

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, July 12, 2022 MINUTES

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following elected officials, department heads and residents were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Department Heads present: City Attorney – Tom Hayden, City Administrator – Dave Johnson, City Clerk – Lori Anderson-Malm, Facilities Maintenance Manager – Nick Wszalek, Finance Director – Kathy Unertl, Fire Chief – Josh Klug, Library Director – Jessica Zellers, Police Chief – Corey Bennett, Public Works Director/ City Engineer – Rod Akey, Park & Recreation Director – Dan Wendorf, Utility Operations Manager – Gabe Steinagel, Street Superintendent – Dustin Bonack, Merrill Enrichment Director – Tammie Mrachek, Communications Consultant - Chantel Kuczmarski and Merrill Productions.

Department Heads excused: Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator – Darin Pagel and Transit Administrator – Brad Brummond.

Residents in attendance: Al Wix, Sister from Holy Cross, Hollie Stoerzer

- II. **Invocation** by Sister Celine Goessl – Holy Cross Sisters
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
- IV. **Roll Call** was taken and the following alderperson's were in attendance:

Paul Russell – First District	Present
Michael “Gus” Caylor – Second District	Present
Rick Blake – Third District	Present
LaDonna Fermanich – Fourth District	Present
Dick Lupton – Fifth District	Present
Mike Rick - Sixth District	Present
Mark Weix – Seventh District	Present
Steve Sabatke – Eighth District	Present

- V. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
- VI. **Minutes of previous Common Council meeting** – June 14, 2022

Aldersperson Rick made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2022 Common Council meeting. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion passed.

- VII. **Revenue & Expense Reports:**

Alderson Sabatke made a suggestion regarding the TID information asking if a clearer explanation could be provided in the future.

Alderson Russell made a motion to approve the revenue and expense reports ending June 30, 2022. Alderson Blake seconded and the motion passed.

VIII. **Merrill Enrichment Center:**

1. **Consider a request to begin working on a proposal for an endowment fund for the Merrill Enrichment Center.**

Director Mrachek asked for approval to start working on an endowment. She stated committee members have asked for this. She also stated she wants the Enrichment Center to continue on after she's gone. This enrichment fund would be funded by donations. Finance Director Unertl stated this endowment fund would be different than the library endowment fund and provided further clarification.

A motion was made by Alderson Caylor to approve the request to begin working on a proposal for an endowment fund for the Merrill Enrichment Center. Alderson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried.

IX. **Health & Safety Committee:**

1. **Consider a Street Use Permit for Gesundheit Bar to close South Park Street between E. 1st St and Main St from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM on Friday, July 15 for a live band event.**

Alderson Rick made a motion to approve the street use permit for Gesundheit Bar. Alderson Caylor seconded and the motion passed.

2. **Consider a Temporary Class "B" picnic license for Merrill Youth Softball Association (Merrill Fast pitch) to sell fermented malt beverages for July 22, July 23 and July 24 at the MARC in conjunction with the Merrill Fast pitch Tournament.**

Alderson Weix made a motion to approve the Temporary Class "B" picnic license for Merrill Youth Softball Association. Alderson Lupton seconded and the motion passed.

3. **Consider a Temporary Class "B" picnic license for Lincoln County Fair Association to sell fermented malt beverages for the dates of August 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 in conjunction with the 2022 Lincoln County Fair.**

Alderson Russell made a motion to approve the Temporary Class "B" picnic license for Lincoln County Fair Association. Alderson Caylor seconded and the motion carried.

4. **Consider a Temporary Class "B" and "Class B" picnic license for Merrill Youth Hockey Association to sell fermented malt beverages and wine on August 25 and August 26 at the Merrill Enrichment Center in conjunction with the Wisconsin Evergreen Convention.**

Alderson Rick made a motion to approve the Temporary Class "B" and "Class B" picnic license for Merrill Youth Hockey Association. Alderson Blake seconded and the motion carried.

5. **Consider a Temporary Class "B" picnic license for Merrill Youth Hockey Association to sell fermented malt beverages on September 17, 2022 at the Merrill Festival Grounds in conjunction with Pork in the Park.**

Alderson Lupton made a motion to approve the temporary Class "B" picnic license for Merrill Youth Hockey Association. Alderson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

X. **Place Committee Reports on File:**

Consider placing committee reports on file: Committee of the Whole (various months in 2021), Committee of the Whole (May training session), City Plan Commission, Library Board, Merrill Enrichment Center Committee, Historic Preservation and Marketing & Communications June 16th joint meeting, Transit Commission, Health & Safety Committee, Personnel & Finance Committee, Board of Public Works, Redevelopment Authority and Historic Preservation and Marketing & Communications June 30th Joint meeting.

Alderson Russell made a motion to place the committee reports on file. Alderson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

XI. **Ordinances:**

1. **Consider amending Code of Ordinances No. 2021-18-Section 2: Non-Union Compensation in the 2022 City of Merrill Budget and Establishing CDL Step (after Step 11).**

City Attorney Hayden read the ordinance. Alderson Caylor made a motion to suspend the rules and read the second and third readings by title only. Alderson Rick seconded the motion and the motion carried.

City Attorney Hayden read the ordinance by title only. Alderson Rick made a motion to approve amending Code of Ordinances No. 2021-18-Section 2: Non-Union Compensation in the 2022 City of Merrill budget. Alderson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried on an 8-0 roll call vote.

2. **Consider adding Sec 36-95: The parking of unregistered motor vehicles prohibited on highways, to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 36, Article II, Division 3, System of Parking and Safety Zones.**

City Attorney Hayden read the ordinance. Alderson Caylor made a motion to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Alderson Blake seconded the motion and the motion carried.

City Attorney Hayden read the ordinance by title only. Alderperson Caylor asked Police Chief Bennett to explain the reasoning behind the ordinance addition. Police Chief Bennett explained the reason behind the addition of the ordinance and brief discussion followed.

Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve adding Sec 36-95: The parking of unregistered motor vehicles prohibited on highways, to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 36, Article II, Division 3, System of Parking and Safety Zones. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried on an 8-0 roll call vote.

XII. Resolutions:

1. A resolution approving a final plat for residential development between Eugene, Alexander, and Heldt Streets aka Alexander Estates in the City of Merrill.

City Attorney Hayden read the resolution. Alderperson Russell made a motion to approve for discussion. Alderperson Weix seconded.

There was confusion regarding this resolution since it was part of the revised agenda. Alderperson Russell made a motion to amend his motion since he thought he was motioning for the second resolution.

Following discussion, Alderperson Russell made a motion to approve the final plat for Alexander Estates. Alderperson Blake seconded and the motion carried.

2. A resolution authorizing a development agreement by and between the City of Merrill, Wisconsin and Plant Garden Center, LLC.

Alderperson Blake made a motion to approve the resolution for discussion. Alderperson Weix seconded.

Alderperson Sabatke voiced questions regarding the but/for provision for the development and how the \$30,000 amount was determined. Finance Director Unertl explained the reasoning for the development agreement and mentioned this was discussed at the Redevelopment Authority meeting.

Alderperson Blake and Mayor Hass concurred regarding the information was discussed at the Redevelopment Authority meeting.

Without objection, Mayor Hass asked Hollie Stoerzer to come to the podium to answer any questions from council members. She explained the development and answered all questions favorably.

After discussion, the motion passed without objection on an 8-0 voice vote.

XIII. Mayor's Appointments:

1. **Aldersperson Michael Caylor to Chairman of Personnel & Finance Committee until January 1, 2023.**

Aldersperson Fermanich made a motion to approve the appointment of Aldersperson Caylor to Chairman of the Personnel & Finance Committee. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

2. **Aldersperson Paul Russell from Chairman of Personnel & Finance to committee member until January 1, 2023.**

Mayor Hass asked Aldersperson Russell to explain the reason for the change. Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to approve the appointment change. Aldersperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

XIV. Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Hass made the following announcements:

July 17th there are five veterans from Bell Tower that will be given a ride on a by-plane at the Merrill Airport at 9 AM. He encouraged elected officials to be there to honor the veterans.

July 27th Brats for the Brave will be at the Veterans Post

July 30th Lobsterfest at Ballyhoos. This year the proceeds go to the Boys & Girls Club.

August 5th & 6th The Festival of Quilts will be at the Enrichment Center

August 13th Food for Kids at the Veterans Post

September 17th Pork in the Park

The City Band plays every Wednesday night at the Gazebo in Normal Park and Gazebo Nights are on Thursday's except for the week of the fair.

XV. Adjournment:

Mayor Hass asked for a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori L Anderson-Malm – City Clerk.