

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 14, 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, Fire Chief Klug, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek, Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek, Library Director Ollhoff, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Police Chief Bennett, Transit Director Brummond, and Utility Operations Manager Steinagel.

Park & Recreation Director Wendorf was excused

Others in attendance: Pastor Hohman, Al Wix, Val Mindak, Mr. and Mrs. Doering, Matthew Waid and family, Matthew Davis and his mother and Merrill Productions.

- II. **Invocation** by Pastor William Hohman – New Testament Church

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

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

Paul Russell – First District	Present
Michael "Gus" Caylor – Second District	Present
Rick Blake – Third District	Remote
LaDonna Fermanich – Fourth District	Present
Dick Lupton – Fifth District	Present
Mike Rick - Sixth District	Present
Mark Weix – Seventh District	Present
Steve Sabatke – Eighth District	Present

- V. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

- VI. **Minutes of previous Common Council meeting** – January 10, 2023

Aldersperson Russell made a motion to place the minutes from the January 10, 2023 Common Council meeting on file. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

- VII. **Revenue & Expense Reports:**

Aldersperson Fermanich made a motion to refer the December 2022 portion of the Revenue & Expense reports to the February Personnel & Finance meeting for further review. Aldersperson Sabatke seconded. After discussion, the motion carried.

Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to approve the January Revenue & Expense reports. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

- VIII. **Communications and Petitions:**

1. Consider claim filed by Barbara Doering – Aldersperson Russell made a motion to allow floor privileges to Mr. and Mrs. Doering. Aldersperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. and Mrs. Doering approached the Council and spoke on the damages sustained by the check. Alderperson Russell motioned to refer this claim to the February Personnel & Finance meeting. The motion died on the lack of a second.

No motion was made so the claim was deemed denied for lack of a motion.

2. Consider claim filed by Steven Anderson – Alderperson Caylor made a motion to deny the claim per the City’s insurance carrier’s recommendation. Alderperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

3. Consider claim filed by Matthew Davis – Alderperson Sabatke made a motion to allow floor privileges to Matthew Davis’s mother. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Davis stated reasons why she felt the city should allow the claim. After discussion, Alderperson Sabatke made a motion to deny the claim as presented. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

IX. Committee of the Whole:

1. Consider potential action from previous Closed Session regarding the City Administrator position.

No action was taken in Closed Session.

X. City Plan Commission:

1. Discuss and consider the request from the February 7th City Plan meeting.

Additional information was handed out at the meeting. No action was taken.

XI. Board of Public Works:

1. Consider a proposal to place a vending machine in the City Hall Lobby.

Alderperson Sabatke made a motion to approve placing a vending machine in the City Hall Lobby. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

XII. Personnel & Finance Committee:

1. Review and discuss the 2015 Grant Policy.

Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve the 2015 Grant Policy with the new revisions. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

XIII. Health & Safety Committee:

1. Consider a temporary Class “B”/Class”B” retailer’s license for St. Francis Xavier.

Alderperson Rick motioned to approve the temporary Class “B”/Class”B” retailer’s license for St. Francis Xavier. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

2. Consider an Alcohol Beverage Retail license for D’s Dogs.

Alderperson Rick motioned to approve the Alcohol Beverage Retail license for D’s Dogs. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

XIV. General Agenda Items – Employee Recognition:

Peter Borchardt – 25 Years (Police Department)

Jennifer Thorson – 25 Years (Police Department)

Kyle Banaszak – 10 Years (Fire Department)

Geoffrey Hooch – 10 Years (Street Department)

Mayor Hass thanked all the employees for the years of service to the City.

XV. Place Committee Reports on File:

Aldersperson Russell made a motion to place the committee reports on file. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

XVI. Resolutions:

A Resolution Authorizing a Development Agreement by and between the City of Merrill, Wisconsin and JJ Premier LLC (Phase 3)

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Merrill created Tax Increment District (TID) No. 11 on May 10, 2016 and the development site is within TID No. 11; and,

WHEREAS, JJ Premier LLC has proposed construction of up to fifteen new single-family homes through a phased construction timeframe including on Edgewater Drive and Parkview Drive; 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, additional property tax will be generated and new residential homes created from this development project; and,

WHEREAS, JJ Premier LLC has negotiated the development agreement to provide for transfer of property ownership to five lots on Parkview Drive and an incentive payment not to exceed \$50,000 to facilitate Phase 3 of the single-family home development project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 14th day of February, 2023, that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the development agreement by and between the City of Merrill and JJ Premier LLC and to facilitate the implementation thereof.

City Attorney Hayden read the Resolution. Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to accept the development agreement between the City of Merrill and JJ Premier LLC (Phase 3). Aldersperson Blake seconded and the motion carried.

XVII. Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Hass had the following communications:

The Ice Drags will hopefully happen on February 18th and 25th

February 25th the Fire Fighters Gala is at the VFW

February 25th Sleds and Jam

March 11th Wrestling at the Festival Grounds

The Library has an Art Share event happening now

February 21st the Merrill Transit will offer free rides to polling locations from 9am until 2pm

April 29th there will be a Loyalty Day Parade; more details will follow

Reminded people to pick up a new Merrill Visitor's Guide

XVIII.

Adjournment:

Aldersperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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