



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES • TUESDAY MARCH 9, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Remote	
Steve Osness	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Remote	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Remote	

Other meeting attendees (either in-person or remotely) included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Transit Director Brad Brummond, I/T Manager Dustin Brown, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Tina Scott, Mike Ravn and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Agenda items for consideration

1. Review and discuss Strategic Plan issues / goals

A copy of the Strategic Plan was in the meeting packet.

Discussion began on Strategic Issue #3: How can Merrill create an acceptable balance of taxes and municipal services? Mayor Woellner noted that he has introduced the idea of a "budget" ordinance which would establish parameter(s) for yearly tax increases, possibility using the consumer price index as a guide. Mayor Woellner and Alderman Hass will be working on the ordinance before it is presented for consideration.

Capital project planning and funding was then discussed, followed by discussion on "user utilities" and other taxes.

Mayor Woellner stated that he favors creating a utility for garbage and recycling services. Alderman Sabatke speculated that, in the future, it will be more difficult to dispose of recycling.

No action was taken.

2. Consider an Ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article IV, Section 2-155, to allow two non-residents to be appointed to and serve on the Merrill Housing Authority this item was referred from the February 9th 2021 Common Council meeting

The proposed ordinance was in the meeting packet.

At the January 12th, 2021 Common Council meeting, this ordinance was introduced and given three readings. At that meeting, a motion was then made and approved to refer the ordinance to the next Common Council meeting.

At the February 9th, 2021 Common Council meeting, a motion was made and approved to refer the ordinance to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion (Osness/Blake) to refer the ordinance to the March 9th, 2021 Common Council meeting. Note: The ordinance was already on the March 9th, 2021 Common Council agenda. Motion carried.

3. Discuss creation of new Standing Committee: Marketing & Communications

Based on discussions at previous meetings, there seemed to be a consensus that, if a Marketing and Communications Committee is created, it should be a “standing” committee. Only alderpersons would be voting members of the committee.

Mayor Woellner stated that he hoped that creation and approval of a new City flag would be one of the first things the committee would “tackle” after inception.

Motion (Russell/Blake) to refer to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried.

4. Discuss amending composition of standing committees from three alderpersons to four

This agenda item was not discussed, but will be on the agenda of a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Rick) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:59 P.M.