



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES • TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:00 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	

Other attendees (either in-person or remotely) included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, I/T Manager Dustin Brown, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Agenda Items:

1. Review Strategic Plan

A copy of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was in the meeting packet.

Mayor Woellner began by noting that, in March, the Committee of the Whole “left off” discussion at Strategic Issue #4 (How does Merrill increase citizen civic engagement in government issues).

Discussion centered on tools that the City can use to hopefully get citizens more interested and involved in City government.

Mike Ravn suggested that each City department could create a video to be posed on the City’s website. These videos could explain the purpose of the departments as well as provide other pertinent department information.

Alderman Russell suggested that a Committee of the Whole meeting could be scheduled to continue review of the Strategic Plan. It was noted that there is already a Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for June 1st. The purpose of that meeting is to review and consider American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding requests.

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

2. Discuss possible changes to City committees

No information was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Russell noted that combining the Water and Sewage Disposal Committee with the Board of Public Works is currently a work in progress. There was discussion on whether the next step should be to have the two committees consider an ordinance combining the two groups, or to consider the ordinance at the Common Council level as soon as possible. There seemed to be a consensus that the combined committee should be called Board of Public Works.

The ordinance creating a Marketing and Communications Committee is due for a second reading at the May 11th, 2021 Common Council meeting.

Alderman Russell requested that City Attorney Hayden prepare a report for a future Committee of the Whole meeting. The report should include information on whether each committee, board or commission is optional or is required by Wisconsin State Statutes and/or City of Merrill Ordinances. This report could be used as a tool as potential committee reorganization(s) are considered.

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

V. Adjournment

Motion (Russell/Rick) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:59 P.M.