

City of Merrill

Airport Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 18:00 hours

Merrill Airport

Voting Members: Joe Malsack (Acting Chairman), Lyle Banser, Gary Schulz (via phone), Mark Weix Jr. (Alderman)

Public Present: Larry Wenning, Luke Lazar, Steve Krueger

1. Call to Order- Meeting called to order at 18:00 hours by Acting Chairman Malsack.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2023 - Motion by Weix; second by Banser. All Ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers presented, received and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Banser; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – No new information. Waiting for FAA.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022/23 – Spring projects may be pushed back, depending on how quickly it dries up.
6. Discussion/Decision RFP Current FBO Hangar – No report. Nothing new.
7. Update Airport Signage – Malsack reported he will be working with Merrill's Marketing Department and has a meeting on the 20th. Displayed a sample of King Color Core signage and will keep looking for other products that may be able to incorporate the City's new logo. Discussion followed. Malsack also reported selling the Friends of the Airport parade model plane and trailer for \$800.00; and the proceeds will be used on the Airport signage project.
8. Update F-84 Monument – Banser reported estimate costs of pedestal support beam and the prep and painting of F-84. The costs are prohibitive. Discussion followed on priorities of the Airport. It was decided that McCullough/Banser will contact the Air Force to see what options are available to use.

9. Airport General Maintenance –Have been working on the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) light issues related to the Spring thaw and ground heaving.
10. (On Agenda is listed as 9A) Status House Sewer Service Improvement - McCullough reported he had been in contact with the City Water Department on the job coming up when conditions dry out this Spring.
11. Chairman's Report - None
12. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported on a pilot making a low pass at a friend's short airstrip to evaluate the possibility of landing there. An adjacent neighbor considered his passes dangerous and reported him to the FAA which determined him to be operating dangerously and suspended his license for 120 days. He appealed the ruling and lost. The ruling may have had contributing circumstances of what the FAA considered dangerous or reckless operation prior to this incident. Planes that are considered Light Sport and others typically land on grass strips and pilots are obligated to fly the runway to inspect and determine if a runway is suitable to land; so these operations are being called into question. We question the FAA's decision and wait for clarification of low passes over possible landing sites.
13. Public Comment – Weix reported the Airport received a compliment from a visitor that flew into a local business, saying he appreciated such a nice facility. Weix suggested we make a list of activities at the Airport to promote the Airport and possibly get favorable press in the local papers. Malsack reported the AirCup Race will use Merrill for the finish line, just prior to EAA AirVenture. Schulz reported on posting an EAA add for considering Merrill for traffic to and from Oshkosh AirVenture. McCullough reported the Humane Society used the Airport for transfer of animals to other facilities. Wenning reported on the Merrill Township Meeting on April 18. There were a number of issues they are working through with new management; and they are committed to resurfacing/rebuilding Airport Road, hopefully this Season 2023.
14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – AirCup Race
15. Adjournment – Motion for meeting to adjourn by Weix; second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser