



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY MAY 24, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

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

Others in attendance (either in-person or remotely) included: Mayor Derek Woellner, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, I/T Manager Dustin Brown, Alderman Steve Hass, Jeremy Ratliff and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. COVID-19 Reports

Alderman Russell reported that he has not received any reports in the last month from Lincoln County officials.

City Administrator Johnson reported that the “new cases” rating for Lincoln County has been changed from High to Medium.

On May 27th, there will be a drive-through vaccination clinic at the Merrill Festival Grounds. This event will run from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

It was noted that vaccinations have now been approved for 12 to 16 year olds.

The Lincoln County Health Department website now includes an event-planning tool.

COVID-19 grant opportunities for small businesses are available on the City website and Facebook page.

Both Police Chief Bennett and Fire Chief Klug reported that they currently have an adequate supply of all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet.

Two cases were listed on the summary report. Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that orders have been issued for the first case. The second case involves multiple issues and will be a “work in process” for now. The tenants have been ordered to vacate the premises and have been given 30 days to clean up the premises.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug answered questions on the vouchers.

Policies related to reimbursement for damaged equipment were discussed.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve the vouchers.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

1. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approving the applications from the Lincoln County Fair Association for five temporary Class "B" (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at the Alumni Tent, the VFW stand and the Eagle's stand (all at the Merrill Festival Grounds) during the Lincoln County Free Fair, August 11-August 15, 2021.

A copy of the application was in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 6/8/2021 6:00 PM
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2. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approving the 2021-2022 Liquor License Applications (per list).

The list of license applications and related information were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve the licenses, as presented on the list.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 6/8/2021 6:00 PM
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V. Public Comment Period

Alderman Russell requested that he be allowed to change the order of agenda items and have the "Public Comment Period" next. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Jeremy Ratliff stated that he favors increasing the ATV/UTV speed limit in the City. The current speed limit is 15 miles per hour. Mr. Ratliff cited a City of Rhinelander ordinance that established the ATV/UTV speed limit as the same as for other vehicular operation. Mr. Ratliff stated that he has discussed this with Police Chief Bennett, Alderman Russell and Alderman Hass.

VI. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Discuss ATV/UTV speed limits

Information was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett explained that the rationale behind the ordinance was to provide ATV/UTV users in the City access to the ATV/UTV trails. It was not intended to allow unrestricted ATV/UTV usage within the City limits.

Police Chief Bennett, Alderman Blake and Alderman Russell all expressed their concerns with increasing the speed limit.

No action was taken.

2. Police Department 2020 Annual Report

The report was distributed to committee members prior to the meeting.

Police calls to the schools were discussed.

Committee members complimented Police Chief Bennett on the annual report.

Police Chief Bennett estimates that the percentage of Police Department staff that have received the COVID-19 vaccination(s) is 50% or higher.

No action on the report was necessary, requested or taken.

VII. Minutes & Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of April 26, 2021 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reviewed the report, providing information on training and community events. He added verbal details related to a recent fire at Lincoln Wood.

3. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett reviewed the report, including the monthly statistics and community involvement.

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

To date, no monthly report has been submitted.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Weix/Blake) to place on file.

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

Monday, June 28th, 2021 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Weix/Blake) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:10 P.M.