



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY DECEMBER 28, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Virtual Meeting

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Remote	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Remote	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Remote	

Also attending virtually: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Information Technology Manager Dustin Brown, Alderman Mike Rick, Alderman Steve Hass, Alderman Steve Osness, Lincoln County Emergency Management Director September Murphy, Kim Klug and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

II. COVID-19 Report(s)

Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Murphy reported that Lincoln County continues to deliver Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as necessary.

COVID-19 vaccines are beginning to arrive. For now, they will be going directly to providers.

Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Murphy then answered questions.

On behalf of Lincoln County Health Department Director Shelley Hersil, Alderman Russell led discussion on several topics.

Lincoln County has decided to follow the guidelines of the State of Wisconsin Health Department, rather than the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Lately, the number of positive COVID-19 cases has been trending downward.

The potential of "reopening" City Hall was discussed. City Administrator Johnson stated that we should not go "back and forth" between opening and closing City Hall. This would cause confusion for the public on whether City Hall is open or closed.

Alderman Russell stated that he favors returning to the "high" COVID-19 category.

Motion (Russell/Blake) that the City return to the "high" category for COVID-19 and follow the standards associated with that category. This recommendation would be referred to both Mayor Woellner and the Common Council. A special Common Council meeting would be scheduled to address this issue. Motion carried.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported on the only case on the report. In that case, compliance was not achieved, so a citation was issued and a court date was scheduled for January 25th, 2021.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Committee members raised several questions related to the vouchers. It was determined that there are several data entry errors in the vouchers, including assigning vouchers to the wrong accounts.

Motion (Russell/Blake) to refer the vouchers to either the next Health and Safety meeting or the next Common Council meeting. Motion carried.

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

1. Consider application from Kim M. Klug for a Class "B" (beer) and a "Class B" liquor license for West Side Bar, 2501 West Main Street, effective January 13, 2021.

A copy of the license application was in the meeting packet.

City Clerk Heideman reported that the application and related paperwork is in order and that he has no concerns with the application as submitted.

Police Chief Bennett reported that the background check has been completed and that he has no concerns with the application.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 1/12/2021 6:00 PM
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V. Other agenda items to consider:

None.

VI. Minutes and Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of November 30, 2020 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

At the request of Alderman Weix, Fire Chief Klug provided a verbal report on the status of the Community Care Paramedic position.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve the minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The report was in the meeting packet.

Before reviewing his report, Fire Chief Klug answered several questions posed by Alderman Blake.

Fire Chief Klug cited the November "Calls for Service" statistics and noted that it was an extremely busy month for the department.

Current training opportunities were reviewed.

Upon request, Fire Chief Klug provided verbal information on the two "Baker Barns" which were just added to the department. He gave details on the funding and planned use for the buildings.

Fire Chief Klug then provided verbal information on how COVID-19 is affecting the Fire Department. At this time, the Fire Department has sufficient PPE supplies.

3. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett provided verbal information on how COVID-19 is affecting the Police Department. At this time, the Police Department has sufficient PPE supplies.

The possibility of making COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for City employees was discussed. City Administrator Johnson stated that, although the City has a legal right to mandate vaccines, the question of whether the City should mandate them is unanswered at this time.

Police Chief Bennett reported that winter parking restrictions are now in effect.

The Police Department is in the process of finalizing three new hires. Three candidates have been approved and accepted. Their starting dates will be staggered.

Police Chief Bennett shared verbal information on recent promotions.

Police Chief Bennett reported that the "Lights of Christmas" fundraiser was a success. Funds collected from this event are used to purchase gift cards and distribute them to the needy. There are still cards that have not been distributed, so, if anyone knows someone in need, they should contact the Police Department. Confidentiality will be maintained when distributing the cards.

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

The report was in the meeting packet.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Blake/Weix) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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VII. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Monday, January 25th, 2021 at 5:15 P.M.

VIII. Public Comment Period

None.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Weix/Blake) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:24 P.M.