



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES • TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Remote	
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	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

2. Silent Prayer

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

5. Proclamation:

1. A Proclamation Honoring Alice Bacher on her 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Alice Emma Dorothy Fruend Bacher was born in Carlisle, Illinois on May 17, 1921, and is a life-long resident of Merrill, WI; and

WHEREAS, Alice Bacher will achieve the milestone of 100 years of age on May 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Alice and her parents William Christian Fruend and Lydia Fruend moved to Merrill by boxcar with all their furniture, a horse, one cow, and several chickens, walked from the train station and founded the Fruend family farm on Highway 2 and 64; and

WHEREAS, Alice and her sisters ran the family farm while her brothers were off fighting WWII and often drove the milk into town with their tractor to sell at market; and

WHEREAS, Alice met and married Robert K. Bacher in 1937, they purchased their home on River Street for \$4000 and raised their three children there - Duane (Ike) Bacher, Donald Bacher, and Joyce (Taylor); and

WHEREAS, Alice and Bob enjoyed playing cards, dining out for fish fries with friends Gracie and Cliff Wendorf; Alice enjoyed hunting and making summer sausage, and one of her greatest joys was her annual fishing trip to Canada; and

WHEREAS, Alice Bacher later worked at Fox manufacturing in Merrill for 35 years making snowmobile suits, and saving the scraps to make quilts for her grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Alice later enjoyed visiting with her children and grandchildren and was famous for her much loved Trilby and raspberry cookies; Alice was also very involved with St. John's Lutheran Church and was a fixture for decades at the Lincoln County Fair making chicken in the St. John's tent; and

WHEREAS, to prove her tenacity she triumphed over and overcame COVID-19 in January 2021, continuing the blessing of her long life; and

WHEREAS, while Alice Bacher has lived during the most eventful century of this nation's history, and always being a model and inspiration to her family and to those who have known her; she has outlived her parents, brothers and sisters, and her own children, but is much loved by her grandchildren and extended Freund family members; and

WHEREAS, the United States has the greatest number of centenarians in the world, Alice among them, and today Alice Bacher should be honored for 100 years on this earth; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Derek Woellner, Mayor of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, do hereby take official note of the joyous occasion of Alice Bacher's 100th Birthday and do hereby proclaim May 17, 2021 as Alice Bacher Day in the City of Merrill, Wisconsin.

Motion (Osness/Van Lieshout) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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6. Public Comment Period

None.

7. Minutes of previous Common Council meeting(s):

1. Minutes of April 13, 2021 meeting and April 28, 2021 meeting

Motion (Hass/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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8. Revenue & Expense Reports(s):

1. Revenue & Expense Report for Period Ending April 30, 2021

Motion (Rick/Van Lieshout) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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9. Board of Public Works:

1. Consider offer submitted to purchase city-owned property at 1405 Mathews Street. The Board of Public Works recommends approving the offer of \$5,100.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to refer to a sealed bid process, along with the other city-owned properties for sale. Motion failed 3-5 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass, Alderman Osness and Alderman Sabatke.

Motion (Van Lieshout/Blake) to approve the offer.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [6 TO 2]
AYES:	Russell, Blake, Van Lieshout, Rick, Weix, Sabatke
NAYS:	Hass, Osness

2. Consider bids on Parkview Drive project. Mayor Woellner is bringing these bids directly to the Common Council.

Motion (Hass/Van Lieshout) to approve the low bid of \$173,554.55 from Merrill Gravel and Construction Co.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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3. Consider bids on River Bend Trail paving. Mayor Woellner is bringing these bids directly to the Common Council.

Motion (Van Lieshout/Blake) to approve the low bid of \$33,150.00 from American Asphalt.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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10. Committee of the Whole:

1. Consider recommendation(s) from May 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting related to the potential allocation of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, in response to funding requests from the Lincoln County Fair Association and the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo. This agenda item is part of an amended agenda.

At a meeting on May 10th, 2021, the Committee of the Whole recommended approving the following funding allocations from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Federal Grant:

1. Personal Protective Equipment & Supplies for City departments = \$70,000
2. Lincoln County Fair Association = \$15,000
3. Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo = \$7,500
4. Strand Associates (Water Tower Design & Safe Drinking Water Loan) = \$55,500

Motion (Van Lieshout/Blake) to approve the four funding allocations.

RESULT: APPROVED

11. Health and Safety Committee:

1. Application from the Lincoln County Rodeo Association Inc. for three temporary Class "B" (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at the Merrill Festival Grounds during the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo, June 11-13, 2021. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approval.

Motion (Russell/Rick) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

12. Placing Committee Reports on File:

1. Consider placing the following committee reports on file: Airport Commission, Board of Public Works, City Plan Commission, Committee of the Whole, Committee of the Whole/Redevelopment Authority (Joint Meeting), Festival Grounds Committee, Health & Safety Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, Library Board, Merrill Enrichment Center Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Personnel & Finance Committee, Redevelopment Authority, Transit Commission, Water & Sewage Disposal Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion (Russell/Van Lieshout) to place on file.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

13. Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article IV, Section 2-81, to create Marketing and Communications Committee. The Committee of the Whole recommends approval. This ordinance is due for a second reading.

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a second reading by synopsis.

2. An Ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 6, Section 6-91, to prohibit cruelty to animals (Ordinance 2021-07).

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a first reading by synopsis.

Motion (Hass/Russell) to suspend the rules and give the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only. Carried.

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Steve Hass, Alderperson - Second District
SECONDER:	Paul Russell, Alderperson - First District
AYES:	Russell, Hass, Blake, Osness, Van Lieshout, Rick, Weix, Sabatke

3. An Ordinance repealing Code of Ordinances Chapter 8, Article VII, Section 8-164 and 8-165, related to milk licenses and requirements (Ordinance 2021-08).

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a first reading by synopsis.

Motion (Russell/Hass) to suspend the rules and give the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only. Carried.

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John M. Van Lieshout, Alderperson - Fifth District
SECONDER:	Mike Rick, Alderperson - Sixth District
AYES:	Russell, Hass, Blake, Osness, Van Lieshout, Rick, Weix, Sabatke

14. Resolutions:

1. A Resolution approving a Final Plat for single family residential development at the intersection of Grand Avenue, Edgewater Drive and Rock Ridge Court, aka Plan of Rock Ridge Park. (Resolution #2683).

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill ("The Applicant") has applied for final approval of a subdivision plat pursuant to Code of Ordinances Sec.111-114, 115 for land located in Lots One through Ten of Certified Survey Map No. 2802, recorded on page 16, in Volume 236 of Certified Surveys, as Document No. 546324, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Lincoln County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, The City Plan Commission considered the application at a meeting on May 4, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The City Plan Commission found that the Final Plat submitted by the Applicant complied with the preliminary plat approval in Resolution No. 2675;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of May 2021, that:

The Common Council Adopts the City Plan Commissions findings and incorporates them into this resolution.

The final plat of Single Family Residential Development at the intersection of Grand Avenue, Edgewater Drive, and Rock Ridge Court, aka Plan of Rock Ridge Park presented by City of Merrill and prepared by Joshua Prentice for REI and involving a subdivision plat pursuant to Code of Ordinances Sec.111-114, 115 for land located in Lots One through Ten of Certified Survey Map No. 2802, recorded on page 16, in Volume 236 of Certified Surveys, as Document No. 546324, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Lincoln County, Wisconsin is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the applicant, City of Merrill City Clerk is directed to record the final plat with the Lincoln County Register of Deeds in accordance with the requirement of Chapter 111, Article II, Section 111-115 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Merrill.

Motion (Hass/Weix) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. A Resolution honoring Mark J. Heckendorf for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill (Resolution #2684).

WHEREAS, Mark J. Heckendorf has served the City of Merrill as a Patrolman, PO, POI, POII and School Resource Officer/Investigator, from January, 1987 to April, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Mark J. Heckendorf's cheerful manner, dedication to Police service and to the City of Merrill and his hard work in virtually every area in which he was involved will be greatly missed by the Police Department and Merrill's citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Mark J. Heckendorf has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow employees by the way in which he has carried out his duties; and,

WHEREAS, Mark J. Heckendorf's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Police Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of May, 2021, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the faithful service Mark J. Heckendorf has given the City of Merrill Police Department and commends him for those 34 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Mark J. Heckendorf, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement from the City of Merrill Police Department, and extend our warmest wishes for his enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

Motion (Common Council/Common Council) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

15. Mayor's Appointments:

Ralph Sturm, City Plan Commission, term to expire May 1, 2024

Robert Reimann, City Plan Commission, term to expire May 1, 2024

Audrey Huftel, Library Board, term to expire June 30, 2024

Richard Mamer, Library Board, term to expire June 30, 2024

Sharon Anderson, Enrichment Center Committee, term to expire May 1, 2022

Tony Kusserow, Redevelopment Authority, term to expire September, 2025

Rebecca Roberts, Tourism Commission, term to expire May 1, 2022

Ryan Schwartzman, Tourism Commission, term to expire May 1, 2022

Ernie Stender, Tourism Commission, term to expire May 1, 2022

Motion (Hass/Blake) to approve all appointments.

RESULT: APPROVED

16. Mayor's Communications

Mayor Woellner encouraged everyone to enjoy the pretty weather.

17. Adjournment

Motion (Van Lieshout/Rick) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:37 P.M.