



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES • TUESDAY APRIL 14, 2020

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Steve Osness	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Present	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

Note: This was a "virtual" meeting, with the majority of attendees, including all eight alderspersons, participating "remotely".

2. Silent Prayer

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

5. Public Comment Period

Mayor Woellner announced that the public comment for this meeting would be held "open" until 4:30 P.M. on Friday, April 17th. People can submit comments to their aldersperson, Mayor Woellner or City Administrator Johnson.

There was no public comment at the meeting.

Note: The following written public comments were received. LaDonna Fermanich commended the Common Council for being proactive in addressing potential financial aspects related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Paula Osness thanked Alderman Hass and other Common Council members for their support of Merrill citizens. She urged the Mayor and City Administrator to contact state officials to request that small businesses be allowed to open.

6. Minutes of previous Common Council meeting(s):

1. Minutes of March 10, 2020 meeting

Motion (Norton/Osness) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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7. Financial Reports:

1. Revenue & Expense Report for the period ending March 31, 2020

Motion (Norton/Rick) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Review and discuss 2019 Room Tax Reports

Motion (Norton/Russell) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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3. Fiscal Status Report - 2020 Capital. At the April 14th Common Council meeting, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Scheduling of upcoming meetings was discussed.

Mayor Woellner announced that the start time for the Tuesday, April 21st Common Council Reorganizational meeting is changed from 7:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. He also announced that a Committee of the Whole meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 22nd.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to refer the Fiscal Status Report on 2020 Capital to the April 22nd Committee of the Whole meeting.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COMM. OF THE WHOLE
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Next: 4/22/2020 6:00 PM

8. General Agenda Items:

1. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Gregory D. Hartwig, 30 years (Police Department)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Gregory Hartwig.

9. Mayor's Proclamations:

1. Declaration of a State of Emergency for the City of Merrill.

Whereas, a novel strain of the coronavirus, named COVID-19 has spread throughout numerous countries including the United States; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

Whereas the United States Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has declared a Public Health Emergency; and

Whereas, the conditions created by the proclamation of these public health emergencies pose a continuing and substantial threat to the public order, life, health and safety of the citizens of the City of Merrill; and

Whereas, the City of Merrill in cooperation with the local, state and federal governmental entities desires to take action to prevent exposure to and spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus; and;

Whereas, during periods of emergency, the City Administrator and Mayor, shall have the authority to issue all such orders as they deem necessary to protect public life, health and safety including, but not limited to, carrying out the following duties:

- (1) The power to direct emergency response activities by City departments.
- (2) The power to execute contracts for the emergency construction or repair of public improvements, when the delay of advertising and public bidding might cause serious loss or injury to the City.
- (3) The power to purchase or lease goods and services deemed necessary to the City's emergency response or for the repair of City facilities, or both.
- (4) The power to lease real property, or structures, or both, that are deemed necessary for the continued operation of City government.
- (5) The power to promulgate rules and orders to implement and clarify the proclamation exercising emergency power.
- (6) The power to delegate any or all of these duties to appropriate City personnel.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the directive made by Governor Tony Evers on March 17, 2020, I direct as follows:

That the initial period for this emergency shall be sixty (60) days from the date of this Declaration.

That those City Officials/Department Heads who have charge and control of city facilities are hereby authorized and directed to take such actions, including but not limited to, the rescheduling and cancelling of events and limiting public access to portions of their facilities, as they deem reasonable and necessary to prevent exposure to and/or spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

That actions taken pursuant to the grant of authority contained in this ordinance shall be subject to ratification, alteration, modification or repeal by the Common Council as soon as that body can meet, but the subsequent action taken by the Common Council shall not affect the prior validity of the action taken.

THIS DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY is effective this 20th day of March 2020.

Motion (Norton/Russell) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

2. Executive Declaration relating to City of Merrill Policy for employees with symptoms of or exposure of Novel Covid-19 Flu (Coronavirus).

WHEREAS, on the 20th day of March, 2020, the undersigned Mayor of Merrill proclaimed a State of Emergency pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§323.11 and 323.14(4)(b) ("Proclamation"); and

WHEREAS, such Proclamation, among other things provides that it is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, and protection of the City to temporarily suspend or modify applicable ordinances or resolutions to allow immediate response to meet the needs of the extraordinary existing conditions for as long as the emergency public health emergency remains in effect in this state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services, under the authority of Wis. Stat. §252.02(3) and (6) and powers vested pursuant to Executive Order #72, and at the direction of Governor Tony Evers has issued Emergency Order #12 Safer at Home Order ("Safer at Home Order") on March 24, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump signed, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA"); and,

WHEREAS, the passage of the FFCRA and issuance of the Safer at Home Order, as well as other considerations important to the maintenance of municipal services to citizens and protection of City employees, require modifications to be made to the Original Policy, the undersigned hereby declares that the Original Policy is modified and superseded by the attached revised Policy for Employees with Symptoms or Exposure of Novel COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Mayor Woellner reported that, after the meeting packet had been distributed, the policy language has undergone several changes. City Administrator Johnson then provided verbal information on all the changes.

Note: The entire policy is not included in these minutes, but is available for inspection in the Clerk/Treasurer office at City Hall.

Motion (Norton/Hass) to approve, including the amendments presented at the meeting by City Administrator Johnson.

RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED

10. Board of Public Works:

1. Lease agreement with Wisconsin Department of Administration for Wisconsin Department of Corrections (Probation and Parole) to lease space at City Hall. Mayor Woellner is bringing this amended agreement directly to the Common Council.

Motion (Hass/Norton) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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11. Personnel and Finance Committee:

1. Consider budget amendment to approve \$70,000 for street lighting for the M2020-01 Grand Ave. project. At the April 14th Common Council meeting, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Motion (Osness/Rick) to refer to the April 22nd Committee of the Whole meeting.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COMM. OF THE WHOLE	Next: 4/22/2020 6:00 PM
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12. Placing Committee Reports on File:

1. Place the following committee report(s) on file: Airport Commission, Committee of the Whole, Festival Grounds Committee, Library Board, Parks & Recreation Commission and Personnel & Finance Committee.

Motion (Norton/Rick) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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13. Ordinances:

None.

14. Resolutions:

None.

15. Mayor's Communications

Mayor Woellner thanked everyone who helped with the April 7th election.

16. Adjournment

Motion (Norton/Russell) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:35 P.M.