

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
Tuesday, July 11, 2023 MINUTES**

Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers 7:00 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The meeting had a delayed start due to the Committee of the Whole meeting held previously in the evening. The following elected officials, department heads and residents were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Department Heads present: Mayor Hass, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Unertl, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Fire Chief Klug (remote), Enrichment Center Director Mrachek, Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek, and Library Director Ollhoff.

Excused: Park & Recreation Director Wendorf

Others in attendance: Hallie Savall, Nathan Meyer, Melissa and Joe Hoffman (Sunset Hollow) and Merrill Productions.

- II. **Invocation** – Pastor Gustafson from Trinity Lutheran Church could not make it so a silent prayer was observed.

- 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
Vacant – Third District	Vacant
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. **Agenda item related to vacant District 3 Aldermanic position:**

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Committee of Whole regarding Nathan Meyer to fill the vacant Aldermanic District 3 position. Aldersperson Russell seconded and the motion carried. The term will be until April 2024.

City Clerk Anderson-Malm gave the Oath of Office for Aldersperson in District 3 to Nathan Meyer and he took his seat for the duration of the meeting.

- VII. **Minutes from previous meeting:**

Aldersperson Russell made a motion to approve the June 13th Common Council meeting minutes. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

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

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to approve the June 2023 revenue and expense reports. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

IX. General Agenda Items:

1. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Dale Bacher – 35 years – Police Department

Angela Holz – 25 years – Merrill Utility

Mayor Hass congratulated both employees and thanked them for serving the Citizens of Merrill.

2. Consider the sale of the Knights of Columbus building at the Festival Grounds to the 4-H Leaders Association:

Aldersperson Rick made a motion to approve the sale of the Knights of Columbus building to the 4-H Leaders Association. Aldersperson Weix seconded and the motion carried. Aldersperson Weix pointed out the Knights representative should be Pete McConnell instead of Jim Finucan. City Attorney Hayden said the change would be made.

X. Committee of the Whole:

1. Consider recommendation from the July 11th Committee of the Whole relating to Election machines for 2024 - Aldersperson Weix made a motion to approve the Election machines for 2024. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

XI. Health & Safety Committee:

1. Consider the change of applicant from Krist Oil Company naming Christina Jaeger the Agent for Krist Oil Company (Krist Food Mart #88) – Aldersperson Rick made a motion to approve the change of agent for Krist Oil Company to Christina Jaeger. Aldersperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

2. Consider a Class B Combo license application for Sunset Hollow Ranch to operate Sunset Hollow Wine Bistro & Gifts at 813 E 1st Street – Aldersperson Caylor motioned to approve the Class B Combo license for Sunset Hollow Ranch. Aldersperson Russell seconded and the motion carried.

XII. Place Committee Reports on File:

Aldersperson Lupton made a motion to place the committee reports on file. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

XIII. Resolutions:

1. A Resolution honoring Rick Blake for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill.

WHEREAS, Rick Blake is retiring as Third District Aldersperson of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, Rick Blake has served as an aldersperson for the City of Merrill since October 9, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Rick Blake serves on the Merrill Transit Commission and played a vital part in the creation, execution and success of the City of Merrill's marketing and publicity efforts;

WHEREAS, the personal commitment and unselfish dedication Rick Blake has put forth has contributed greatly to the growth, progress and stability of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill offers a solid and stable community environment for all of its citizens in part of Rick Blake's dedicated service; and,

WHEREAS, Rick Blake's cheerful manner and hard work will be missed at the Merrill City Hall;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of July, 2023, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Rick Blake has given to the City of Merrill and commend him for those years of service.

City Attorney Hayden read the Resolution. Alderperson Meyer made a motion to approve the Resolution. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

2. The Resolution regarding Frank Romano, Best Share Mining LLC was withdrawn on July 10th. No further action was taken.

XIV. Mayor's Appointments:

LaDonna Fermanich to Chairperson of Marketing & Communications committee

Michael Caylor to Library Board

Nathan Meyer to the Enrichment Center Committee

Nathan Meyer to the Marketing & Communications committee

Alderperson Russell made a motion to approve the Mayor's Appointments. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

XV. Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Hass read the following communications:

City Band concerts are at Normal Park on Wednesday nights

Gazebo Nights starts Thursday, July 13th at Normal Park

Youth Softball Tournament is July 21 – 23

Quad racing at the Festival Grounds is July 29th

Black Squirrel Scurry is July 29th

Community Night Out is August 1st at the Festival Grounds

Lincoln County Fair is August 16th – 20th

Road projects have started

XVI. Adjournment:

Alderperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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