

CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 - MINUTES

Special Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

1. Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members:

Paul Russell – First District	Present
Steve Hass – Second District	Present
Rick Blake – Third District	Present
Steve Osness – Fourth District	Present
John M. VanLieshout – Fifth District	Present
Mike Rick - Sixth District	Present
Mark Weix – Seventh District	Present
Steve Sabatke – Eighth District	Present
Derek Woellner – Mayor	Present

2. Silent Prayer

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comment Period:

Aldersperson Steve Osness assisted his daughter with her request to pave her neighborhood streets.

5. Consider appointment of City Clerk effective April 25 (instead of May 1) –

Motion (Osness/VanLieshout) to appoint Lori Anderson-Malm as City of Merrill City Clerk effective on Monday, April 25, 2022. Carried.

6. Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Robert Russell administered Oath of Office for and Oaths were signed for the following Elected Officials:

Mayor, Alderspersons, and City Clerk.

Joint Municipal Court Judge Ned Seubert took his Oath of Office at the City of Tomahawk on Monday, April 18, 2022.

Street & Weed Commissioner Ron Liberty will take his Oath separately before May 1.

7. Roll Call for newly-elected Common Council

Paul Russell – First District	Present
Mike “Gus” Caylor – Second District	Present
Rick Blake – Third District	Present
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
Steve Hass – Mayor	Present

8. Elections and Mayor’s Appointments

a. Elect President of Common Council:

Motion (Sabatke/Blake) to nominate Paul Russell. This was the only nomination.
Carried.

b. Elect Alderperson member of the City Plan Commission:

Motion (Russell/Caylor) to nominate Steve Sabatke. This was the only nomination.
Carried.

c. Mayor’s Appointments:

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve the Mayor’s Alderperson and Citizen Appointments.
Carried.

9. Placing Committee Reports on File:

Board of Canvass, Community Development, and Redevelopment Authority.

Motion (Russell/Rick) to place the Committee Reports on file. Carried.

10. Community Development Committee:

Consider recommendation to Subordinate The Lofts at City Hall’s development loan of \$200,000 to Fortress Bank for up to \$800,000 - Motion (Rick/Blake) to authorize the Subordination of The Lofts at City Hall’s development loan of \$200,000 to Fortress Bank for up to \$800,000. Carried.

11. Resolutions:

A Resolution designating official newspaper for the City of Merrill – No. 2723.

WHEREAS, Section 985.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires the designation of an official newspaper for the printing of all the City's Official Business; and,

WHEREAS, the Merrill FotoNews has qualified for such designation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 19th day of April, 2022, that the Merrill FotoNews of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, shall be and is hereby designated, until further action, as the official newspaper for the City of Merrill.

Motion (Russell/Lupton) to adopt the resolution designating Merrill FotoNews as official newspaper. Carried

A Resolution designating official depositories for the City of Merrill – No. 2724.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 19th day of April, 2022, that the following financial institutions shall be qualified as public depositories under Chapter 34 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and shall be and hereby are designated until further action as public depositories for all public monies coming into the hands of the Treasurer for the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin:

BMO Harris Bank, Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Nicolet Bank, Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

incrediblebank, Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Local Government Investment Pool, State of Wisconsin Department of Administration
Merrill Community Bank – Branch of Tomahawk Community Bank, Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Park City Credit Union, Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Associated Bank, N.A., Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Edward Jones, Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Motion (Lupton/Blake) to adopt the resolution designating official depositories. Carried.

A Resolution authorizing development agreement by and between the City of Merrill, Wisconsin and MEND Merrill, LLC (for Tractor Supply Company) – No. 2725:

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Merrill created Tax Increment District (TID) No. 4 on September 11, 2007 and the redevelopment site is within TID No. 4; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution No.2709 adopted on October 12, 2021 authorized \$75,000 for replacement of the roof on the former grocery store at the 3404 E. Main St. for new commercial operations and this work will be performed by the new property owner, MEND Merrill LLC; and,

WHEREAS, a new greenhouse facility will be constructed on the west side of the existing building, along N. Pine Ridge Ave. and commercial business leased to Tractor Supply Company; and

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill finds that the proposed development and the fulfillment of the items and conditions of the attached Development Agreement are in the vital and best interest of the City of Merrill, the Merrill Redevelopment Authority and City residents and serves a public purpose in accordance with State law; and,

WHEREAS, additional new retail jobs will be generated by the new commercial businesses and property taxes will be maintained through these redevelopment projects; and,

WHEREAS, MEND Merrill, LLC has negotiated the development agreement to provide an incentive payment not to exceed \$75,000 for roof replacement and \$50,000 for the new greenhouse facility; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 19th day of April, 2022, that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the development agreement by and between the City of Merrill and MEND Merrill, LLC and to facilitate the implementation thereof.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to adopt the resolution authorizing the development agreement with MEND Merrill, LLC. Carried.

A Resolution honoring Derek Woellner for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill – No. 2726:

WHEREAS, Derek Woellner is retiring as Mayor of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, having served in that capacity with distinction since April 17, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill and its citizens have benefitted from his guidance, unselfish dedication and unwavering commitment to bettering our city; and,

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the City of Merrill has seen much growth in Tax Increment Financing for economic development, the design of a proposed skateboard park including user groups, Marketing and Communications Committee formation, all while maintaining an unequaled commitment to economic growth and prosperity; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill offers a solid and stable community environment for all of its citizens in part because of Derek Woellner's dedicated service; and,

WHEREAS, citizens of Merrill and Lincoln County have benefitted from his service to the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 19th day of April, 2022, that the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Derek Woellner has given to the City of Merrill and commend him for those years of service, and wish him the very best that life has to offer.

Motion (Common Council) to adopt the resolution. Carried.

A Resolution honoring Steve Osness for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill – No. 2727:

WHEREAS, Steve Osness is retiring as Fourth District Alderperson of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, Steve Osness has served as an alderperson for the City of Merrill since April 17, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the personal commitment and unselfish dedication Steve Osness has put forth has contributed greatly to the growth, progress and stability of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill offers a solid and stable community environment for all of its citizens in part because of Steve Osness' dedicated service; and,

WHEREAS, Steve Osness' cheerful manner and hard work will be missed at the Merrill City Hall;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 19th day of April, 2022, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Steve Osness has given to the City of Merrill and commend him for those years of service.

Motion (Common Council) to adopt the resolution. Carried.

A Resolution honoring John VanLieshout for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill – No. 2728:

WHEREAS, John Van Lieshout is retiring as Fifth District Alderperson of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, John Van Lieshout has served as an alderperson for the City of Merrill since April 17, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the personal commitment and unselfish dedication John Van Lieshout has put forth has contributed greatly to the growth, progress and stability of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill offers a solid and stable community environment for all of its citizens in part because of John Van Lieshout's dedicated service; and,

WHEREAS, John Van Lieshout's cheerful manner and hard work will be missed at the Merrill City Hall;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 19th day of April, 2022, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service John Van Lieshout has given to the City of Merrill and commend him for those years of service.

Motion (Common Council) to adopt the resolution. Carried.

12. Mayor's Communications – Mayor Hass announced:
 - High School Job Fair on May 4
 - City of Merrill still recruiting for lifeguards for Bierman Aquatic Center
 - Volunteers are needed for Special Olympics on May 14

13. Motion (Lupton/Rick) to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Carried.