



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY APRIL 26, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:14 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Remote	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	

Other attendees (either in-person or remote) included: Mayor Derek Woellner, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, City Attorney Tom Hayden, I/T Manager Dustin Brown, Alderman Mike Rick, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Alderman Steve Osness (arr. 5:40), Al Shidell, Zach Ziesmer and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting. Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck was excused.

II. COVID-19 Reports

Alderman Russell reported on behalf of Lincoln County Health Department Director Shelley Hersil and Lincoln County Emergency Management Director September Murphy.

The demand for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) continues, but has slowed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has begun a funeral assistance program to provide financial assistance to families affected by COVID-19 deaths. Alderman Russell has asked Lincoln County Health Department Director Hersil to share information on this program with local funeral homes. Alderman Russell also asked that this information be placed on the City's website.

Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Murphy has informed Alderman Russell that a new COVID-19 report has just been made public. City Administrator Johnson reported that he has shared this report with the Common Council and Department Heads.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet.

On behalf of Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck, City Clerk Heideman reported that there are currently no cases listed on the report. He added that the only case on the report the last few months has now gone to court. The property owner did not appear in court, so the property owner will be receiving a fine.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

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.

A copy of the application was in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL
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Next: 5/11/2021 6:00 PM

2. Review of and potential action(s) on existing liquor license for Allen Shidell for El Mariachi, 608 East Second Street.

This has been an ongoing concern.

Police Chief Bennett reported that the Police Department, has not seen any activity at the license site, nor have they observed any indication that the business is open.

Alderman Russell requested that floor privileges be granted to the licensee, Al Shidell. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Al Shidell reported that the business has been open every day except Mondays, usually from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The business has also been open for parties. He has had some issues with suppliers, but those issues are being addressed.

Alderman Blake stated that he has several concerns with the license.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to commence license revocation procedures for the license.

RESULT: APPROVED

V. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Consider ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 6, Section 6-91, to prohibit cruelty to animals. Mayor Woellner is introducing this ordinance.

A copy of the draft ordinance was in the meeting packet. Mayor Woellner had requested that this ordinance be drafted and placed on the agenda.

Alderman Russell requested that Mayor Woellner be granted floor privileges to explain the ordinance. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Mayor Woellner reported that a recent incident illustrated that the City does not currently have ordinance(s) in place to address certain types of animal cruelty. Police Chief Bennett answered questions related to the ordinance.

Motion (Blake/Russell) to recommend approval of the ordinance.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 5/11/2021 6:00 PM
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2. Consider ordinance repealing Code Ordinances Chapter 8, Article VII, Section 8-164 and 8-165, related to milk licenses and requirements.

A copy of the draft ordinance was in the meeting packet. City Attorney Hayden and City Clerk Heideman are proposing this repeal.

City Attorney Hayden reported that the currently ordinance (along with the related license and \$20 fee) are antiquated and he recommends that the current ordinance be repealed by the ordinance presented in the meeting packet.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to recommend approval of the ordinance.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 5/11/2021 6:00 PM
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3. Review 2021-2022 Liquor License Renewal Schedule

A copy of the renewal schedule was in the meeting packet.

City Clerk Heideman stated that this schedule is reviewed annually at the April Health and Safety Committee meeting. He added that this is for information only, and then provided additional verbal information related to the license renewal process.

No action was necessary, requested or taken.

4. Fire Department 2020 Annual Report

A copy of the report was in the meeting packet. It was noted that all Common Council members have also received a copy of the report in their City Hall mailbox.

Fire Chief Klug verbally reviewed the annual report. The report featured sections on various divisions, as follows: Administrative, EMS, Training, Public Education, Fire Inspection and Apparatus Maintenance.

Alderman Russell thanked both Fire Chief Klug and Police Chief Bennett for their work on their annual reports.

VI. Minutes & Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of March 22, 2021 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reported that the new part-time Fire Inspector has started work. Routine fire inspections have resumed. Verbal information on two recent grass fires was shared.

Fire Chief Klug noted that a dedication ceremony was held recently for a display barn at the Fire Station. He thanked the Fritz Heller family for their generous donation.

3. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett noted that March was a busy month in the Police Department.

School Resource Officer Mark Heckendorf has retired. The new School Resource Officer is Jamie Jaeger. She has assumed those duties and is doing well.

Police Chief Bennett noted that a liquor licensee has requested an amendment to their premises description. Police Chief Bennett and City Clerk Heideman will review this request.

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

The report was in the meeting packet.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Blake/Weix) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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VII. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Monday, May 24th, 2021 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VIII. Public Comment Period

Zach Zeismer, Pine Crest Nursing Home Administrator, suggested that the “chicken ordinance” be amended to allow for “chicken therapy” at nursing facilities.

An ordinance addressing this will be drafted and will be a part of the next regular Health and Safety Committee meeting agenda.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Blake/Weix) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:18 P.M.