



CITY OF MERRILL

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES • MONDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

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

Other attendees (either in-person or remotely) included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Information Technology Manager Dustin Brown, Alderman Mike Rick, Alderman Steve Hass, Lincoln County Emergency Management Director September Murphy, Michael Caylor and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. COVID-19 Reports:

Alderman Russell reported that he has had discussions with Lincoln County Emergency Management Director September Murphy and Lincoln County Health Department Director Shelley Hersil regarding the planning of upcoming 2021 summer/fall events. The Lincoln County Health Department guidelines will be used when planning these events.

Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Murphy provided a verbal status report on the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). She also gave an update report on COVID-19 vaccinations in the area.

City Administrator Johnson reported that all City facilities have been reopened. Masking and social distancing protocols are still in effect.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that the one case on the report is "on hold", awaiting the court date.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

None.

V. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Consider letter from Class B licensees regarding beer/liquor license fees for 2021-2022, in light of the economic impact of COVID-19.

On May 13th, 2020, the Common Council adopted Ordinance #2020-08. This ordinance reduced, for the 2020-2021 license year only, the fee for a Class "B" license (\$100 to zero) and reduced the fee for a "Class B" license (\$500 to \$50). This reduction was done in light of the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A letter signed by 13 "Class B" and Class "B" licensees was in the meeting packet. The letter requested that, due to the continuing negative economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on their businesses, a reduction in "Class B" and Class "B" license fees again be considered for the 2021-2022 license year.

Alderman Russell requested that the rules be suspended to allow floor privileges to anyone who wanted to speak on this issue. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Michael Caylor stated that COVID-19 continues to have a negative economic impact, and that a reduction in the license fees would certainly aid these businesses financially.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to decrease, for the 2021-2022 license year, the fee for a Class "B" license from \$100 to zero and the fee for a "Class B" license from \$500 to \$50.

RESULT: APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL
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Next: 3/9/2021 6:00 PM

VI. Monthly Reports:

1. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reported that the Fire Department is increasingly using social media to share information with the public.

The new Fire Inspector position has been filled, and it is anticipated that fire inspections will resume in March.

More than half of the staff have received their COVID-19 vaccinations.

The Fire Department provided assistance at a recent fire.

Fire Chief Klug answered a question on response times.

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

2. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett reported that the new officer, Bryan Allen, has started work and is doing well.

Two retirements are pending. One of the positions vacated by the retirements will be filled in April and the other will be filled in June. Upon Mark Heckendorf's retirement, Janie Jaeger will be replacing him as School Resource Officer.

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

3. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

4. 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, March 22nd, 2021 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VIII. Public Comment Period

None.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Blake/Weix) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:41 P.M.