

**CITY OF MERRILL
PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, March 28, 2023 - MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Russell, Alderperson Fermanich, Alderperson Caylor

Others Present: Mayor Hass, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Unertl, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Police Chief Bennett, Fire Chief Klug, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Library Director Ollhoff, Alderperson Sabatke, Alderperson Blake (remote), Alderperson Weix, Alderperson Lupton and Merrill Productions video operator

I. Call to Order – Chairperson Russell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Vouchers –February

Alderperson Caylor motioned to approve the February vouchers. Alderperson Fermanich seconded the motion for discussion.

III. Minutes from previous meeting(s):

A motion was made by Alderperson Fermanich to approve the February 28th meeting minutes. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried.

IV. Agenda Items for Consideration:

1. Consider Finance Director revised proposal to balance 2022 budget and update on Fund Transfers

Finance Director Unertl explained the revised proposal and answered questions from the committee.

Following a lengthy discussion, Alderperson Russell made a motion to use the remaining ARPA funds in addition to \$50,509 from the General Fund to apply to the 2022 budget deficit and retain \$77,000, of ARPA funds, for the 2024 re valuation and send to the April 11th Common Council meeting for approval. Alderperson Fermanich seconded. The motion carried on a 2/1 vote. Alderperson Caylor voted no.

2. Consider action from the March 27th Health and Safety meeting regarding pool fills and potential rate increases.

The minutes from the Health and Safety meeting were handed out to the committee members before the meeting with the motion wording. This item was forwarded to the Personnel and Finance committee meeting without recommendation from Health and Safety.

Health and Safety Chair Weix responded to the Health and Safety outcome and explained the discussion from the March 27th meeting.

Following discussion, Alderperson Caylor motioned to table this item. The motion died for lack of a second.

Alderson Caylor made a motion to disapprove the rate increases. Alderson Fermanich seconded for discussion. Following discussion, Alderson Fermanich withdrew her second.

Alderson Caylor made a motion to refer this to the April Personnel and Finance meeting to evaluate the program of filling pools with a sub point to discuss the potential increase if needed. Alderson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

3. Consider writing off 2022 personal property tax bills for the out-of-business businesses.

Alderson Caylor made a motion to write off the 2022 personal property tax bills for John & Kim's Investments \$47.01, Shear Essentials \$47.01, 7 Oaks Bodyworks \$47.01 and Grecian Delight \$47.01, out-of-business businesses. Alderson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

V. Monthly Reports:

Chair Russell stated all reports were included in the packet and asked if there were any questions from the committee members. There were no questions.

Alderson Caylor made a motion to place all the monthly reports on file. Alderson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

VI. Public Comment

Steve Sabatke – spoke about the pool fills. He stated the increase in rates would probably make the pool fills go away in his opinion.

VII. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 25 at 6:00 PM

VIII. Closed Session:

City Attorney Hayden read the closed session language.

Alderson Caylor made a motion to go into closed session. Alderson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried on a 3/0 roll call vote. The committee entered into closed session at 6:48 PM.

The committee discussed the employment and medical history of a city employee to consider a request for unpaid leave of absence. They also received an updated status of litigation initiated by a former employee.

In closed session, a motion was made by Alderson Caylor to allow an additional 8 weeks of unpaid leave. Alderson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

IX. Reconvene in Open Session:

The committee did not reconvene in open session.

X. Adjournment

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried. The committee adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm – City Clerk