

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order:** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following elected officials, department heads and residents were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Department Heads present: Mayor Hass, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Unertl, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Transit Director Brummond, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel and Phil Skoug.

Excused: Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Fire Chief Klug and Park & Recreation Director Wendorf

Others in attendance: Sister Celine, Sister Cathy, Manuel Rolon, Brian Lee, Clyde Nelson and Merrill Productions.

- II. Invocation** by Sister Celine – Sisters of Holy Cross

- III. Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

- IV. Roll Call** was taken and the following alderperson's were in attendance:

Paul Russell – First District	Present
Michael “Gus” Caylor – Second District	Present
Rick Blake – Third District	Present (remote)
LaDonna Fermanich – Fourth District	Present
Dick Lupton – Fifth District	Present
Mike Rick - Sixth District	Present
Mark Weix – Seventh District	Present
Steve Sabatke – Eighth District	Present

- V. Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

- VI. Minutes of previous Common Council meeting** – April 11, 2023

Aldersperson Russell made a motion to place the minutes from the April 11, 2023 Common Council meeting on file. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

- VII. Revenue & Expense Reports:**

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to approve the April 2023 Revenue and Expense reports. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

- VIII. General Agenda Items:**

1. Street use permit for Golden Harvest on Saturday, June 3 – Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to approve the street use permit for Golden Harvest Market to close Pearl Street from Main Street to Thielman Street from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm on Saturday, June 3 for a Customer Appreciation Event. Aldersperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

2. Consider lifting the hiring freeze for the Police Department – Alderperson Caylor made a motion to lift the hiring freeze for the Police Department due to a resignation of a senior officer. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

IX. Health & Safety Committee:

1. Consider three temporary Class “B” picnic licenses for the Lincoln County Rodeo Association for June 9, 10 and 11 – Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the three temporary Class “B” picnic licenses for the Lincoln County Rodeo Association to sell fermented malt beverages at the Merrill Festival Grounds during the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo on June 9, 10 and 11, 2023. Alderperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried.

X. City Plan Commission:

1. Consider request to rezone 100 N Polk Street from Public to Business – Alderperson Russell made a motion to deny the request to rezone 100 N Polk Street from Public to Business. Alderperson Caylor seconded for discussion.

Alderperson Russell explained his decision for the denial. Manuel Rolon and Brian Lee were given floor privileges to speak regarding the rezoning request.

City Attorney Hayden stated no one appeared at the public hearing and this was approved by the City Plan Commission with a requirement to have a plan within 6 months.

Following further discussion, Alderperson Russell amended his original motion and motioned to refer this to the June Council meeting. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

2. Consider the approval of the final plat for CM’s first addition (aka Johnson Street) – Alderperson Sabatke made a motion to approve the final plat for CM’s first addition. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

XI. Tourism Commission – Annual Report Presentation:

Clyde Nelson – Executive Director of the Merrill Chamber of Commerce presented the 2022 Tourism report and the tourism room tax report. He highlighted a number of items in the report that was included in the packet.

XII. Place Committee Reports on File:

Alderperson Russell made a motion to place the committee reports on file with the corrections that were brought to the City Clerk’s attention. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

XIII. Ordinances:

City Attorney Hayden read the ordinance amending Chapter 26, Article V, Section 26-134 Habitual Truancy. He explained the reason for amending the ordinance. Alderperson Caylor made a motion to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Russell seconded. City Attorney Hayden gave the Ordinance the second and third readings by title only.

Alderperson Caylor made a motion to accept the amended ordinance. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried on an 8/0 roll call vote.

XIV. Resolutions:

A Resolution approving a final plat for single family residential development located on Johnson Street in the City of Merrill

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 CM's First Addition, a subdivision plat being part of the Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ and all of Lot 4 of Certified Survey Map Number 559835, Recorded as Document Number 559835, filed in the Lincoln County Register of Deed Office; All located in the Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 7, Township 31 North, Range 7 East in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, The City Plan Commission considered the application at a meeting on May 2, 2023; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of May 2023, that:

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

2. The final plat of Single Family Residential Development on Johnson Street 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 CM's First Addition, a subdivision plat being part of the Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ and all of Lot 4 of Certified Survey Map Number 559835, Recorded as Document Number 559835, filed in the Lincoln County Register of Deed Office; All located in the Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 7, Township 31 North, Range 7 East in the City of Merrill, 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.

City Attorney Hayden read the Resolution. Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the resolution. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

XV. Mayor's Appointments:

Chris Gruenenwald to the Library Board replacing Jim Wedemeyer – term to expire 06/30/2026
Reappoint Darcy Dalsky to the Library Board – term to expire 06/30/2026

Alderperson Fermanich made a motion to approve the two appointments to the Library Board. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried.

XVI. Mayor's Communications:

Permission to appoint the Festival Grounds Manager to the Marketing & Communications Committee – Alderperson Caylor made a motion to refer this to a Committee of the Whole to review committees and commissions. Alderperson Rick seconded for discussion.

Following discussion, Alderperson Caylor amended his motion to accept the appointment of the Festival Grounds Manager to the Marketing & Communications Committee and refer to a Committee of the Whole for a discussion of the overall makeup of committees and commissions. Alderperson Blake seconded and the motion carried.

Mayor Hass read the additional communications:
He thanked all volunteers for the Loyalty Day celebration.
June 9, 10 and 11th is the Rodeo at the Festival Grounds
June 11 is the dairy breakfast at the MARC

June 24 and 25 there is mounted shooting at the Festival Grounds
Quad Events are scheduled at the Festival Grounds
June 7, 14 and 21st there is reading to a dog at the Library
The Library has one-day passes for parks; contact the library for details
This Saturday is Girls on the Run at the Agra Pavilion

XVII.

Adjournment:

Aldersperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

The complete Ordinance is available on the City of Merrill website: <https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/>

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori L Anderson-Malm – City Clerk