

CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 - MINUTES

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Alderpersons Paul Russell, Steve Hass, and Mark Weix,

Others Present: Alderperson Rick Blake, Health Officer Dr. Greg Gill, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk Kathy Unertl (remote), Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Utility Superintendent Gabe Steinagel, IT Manager Dustin Brown, and Merrill Productions video operator

1. Chair Russell called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. COVID-19 Reports through March 2nd, 2022 from Lincoln County Health Department were in the agenda packet.
3. Review and discussion of Health & Safety Committee including potential Physician involvement

Dr. Greg Gill attended the Health & Safety Committee meeting. Dr. Gill has been the City's Health Officer since 1988. There is potential for additional public health issues. Committee members requested historical information on City compensation.

Fire Chief Klug commented that he would be bringing proposal to compensate the City's EMS Medical Director due to Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) fees related to purchase of medications for the ambulances.

4. Update and discussion on PFAS in public water systems

Background information on PFAS was include in the agenda packet. Akey and Steinagel reported that the City Utility is waiting for determination of Federal EPA testing levels.

5. Liquor License – Temporary Class “B” – Issued by Deputy City Clerk/Police Chief for Merrill Historical Society for March 26 Wrestling Event at Bierman Building Expo Center

The License was included in the agenda packet for information.

6. Liquor Licensing – Review and discuss Ordinance Section 4-39 regarding days of operation for a licensed premise

Police Chief Bennett wanted to highlight the existing City Ordinance that requires 150 days of operation within the license period year before the annual renewal timeframe.

Committee consensus to leave at 150 days.

7. Review and discuss Fire Department 2021 Annual Report

Fire Chief Klug highlighted the record Ambulance-EMS call volume. EMS Calls are about 90% of the Department's emergency responses, The Annual Report was included in the meeting agenda packet.

8. Nuisance Complaints & Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints were in the agenda packet. Ashbeck provided update on status.

2. Vouchers – Motion (Hass/Weix) to approve. Carried.

9. Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes from February 28th - Motion (Weix/Hass) to approve. Carried.

Reports were in the agenda packet and briefly highlighted from the following:

2. Monthly Reports – Fire Chief Klug – There is pending Wisconsin Legislative Bill that could result in increased revenues to Ambulance-EMS providers.

3. Monthly Reports – Police Chief Bennett

4. Monthly Reports – Lincoln County Humane Society for January

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file – Motion (Hass/Weix) to place on file. Carried.

10. Next meeting on Monday, April 25th at 5:15 p.m.

11. Public Comment Period – none.

12. Motion (Hass/Weix) to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. Carried.

Minutes prepared by: Kathy Unertl, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk