderperson VanLieshout seconded for discussion. The motion failed on a 3-4-2 roll call vote. Alderperson's Blake, Sabatke and Mayor Woellner voted yes; Alderperson's Hass, Osness, VanLieshout and Rick voted no. Alderperson Russell and Alderperson Weix abstained from the vote.

Alderperson Osness made a motion to deny the request from Merrill Football Boosters for \$15,450 for uniforms. Alderperson Blake seconded the motion for discussion. The motion passed on a 6-3 roll call vote. Alderperson's Hass, Blake, Osness, Rick, Sabatke and Mayor Woellner voted yes; Alderperson's Russell, VanLieshout and Weix voted no.

Alderperson Russell made a motion to fund the Race to the Taps, \$15,000 to Wrestling, \$15,000 to Football Boosters and \$15,000 to St. Francis Sportsman's Banquet. Alderperson Blake seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion the motion was amended by Alderperson Russell to fund the Race to the Taps and Wrestling. Alderperson VanLieshout seconded. The motion failed on a 3-5-1 roll call vote. Alderperson's Russell, VanLieshout and Weix voted yes; Alderperson's Hass, Blake, Rick, Sabatke and Mayor Woellner voted no. Alderperson Osness abstained from the vote.

Alderperson Blake made a motion to fund the Race for the Taps request. Alderperson VanLieshout seconded. The motion failed on a 4-5 roll call vote. Alderperson's Russell,

Blake, VanLieshout and Mayor Woellner voted yes; Alderperson's Hass, Osness, Rick, Weix and Sabatke voted no.

Alderperson Osness motioned to give Race to the Taps \$3,000. Alderperson Sabatke seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 7-2 roll call vote. Alderperson's Russell, Blake, Osness, VanLieshout, Weix, Sabatke and Mayor Woellner voted yes; Alderperson's Hass and Rick voted no.

Alderperson VanLieshout made a motion to give the Wrestling program \$15,000. Alderperson Russell seconded the motion for discussion. The motion failed on a 3-5-1 roll call vote. Alderperson's Russell, VanLieshout and Weix voted yes; Alderperson's Hass, Blake, Rick, Sabatke and Mayor Woellner voted no. Alderperson Osness abstained from the vote.

Alderperson VanLieshout made a motion to give Football, Wrestling and St. Francis \$6,000 each. Alderperson Russell seconded the motion for discussion. The motion passed on a 5-3-1 roll call vote. Alderperson's Russell, Hass, VanLieshout, Rick, Weix voted yes; Alderperson's Blake, Sabatke and Mayor Woellner voted no. Alderperson Osness abstained from the vote.

2. Update on trucks and future of garbage/recycling program.

Street Superintendent Bonack provided information regarding the garbage and recycling program.

IV. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

V. Adjournment

Alderperson VanLieshout made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderperson Sabatke seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk from the agenda and meeting notes from former City Clerk Bill Heideman.