

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:

Alders: Paul Russell, Steve Hass, Rick Blake, Steve Osness, John Van Lieshout (remote), Mike Rick, Mark Weix and Steve Sabatke

Others present: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mayor Derek Woellner, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, City Clerk Bill Heideman, Fire Chief Klug, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek, Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek, Transit Director Brummond, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Park & Recreation Director Wendorf, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, IT Director Brown, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Police Chief Bennett, Library Director Zellers, Street Superintendent Bonack and Merrill Productions personnel.

Community members present: LaDonna Fermanich, Renee Frederick, John Kasper, Al Wix, Bryan Plautz, Ed Kearney, Bill Bialecki

- II. Pledge of Allegiance

- III. Public Comment

Bill Bialecki - Spoke as to how well the city has done the last 10 years and is wondering what you would want to change.

Bryan Plautz – Spoke as a representative of the Eagle’s Club regarding their ARPA application.

John Kasper – Spoke as a representative of the Lions Club regarding their ARPA application.

Fire Chief Klug – Spoke in favor of wrestling, football and baseball ARPA grant applications.

- IV. Agenda Items:

1. Update on potential administrative reorganization

Mayor Woellner said tonight for the Mayor’s Comments he will be discussing an ad-hoc committee. This committee will have two goals; to increase accountability and decrease costs. He thinks the Mayor’s position needs some modifications and is hoping for recommendations by September.

Aldersperson Van Lieshout doesn't think the current system is broken.

Composition of the committees was discussed in length.

2. Consideration of recently received applications for American Rescue Fund (City of Merrill) grant program. Common Council members have received these applications via email.

Merrill Bluejay Baseball Tournament for \$13,151. Motion (Osness/Rick) to approve. Park and Recreation Director Wendorf gave a summary for this request.

Aldersperson Blake made a motion to revise the amount to \$9,500. Alderman Weix seconded. Amended motion failed 4-5 on a roll call vote. Original motion for \$13,151 passed 6-3 on a roll call vote. This will be forwarded to the next common council meeting.

Merrill Eagle's Club for \$16,000 not including the Bobby Darren show. Aldersperson Sabatke motioned to award \$16,000 to the Eagle's Club. Aldersperson Russell seconded. Discussion. Aldersperson Russell made a motion to amend the amount to \$10,000. Aldersperson Blake seconded. Discussion. Passed on 5-4 roll call vote. Motion to pass the amended amount of \$10,000. Passed on 5-4 roll call vote.

St. John Church for \$11,000. Motion to deny this amount was made by Aldersperson Hass and seconded by Aldersperson Osness. Motion to eliminate all fair food stands (Lions, VFW and St. John's) requests was made by Aldersperson Rick and seconded by Aldersperson Osness. Discussion. Amended motion to eliminate all fair food stands failed on a 4-5 roll call vote. Original motion to eliminate the St. John Church request passed on a 9-0 roll call vote.

Motion to resume after the Common Council meeting was made by Mayor Woellner and seconded by Aldersperson Blake. Motion failed by a 4-5 roll call vote.

V. Public Comment:

There was not time taken for public comment.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned without objection by Mayor Woellner at 6:04 pm.

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