



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY MARCH 22, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:17 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	

Others in attendance (either in-person or remotely): Mayor Derek Woellner, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Information Technology Manager Dustin Brown, Alderman Mike Rick, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Alderman Steve Hass, Allen Shidell and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was in attendance to videotape the meeting.

II. COVID-19 Reports

Alderman Russell reported that he has not received any COVID-19 update reports from either Lincoln County Health Department Director Shelley Hersil or Lincoln County Emergency Management Director September Murphy. Lincoln County has changed from the "HIGH" category of COVID-19 cases to "MEDIUM", which is good news. Alderman Russell noted that COVID-19 vaccine information is available on the Lincoln County website, and he requested that a link to this information be placed on the City website.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet. The one case on the report has a April 12th court date.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that he has received some phone calls related to nuisance complaints, but nothing official.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

1. Change of Agent application from Krist Oil Company, naming Amy J. Sazalar the Agent for Krist Food Mart #88, 105 S. Center Avenue.

A copy of the application was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett has no concerns with application as submitted.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:**APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL****Next: 4/13/2021 6:00 PM**

V. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Review of and potential action(s) on existing liquor license for Allen Shidell for El Mariachi, 608 East Second Street.

Allen Shidell, the licensee for El Mariachi, requested floor privileges to speak. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Shidell reported that El Mariachi is planning a “soft” opening on Thursday, March 24th. Consideration is also being given to opening a Mexican store. Mr. Shidell reported that the bar and restaurant business is “not good” currently. To start, they are planning on having the bar open 4-5 hours a day, 5 days a week.

No action was taken.

2. Review Executive Summary Ambulance Transfer Report

The Executive Summary Report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reminded everyone that the ambulance transfers generate revenue for Lincoln County. The ambulance service is managed by the Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Klug then reported that the Fire Department will no longer pursue ambulance transfers outside Lincoln County. However, they will be allowed the flexibility to take non-emergent outside transfers upon specific patient requests.

Alderman Russell requested that Fire Chief Klug continue to monitor this situation and provide periodic updates.

No action was taken.

3. A Resolution adopting the Merrill Safe Routes to School Plan. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approval.

The proposed resolution was in the meeting packet.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) has no issues with the plan as prepared. The school board has approved the plan.

Alderman Blake stated that he supports the plan. He said that it is not a mandate, but more of a planning tool.

Alderman Weix stated that he also supports the plan, adding that it will benefit many people for many reasons.

Police Chief Bennett commented that the plan presents numerous opportunities for the City.

Alderman Russell suggested that it could be beneficial to have Health and Safety Committee representation/participation related to the plan. He suggested periodic Health and Safety Committee review and evaluation of the plan.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve the resolution.

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 4/13/2021 6:00 PM
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VI. Minutes & Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of the following 2021 meetings: January 25, February 2 and February 22

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

One typo in the January 25th, 2021 minutes was noted. City Clerk Heideman requested that he be allowed to correct it. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve the minutes, including the correction to the January 25th, 2021 meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reviewed the highlights of the report, including information on two recent fires.

Approximately 60% of the Fire Department personnel have requested and received COVID-19 vaccination(s).

The new Fire Inspector has completed training and has begun conducting fire inspections. He is doing a good job.

The Fire Department currently has an adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

3. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett summarized information related to ongoing training.

A new officer will be starting work in April.

Two officers are currently off work due to injuries.

Police Chief Bennett answered questions related to the report.

The Police Department currently has an adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society (None submitted yet this month)

To date, no monthly report has been submitted.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Blake/Weix) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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VII. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VIII. Public Comment Period

City Administrator Johnson provided verbal information on the latest COVID-19 case reports.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Blake/Weix) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:12 P.M.