



CITY OF MERRILL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES • WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2019

Strategic Planning Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

I. Call to Order

Mike Ravn called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Steve Osness	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Present	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Absent	

Others in attendance: Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Transit Director Brad Brummond, City Attorney Tom Hayden, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Park & Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Lori Anderson-Malm, Jean Greenwood, LaDonna Fermanich, Lee Opsahl, John Greenwood, Allen Wix, Jon Leiskau, Mike Ravn (Meeting Facilitator), September Murphy, Bill Bialecki, Debbie Kinsey, Gary Broesch, Gene Bebel and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Hunter Lane was present to videotape the meeting for Merrill Productions.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Did not occur.

III. Agenda Items for Consideration:

1. Continue review of Merrill's future Strategic Plan.

Mike Ravn began with introductory remarks. He suggested that one more meeting be held. He also suggested that the meeting be held at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 14th, 2020, before the Common Council meeting that same evening. There was no objection to his suggestions.

Four documents were distributed. Each document contained information on one of the four Strategic Issues and the tasks/action steps necessary to address the issue. Each task/action steps also included the following information:

1. Person(s) responsible for implementing the step?
2. When is this step to be completed?
3. What resources are needed to complete this step?:
4. How will we know if the step has been completed/worked?

Mike Ravn then asked that each table review their document and make any necessary amendments, additions or deletions.

After the document review period ended, Mike Ravn called on each table for a verbal report, which were provided as follows:

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel spoke on behalf of the table responsible for Strategic Issue #3. That issue reads as follows: *"How does Merrill create an acceptable balance of taxes and "municipal services?"*.

John Greenwood spoke on behalf of the table responsible for Strategic Issue #4. That issue reads as follows: *"How does Merrill increase civic engagement in government issues?"*.

Library Director Stevens spoke on behalf of the table responsible for Strategic Issue #2. That issue reads as follows: *"How can Merrill attract more people (young and old) to live, work and play in our city?"*.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey spoke on behalf of the table responsible for Strategic Issue #1. That issue reads as follows: *"How can Merrill city government help grow the city's tax base?"*.

Based on suggestions from meeting participants, a list of creative ideas for potential inclusion in the plan was then created.

IV. Schedule Next Meeting

As discussed earlier in the meeting, another meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 14th, 2020. It will begin at 6:00 P.M. and will be held in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

V. Public Comment Period

Did not occur.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 P.M. (No motion or vote).