

**CITY OF MERRILL  
COMMON COUNCIL  
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 MINUTES  
Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers 7:00 p.m.**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following elected officials, department heads and residents were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Department Heads present: Mayor Hass, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Unertl, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Police Chief Bennett, Library Director Ollhoff, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Street Superintendent Bonack, and Enrichment Center Director Mrachek. Park & Recreation Director Wendorf, Fire Chief Klug were excused.

Others in attendance: Pastor Mike Zahn, John Kragenbrink, Clyde Nelson, Kendra Osness, Stephanie and Dave Springborn, Desiree and Shawn Alexander, Clark All Aboard Rep, Todd and Renea Frederick and Merrill Media Communications.

- II. **Invocation** – Pastor Mike Zahn – United Methodist Church

- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

- IV. **Roll Call** was taken and the following alderperson's were in attendance:

|                                        |         |
|----------------------------------------|---------|
| Paul Russell – First District          | Excused |
| Michael “Gus” Caylor – Second District | Present |
| Nathan Meyer – Third District          | Present |
| LaDonna Fermanich – Fourth District    | Present |
| Dick Lupton – Fifth District           | Present |
| Mike Rick - Sixth District             | Remote  |
| Mark Weix – Seventh District           | Present |
| Steve Sabatke – Eighth District        | Present |

- V. **Public Comment** – Clyde Nelson, 709 Cottage St – Represented the Chamber, gave a Thank You to the City, Chief Bennett, Chief Klug, Street Superintendent Bonack and all city staff who worked to get everything ready for the Christmas Parade. He also thanked local businesses and residents who helped getting the tree ready.

- VI. **Minutes of previous Common Council meeting:**  
Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to place the minutes from November 14, 2023 on file.  
Aldersperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

- VII. **Revenue and Expense Reports:**  
Aldersperson Rick made a motion to approve the November Revenue and Expense reports.  
Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

- VIII. **General Agenda Items:**  
1. Consider the employment agreement of the City Administrator/Public Works Director/City Engineer. Mayor Hass asked to revise the agreement with the addition of Zoning/Building

Inspector under City Personnel. City Attorney Hayden said the revision would be added. Alderperson Rick motioned to approve the agreement with the revision. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

2. Consider approving the adjustment of 2024 Utility Service Fees – Utility Operations Manager Steinagel clarified the service fees. Alderperson Meyer made a motion to approve the 2024 Utility Service Fees. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

**IX. Health & Safety:**

1. Consider a change of agent for Krist Oil Company to Dana Wojciechowski. Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve the change of agent. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

2. Consider an alcohol beverage license application for Nimrods LLC. Alderperson Meyer made a motion to approve the alcohol beverage license application. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

3. Consider an alcohol beverage license application for Clark All Aboard, LLC. Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the alcohol beverage license application. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

4. Consider a temporary picnic license for Merrill Youth Softball Association (aka Merrill Fastpitch) on January 13, 2024 at the MARC in conjunction with a January Jamboree event.

Kendra Osness was asked about the event. Following a brief discussion, Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the temporary picnic license. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried.

**X. Place Committee Reports on file:**

Alderperson Rick made a motion to place the committee reports on file. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

**XI. Ordinances:**

1. City Attorney Hayden read the Ordinance amending Chapter 38, Division 2, Section 38-152 Septic/holding tank and leachate rate. Alderperson Caylor made a motion to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried. City Attorney Hayden gave the Ordinance the second and third readings by title only.

Alderperson Rick made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried on a 7/0 roll call vote.

2. City Attorney Hayden read the Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article III, Section 2-56 Elections. Alderperson Caylor made a motion to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried. City Attorney Hayden gave the Ordinance the second and third readings by title only.

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried on a 7/0 roll call vote.

**XII. Resolutions:**

City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION BY WINDS & PARADOX, INC. TO WEDC FUNDS FOR A BUILDING RENOVATION AT 419 WEST MAIN STREET, MERRILL, WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, Winds & Paradox, Inc. is the owner of the building located at 419 West Main St. in Merrill, Wisconsin. The business is engaged, among other things, in the business of renovating, updating, and maintaining buildings, constructing and facilitating apartments and commercial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that funds be procured for that project, including a grant applied for by the City of Merrill for Winds & Paradox, Inc. through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation ( WEDC); and

WHEREAS, this project will provide needed housing and commercial space; and

WHEREAS, this project will utilize a previously vacant building and add to the City's tax base; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used to renovate, update, and maintain the property and improve and enhance the building at 419 West Main Street and the City of Merrill will act as a pass through agent for funds received, will approve regular progress reports and ensure that annual audits are completed; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023, that the City of Merrill hereby supports speedy approval of the grant application by the City of Merrill for Winds & Paradox, Inc. to the WEDC in furtherance of this project to provide needed housing and commercial space, and further, wishes WHEREAS, Winds & Paradox, Inc. the best of luck in their endeavor, and further urges WEDC to expeditiously handle the grant application, approval, and related matters

Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to approve the Resolution. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried. Aldersperson Fermanich recused herself from voting on the Resolution.

City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN AND WINDS AND PARADOX, INC. (DBA WINDS PARADOX)**

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, Winds and Paradox, Inc. has proposed renovation of the 419 West Main Street vacant building; 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, expanded property tax will be generated, affordable residential rental units developed, and increased commercial activity generated to the City's west side from this development project; and,

WHEREAS, Winds and Paradox, Inc. has negotiated the development agreement to facilitate the redevelopment project and TID No. 8 cash development incentive of \$80,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023, that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the development agreement by and between the City of Merrill and Winds and Paradox, Inc. and to facilitate the implementation thereof.

Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to approve the Resolution. Aldersperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried with Aldersperson Fermanich recusing herself from voting.

**XIII. Mayor's Appointments:**

1. Gary Schwartz replacing Kathy Lezotte on Tourism Commission term to expire 05/01/2024
2. Election Officials for 2024-2025

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to accept the Mayor's appointments. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

**XIV. Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Hass read the following communications:

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sign up for Christmas Joy outreach program, meals for those alone for the Holiday's. Register by December 14 by calling 715-536-4226.

Cell phone training at the Enrichment Center, December 14 from 1:00-2:00 pm – call to sign-up  
The Enrichment Center has an Endowment Fund. Informational brochures are available at the Center.

City Hall will be closed Monday, December 25 and Tuesday December 26 and Monday, January 1 for the Holiday's.

The Lt. Governor will be in town December 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:45 – 3:45 to tour our downtown and promote shopping small businesses.

Food Truck-a-Palooza is coming to Merrill, May 18, 2024

**XV. Adjournment:**

Aldersperson Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

The complete Ordinance is available on the City of Merrill website: <https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/>

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori L Anderson-Malm – City Clerk