

**CITY OF MERRILL**  
**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022 - MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

**5:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Alderpersons Mark Weix, Michael Caylor, Mike Rick,

Others Present: Alderperson Rick Blake, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Fire Chief Josh Klug, City Clerk Lori Anderson-Malm, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mayor Steve Hass, IT Manager Dustin Brown, and Merrill Productions video operator

1. Chair Weix called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. COVID-19 Reports as of April 21, 2022 from Lincoln County Health Department. The numbers remain low in Lincoln County. City Administrator Dave Johnson, reported on national numbers and there was discussion on the numbers provided. The COVID clinic has been stopped at the Festival Grounds.
3. Review and discussion of compensation for City Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer.

Committee members requested historical information on City compensation at the March meeting; that information was included in the agenda packet.

There was discussion regarding the historical compensation for the Health Office and Deputy Health Officer. Dr. Gill's compensation stayed the same at \$900. The Deputy Health Officer's compensation was raised from \$2,500 to \$4,500 in the 2022 budget. Alderman Caylor asked a question regarding the adjustment for the Deputy Health Officer's compensation. Deputy Health Officer, Norbert Ashbeck, answered by stating there has not been a compensation adjustment for a long time and the adjustment is to cover expenses for that position.

4. Fire Chief requested compensation of EMS Medical Director due to Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) fees related to purchase of ambulance medications. Dr. Clark would be paid \$250 annually to serve as our medical director. He would be a paid employee and receive a W-2. His status would change from volunteer to a paid employee. This change is needed due to the DEA's change of taxing narcotic purchases for volunteer medical directors instead of a paid employee of the ambulance service. This would be funded through the current ambulance budget.

Alderman Caylor questioned as to why the city would pay the compensation for a county function and why Dr. Gill isn't utilized in this capacity. Fire Chief Klug said it was difficult to receive an answer from the county EMS regarding compensation. Also Dr. Clark is the

medical director for the city of Tomahawk. Police Chief Bennett said Dr. Clark handles training and narcotic purchases for the police department currently.

Alderman Rick motioned to forward this request, of compensating \$250 to Dr. Clark as medical director, to the Common Council directly and not to the Personnel and Finance Committee. Chairman Weix seconded. Carried.

5. Liquor License – Temporary Class “B” – Lincoln County Rodeo Association, Inc. for June 10-12 event. Pending consideration at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Common Council meeting.

The License was included in the agenda packet for information.

Motion to approve by Alderman Rick. Seconded by Alderman Caylor. Carried.

Liquor License – Temporary Class “B” – Merrill Baseball Association for June 10-12 event. Pending consideration at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Common Council meeting.

The License was included in the agenda packet for information.

Motion to approve by Alderman Caylor. Seconded by Alderman Rick. Carried.

Merrill Historical Society will bring their liquor license request directly to the Common Council meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Liquor Licensing – Review and discuss proposed renewal schedule.

The renewal schedule for 2022-2023 liquor licenses was included in the agenda packet for reference. The packets were sent out on April 5<sup>th</sup> with a due date of May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

6. Review and discuss Police Department 2021 Annual Report

Police Chief Bennett summarized the annual report and pointed out statistics that are important in our area. He also discussed the current staffing/hiring issues and concerns. The Annual Report was included in the meeting agenda packet.

7. Nuisance Complaints & Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints were in the agenda packet. Ashbeck provided update on status.

2. Vouchers – Motion (Caylor/Rick) to approve. Carried.

8. Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes from March 28<sup>th</sup>- Motion (Rick/Caylor) to approve. Carried.

Reports were in the agenda packet and briefly highlighted from the following:

2. Monthly Reports – Fire Chief Klug – If the committee would require other information this report he will revise as requested. There will be a retirement ceremony for Chris Marion, Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Fire Station.
3. Monthly Reports – Police Chief Bennett
4. Monthly Reports – Lincoln County Humane Society for March
5. Consider placing monthly reports on file – Motion (Rick/Caylor) to place on file. Carried.
9. Next meeting on Monday, May 23rd at 5:15 p.m.
10. Public Comment Period – none.
11. Motion (Caylor/Rick) to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. Carried.

Minutes prepared by: Lori L Anderson-Malm City Clerk