

**CITY OF MERRILL  
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, May 5, 2022 MINUTES \* Revised**

**Regular Meeting                      City Hall Council Chambers                      6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Mayor Steve Hass, Alderpersons Michael “Gus” Caylor, Steve Sabatke and Mike Rick, Bryan Bloch and Becky Meyer.

Members Absent: Brad Becker

Others Present: Festival Grounds Manager Rick Bjorklund, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk Kathy Unertl (remote), City Clerk Lori Anderson-Malm, and Merrill Productions video operator

1. Chair Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Items for Consider:

1. Fair Update

No new updates.

2. Rodeo Update

Bloch reported that Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo has received a lot of requests and emails. They will start setting up the Friday before.

The new 10' x 18' video board will be ready for instant replay, display the leader board and will have spots for advertisements.

Food vendors are ready and include the regular previous year's vendors. A variety of food will be available. The BBQ vendor is not participating this year.

EMS is worked out for this year. Overflow parking will be at Pine Crest.

Friday night is Military Night. Saturday is “Tough enough to wear Pink”. Sunday is family day.

3. Water & Electric Update

City Administrator Johnson, reported that water is in place and electrical boxes are in 10 spots with 20 available outlets. This is located in the South fence area.

4. Food Stand Rent for 2022

City Administrator Johnson reported that the city gave breaks in rent 2021 for COVID. Alder Caylor mentioned it would be well received for vendors if that break would become permanent.

A motion was made to offer a 50% reduction in rent for permanent food stand vendors for the 2022 season. Rodeo Rep Block made the Motion. Alder Sabatke seconded. Motion passed.

#### 5. Arena Lighting Update

City Administrator Johnson reported that the bid for last year's lighting quote was \$150,000. This year two bids were received. The first one was for \$250,000 and the second for \$310,000. The Bierman Foundation pledged the initial \$150,000 last year and, after being approached with the current bid amounts, will make up the balance of the current bid when it is granted.

#### 6. Calendar of Events

List of dates for May through July 2022 events was included in the agenda packet.

#### 7. Review of Lease Payments 2020-2022

Reviewed the list of lease payments and who was paid and who was due. Becky Meyer will make sure St. John's is paid.

#### 3. Monthly Reports

1. Meeting minutes from February 3, 2022 – Motion (Caylor/Bloch) to approve the meeting minutes. Carried.
2. Festival Grounds Manager – Bjorklund reported there is increased interest in having events during the weekday. He will bring back this request to the committee for further discussion at a later meeting. It was decided there would be a 2-3 month lead time to notify Tammy for accommodation if needed.

Outdoor activities were also discussed including a Disk Golf long drive contest and a Robotics event.

Caylor talked about a business expo that could be a possibility to hold at the Expo center.

3. Food Vendor Representative – there was no food vendor report for this meeting.
4. Public Comment Period – None.
5. Establish date, time and location of next meeting – Next meeting will be Thursday, June 2, at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers.
6. Motion (Sabatke/Caylor) to adjourn at 6:19 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk