

CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, May 23, 2022 - MINUTES

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Alderpersons Mark Weix, Michael Caylor, Mike Rick,

Others present in person or remote: Alderperson Rick Blake, Alderperson Dick Lupton, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Fire Chief Josh Klug, City Clerk Lori Anderson-Malm, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mayor Steve Hass, and Merrill Productions video operator

1. Chair Weix called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. Nuisance Complaints & Vouchers:
 1. Nuisance Complaints – Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck discussed the items on the nuisance list. The first item can be removed from the list since they are in compliance.
 2. Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the vouchers for discussion. Alderperson Caylor seconded the motion.

Alderperson Caylor had a few questions regarding the some of the items. The first one was on page 15 for \$2,882 Firefighter Behavior Health. Per Fire Chief Klug, last fall, Sawmill Brewery hosted an event and the proceeds were split between the Fire and Police departments. The Fire Department put those proceeds towards a mental health program which was postponed from the fall to January. The second question was for Elk River Custom Rods. Fire Chief Klug explained this is for retirement gifts for firefighters. One was for Chris Marion and the other for Tadd Wegener.

Motion to accept the vouchers was made by Alderperson Rick and seconded by Alderperson Caylor. Motion carried.

3. Update on COVID-19 Report. – City Administrator Johnson reported that Lincoln County raised the Covid level to high. There was no information on actual hospitalization or data to report. Alderperson Caylor mentioned there used to be reports with graphs provided for information regarding Covid, now there is just a link for information. Chairman Weix asked if the Lincoln County Health Director could come to a meeting to provide information regarding the Covid levels.
4. Picnic and/or Liquor Licensing:
 1. Changes during 2021-2022 licensing period and 2022 renewal

There was discussion regarding the list that was prepared by the Clerk/Treasurer's staff regarding the liquor licenses for 2022/2023. There were only two liquor license renewal issues.

2. 2022 – 2023 Liquor License Applications (per list)

Aldersperson Rick questioned the application for Ericksons Westside Tap. Police Chief Bennett said this committee can make a decision on Ericksons. They have not complied with the ordinance.

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to accept the list with the exception of denying Ericksons Westside Tap for being out of compliance with the ordinance. Aldersperson Rick seconded. Motion carried.

3. Consider a request from Ballyhoo's for an extension of premises to sell alcoholic beverages from Ballyhoo's (124 N Prospect Street) to a fenced in area east of their front door to Cenotaph Park next to Park Place on July 30, 2022, in conjunction with Merrill Lobsterfest.

Motion was made by Aldersperson Caylor and seconded by Aldersperson Rick to grant the request from Ballyhoo's for an extension of premises for Lobsterfest. Motion carried.

5. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Consider amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 8, Article V, Section 8-113, to revise language regarding the certificate of liability insurance.

City Attorney Hayden clarified this revision pertains to taxi services in Merrill and was recommended by the city's insurance carrier. This is solely for taxi's operating in the city of Merrill only; picking up and dropping off in Merrill.

Aldersperson Caylor motioned to approve the revision. Aldersperson Rick seconded. Motion carried.

2. Consider amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 14, Article II, Section 14-39 regarding Electronic Smoking Device(s)

City Administrator Johnson clarified this revision was a request from the Health Department and Anti-Smoking Coalition.

Aldersperson Caylor made the motion to approve this revision. Chairperson Weix seconded. Motion passed on a 2-1 vote.

3. Consider amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 36, Article II, Division 1, Section 36-23 regarding School bus warning lights

Police Chief Bennett requested this revision in wording due to the fact of the disregard of motorists stopping when the school bus arm is extended. This revision will make this

ordinance enforceable in the city. This request is for school buses, except when on the perimeter of a school, to use warning lights and arm when loading and unloading students.

Motion was made by Alderperson Rick and seconded by Alderperson Caylor to revise the wording for school buses to use their stop warning lights and arm when loading and unloading students. Motion passed.

6. Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes from April 25th - Motion (Caylor/Rick) to approve. Carried.

Reports were in the agenda packet.

2. Monthly Reports – Fire Chief Klug – briefly discussed the April house fires. He also talked about a change in the fire department’s policy regarding transporting people back home from the hospital. The fire department no longer will transport people back to their home after transporting them to the hospital. Patients become the responsibility of the hospital to return the patient.
3. Monthly Reports – Police Chief Bennett – briefly discussed the adolescent disorderly behavior issue. He also talked about the “Click it or Ticket” campaign that starts 05/23/22. The tornado sirens are back up and running with upgrades. The tornado locations will be a topic for discussion on the June agenda.
4. Monthly Reports – Lincoln County Humane Society – no report this month
5. Consider placing monthly reports on file – Motion (Caylor/Rick) to place on file. Carried.
7. Next meeting on Monday, June 27th at 5:15 p.m.
8. Public Comment Period – none.
9. Motion (Rick/Caylor) to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Carried.

Minutes prepared by: Lori L Anderson-Malm City Clerk