

**CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, July 6, 2023 MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Steve Hass, Alderpersons Michael “Gus” Caylor (left at 6:30) and Steve Sabatke. Alderperson Mike Rick was absent. Other committee members present – Bryan Bloch, Brad Becker and Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund. Becky Meyer was excused.

Others Present: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, City Engineer Akey, Social Media Specialist Savall and Merrill Productions video operator.

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Minutes from previous meeting** – Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 1st meeting. Bryan Bloch seconded and the motion carried.
- III. **Agenda Items for Consideration:**
 1. **Fair Update** – Fair Association Rep Becker gave an update. They have an abundance of animals for the fair this year and are working through solutions for handling that amount. All else seems to be running as expected.
 2. **Rodeo Update** – Rodeo Association Rep Bloch gave an update. He thanked the Mayor, Rod, Council and City staff for all the help given for the rodeo. Approximately 8,000 people attended the event and tickets were sold across the United States. The majority of tickets were sold in the northern 2/3 of Wisconsin. No total dollar amount at this time but it was a success.
 3. **Permanent Vendor Update** – Permanent Vendor Rep Meyer was excused.
 4. **Calendar of Events** – This was handed out at the meeting. There were no questions.
 5. **Continued discussion on promoting Festival Grounds:**
 - a. **2024 Fireworks update** – Mayor Hass and Alderperson Caylor met with the Humane Society board. They are willing to work with the city regarding fireworks. Information was presented at the meeting regarding the radius needed for fireworks. Following discussion, it was decided this would be on the August agenda for further discussion.
 - b. **Campgrounds update** – Mayor Hass stated the city is waiting for a fence quote from the Amory to Sales Street. The committee discussed defining the campsites. No additional action was taken.

IV. Monthly Reports:

Monthly Report – Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund – The report was provided at the meeting. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund highlighted some of the items on his report.

Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to place his report on file. Mayor Hass seconded and the motion carried.

V. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

VI. Establish date and time of next meeting – The next meeting will be Thursday, August 3rd at 6:00 PM.

VII. Adjournment – Bryan Block made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk