



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES • TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Remote	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Remote	
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	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

2. Invocation by Rev. Laverne Larson, Christ United Methodist Church

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

5. Public Comment Period

Bill Bialecki provided information related to state grants available for businesses.

Brad Becker spoke in favor of funding for the Lincoln County Fair.

Heather O'Neill gave her opinion on the recent demolition of the T.B. Scott Mansion and the related investigation.

LaDonna Fermanich gave a status report on a group of concerned citizens of which she is a member.

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

1. Minutes of March 9, 2021 meeting and March 24, 2021 meeting

Motion (Osness/Blake) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. Financial Reports:

1. Revenue & Expense Report for Period Ending March 31, 2021

Motion (Osness/Weix) to approve the Revenue and Expense Report.

RESULT: APPROVED

2. Review and discuss 2020 Room Tax Reports

Finance Director Unertl reviewed the reports and answered questions. No action was necessary, requested or taken.

8. General Agenda Items:

1. Presentation from CGI on free banner program

Information was in the meeting packet. City Administrator Johnson provided additional verbal information.

Motion (Osness/Van Lieshout) to approve the banner program, contingent upon the State of Wisconsin allowing the installation of banners on City roads that are also state highways.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Jon L. Leiskau, 20 years (Fire Department)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Jon Lieskau.

Corey A. Bennett, 15 years (Police Department)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Corey Bennett.

9. Board of Public Works:

1. Consider bids for the M-2021-02 on Superior Street Extension and St. Paul Street Surface Project. The Board of Public Works recommends approving the low bid of \$279,356.55 from Merrill Gravel & Construction Co.

Motion (Van Lieshout/Rick) to approve the bid from Merrill Gravel and Construction Co.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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10. Health and Safety Committee:

1. Change of Agent application from Krist Oil Company, naming Amy J. Sazalar the Agent for Krist Food Mart #88, 105 S. Center Avenue. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approval.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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11. Personnel and Finance Committee:

1. Consider reinstating full pay for Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund. The Personnel and Finance Committee recommends reinstating full pay (\$1,000 per month) for the Festival Grounds Manager position, effective April 15th, 2021.

Motion (Has/Sabatke) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

2. Consider funding request (\$5,000) from the Lincoln County Fair Association. This request was discussed at the March 23rd, 2021 Personnel and Finance Committee meeting, and was then informally referred to the Common Council.

Motion (Hass/Russell) to refer to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

RESULT: REFERRED TO COMM. OF THE WHOLE

3. Consider funding request (\$7,500) from Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo. Alderman Hass is bringing this request directly to the Common Council.

Motion (Hass/Russell) to refer to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

RESULT: REFERRED TO COMM. OF THE WHOLE

12. Redevelopment Authority:

1. Consider \$125,000 TID No. 11 budget amendment to facilitate construction of Parkview Drive. The Redevelopment Authority recommends approval.

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Mark Weix, Steve Sabatke

AYES: Russell, Hass, Blake, Osness, Van Lieshout, Rick, Weix, Sabatke

13. Placing Committee Reports on File:

1. Consider placing the following committee reports on file: Airport Commission, Board of Public Works, City Plan Commission, Committee of the Whole/Redevelopment Authority (Joint Meeting), Health & Safety Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, Library Board, Merrill Enrichment Center Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Personnel & Finance Committee, Redevelopment Authority, Transit Commission and Water & Sewage Disposal Committee.

Motion (Russell/Van Lieshout) to place on file.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

14. Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article IV, Section 2-81, to create Marketing and Communications Committee. The Committee of the Whole recommends approval.

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a first reading by synopsis.

Motion (Blake/Sabatke) to suspend the rules and give the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only. Carried.

City Attorney Hayden give the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to refer the ordinance to the next Common Council meeting.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL	Next: 5/11/2021 6:00 PM
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15. Resolutions:

1. A Resolution authorizing a Development Agreement by and between the City and Merrill Social and Sick Benefit Society (Resolution #2680).

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Merrill created Tax Increment District (TID) No. 8 on September 27, 2011 and the development site is within TID No. 8; and,

WHEREAS, Merrill Social & Sick Benefit Society has proposed a commercial building addition; 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 property tax will be generated and new commercial space created from this development project; and,

WHEREAS, Merrill Social & Sick Benefit Society has negotiated the development agreement to provide for an incentive payment not to exceed \$30,000 for the commercial addition project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 13th day of April, 2021, that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the development agreement by and between the City of Merrill and Merrill Social & Sick Benefit Society and to facilitate the implementation thereof.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. A Resolution authorizing a Development Agreement by and between the City and JJ Premier LLC (Phase 2) (Resolution #2681).

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Merrill created Tax Increment District (TID) No. 11 on May 10, 2016 and the development site is within TID No. 11; and,

WHEREAS, JJ Premier LLC has proposed construction of up to fifteen new single-family homes through a phased construction timeframe including new homes under construction on Edgewater Drive; 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 property tax will be generated and new residential homes created from this development project; and,

WHEREAS, JJ Premier LLC has negotiated the development agreement to provide for transfer of property ownership of five lots on Parkview Drive and an incentive payment not to exceed \$50,000 to facilitate Phase 2 of the single-family home development project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 13th day of April, 2021, that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the development agreement by and between the City of Merrill and JJ Premier LLC and to facilitate the implementation thereof.

Motion (Van Lieshout/Osness) to approve.

Motion (Van Lieshout/Osness) to amend by changing the number of lots from four to five (fifth paragraph of the resolution). Motion to amend carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED
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3. A Resolution adopting the Merrill Safe Routes to School Plan (Resolution #2682).

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill supports policies and programs that focus on health and wellness and healthier community environments; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of children is of highest concern to the citizens of the City of Merrill; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School efforts help remove barriers to walking and biking to school, and reduce traffic congestion and speed in and around schools; and

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill has developed a Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Plan for the dual purposes of serving as a guide for future programming and infrastructure improvements (the 5 E's of education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation), and in order to be eligible for various funding programs including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP grant); and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) requires, that in order to be eligible for funding of needed projects, municipalities to either create or amend their SRTS Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill had members/staff on the SRTS Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the SRTS Task Force collected data, reviewed the results, and provided direction for SRTS Plan development, and then incorporated those results into the SRTS Plan; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 14th day of April, 2021, that the City of Merrill hereby adopts Resolution #2682.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Merrill staff is directed to begin implementing this SRTS Plan by coordinating efforts among the two governmental entities who created this plan (City of Merrill and Merrill Area Public School District).

Motion (Russell/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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16. Mayor's Appointments:

Nicole Johnson, Police and Fire Commission, term ending 5-1-2026
Rose Akey, Enrichment Center Committee, term ending 5-1-2022
Sharon Harvey, Enrichment Center Committee, term ending 5-1-2022
Gene Bebel, Enrichment Center Committee, term ending 5-1-2022
Laura Bergtagnoli, Enrichment Center Committee, term ending 5-1-2022
Ald. Stave Hass, Zoning Board of Appeals, term ending 5-1-2024
Ron Burrow Zoning Board of Appeals (alt.), term ending 5-1-2024
Ald. Rick Blake, Transit Commission, term ending 5-1-2024
Katie Swope, Transit Commission, term ending 5-1-2024
Pete Koblitz, Community Development Committee, term ending 5-1-2024
Michael Caylor, Historic Preservation Committee, term ending 5-1-2024

Motion (Van Lieshout/Rick) to approve all appointees as presented. Carried, with Alderman Hass and Alderman Blake abstaining.

17. Mayor's Communications

Mayor Woellner commented that he is pleased that, in spite of numerous challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City continues to get things done and is moving forward.

18. Adjournment

Motion (Van Lieshout/Rick) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:07 P.M.