

CITY OF MERRILL

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022 - MINUTES

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Alderpersons Steve Hass, Steve Osness, and Rick Blake

Others Present: Alderpersons Paul Russell (Remote), Steve Sabatke, and Mark Weix, Clerk-Treasurer Staff Jill Bostrom and Stephanie Pagel, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk Kathy Unertl, IT Manager Dustin Brown, Representatives of Merrill Firefighters Local 847, Attorney Bob Burns from Davis Kueltau, LaDonna Fermanich, Gus Caylor, and Merrill Productions video operator

1. Chair Hass called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. Vouchers – February - Motion (Osness/Blake) to approve. Carried.
3. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Election Security – Hass stated that he had heard some concerns about election security. Potential to use Police Officers was mentioned.

City of Merrill logs in Absentee Ballots as mailed and then returned into the State Voter System. Absentee Ballots are secured in the City vault. An Absentee Voter log report and the sealed Absentee Ballots are taken to the polls.

Jill Bostrom and Stephanie Pagel showed how the memory cards and ballot bags are sealed. IT Manager Dustin Brown tested the ballot counting units and sealed on Tuesday, March 29th.

Unertl reported that City of Merrill has always had two election workers take the jump drive, ballots, and the election suitcase to the Lincoln County Administrative Services Building after the polls close.

Osness asked about network connection. The election ballot counter units are not connected to the Internet.

2. Consider waiver of \$448.64 of Interest and Penalty on 2021 Tax Bill for PIN 251-3106-142-0099 (FVZ, LLC)

Unertl highlighted the importance of having a local stakeholder now owning this manufacturing building and adjacent office building.

Motion (Blake/Osness) to waive the interest and penalty. Carried.

3. .Review and discuss existing Affirmative Action Ordinance

Committee members reviewed the existing policy.. No action taken.

4. Monthly Reports: The reports from the following were in the meeting packet.

1. Municipal Court
2. Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk Unertl
3. City Attorney Hayden
4. City Administrator Johnson
5. Fire Department Callback Reports – February
6. Consider placing monthly reports on file - Motion (Osness/Blake) to put on file.
Carried.

5. Next regular meeting – Tuesday, April 26th at 5:15 p.m.

6. Public Comment Period – None

7. Chair Hass read the following:

Closed Session: The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conductions other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to discuss potential grievance from the International Association of Firefighters Local 847.

Closed Session: The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conductions other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to discuss status of negotiations with the International Association of Firefighters Local 847.

Closed Session: The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85 (1) (c) and (f) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of an employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction and to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories of disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, to continue review of recently reported incident related to City employee(s) and to review the personnel file and status of a City employee

Motion (Blake/Osness) second to move into Closed Session. Carried at 5:32 p.m. on roll call vote.

There was discussion on above Firefighters Local 847 issues. Motion (Blake/Osness) to deny the grievance. Carried.

City Staff were excused for the City employee matter being handled by Attorney Bob Burns from Davis Kuelthau.

8. Meeting adjourned about 6:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Kathy Unertl, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk with assistance from City Attorney Tom Hayden