



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:16 P.M.

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

Others in attendance (either in-person or remote) included: Mayor Derek Woellner, 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, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Alderman Steve Hass, Allen Shidell and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to video tape the meeting.

II. COVID-19 Reports

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that COVID-19 vaccines are scheduled to be administered at the Festival Grounds beginning January 26th. Currently, people 65 years of age and older are eligible for the vaccine. COVID-19 testing continues.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that everything is “on hold” at this time. The case that was due in court has been postponed.

2. Corrected Fire Department Vouchers

The corrected vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug stated that he would answer questions on the corrected vouchers. There were no questions.

3. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug and Police Chief Bennett answered questions related to the vouchers.

Motion (Russell/Weix) to approve the vouchers and the Fire Department corrected vouchers.

RESULT: APPROVED

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

1. Change of Agent application from Applegreen Midwest, LLC, naming Sheri R. Myers the Agent for Express Lane #2328, 702 North Center Avenue. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approval.

Police Chief Bennett has no concerns with the application.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 2/9/2021 6:00 PM
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2. Consider application from CR & KM Enterprise, LLC, for a Class "B" (beer) and a "Class B" (liquor) license for 1-900, 2501 West Main Street, effective February 10, 2021. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approval.

Police Chief Bennett has no concerns with the application.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 2/9/2021 6:00 PM
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3. Review of and potential action(s) on existing liquor license for Allen Shidell for El Mariachi, 608 East Second Street.

On January 12th, 2021, Police Chief Bennett sent a letter to Allen Shidell, owner of El Mariachi, 608 East Second Street. A copy of the letter was in the meeting packet.

The letter explains the City of Merrill ordinances related to liquor licensees being open for at least 150 days during the annual license period. El Mariachi has not met the qualifications, and therefore Police Chief Bennett is requesting a review of the license.

Allen Shidell explained that he has not opened for business yet. One problem is that he has a "hood" that is required over a grill, and he has not been able to locate anyone that can or will install the hood.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to instruct Mr. Shidell to open his business within 60 days, or else face revocation of his "Class B" and Class "B" licenses.

RESULT: APPROVED

V. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Discussion on parking control in the 100 block of N. Pine Street

No information was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett stated that he was unsure of the exact nature of this issue/request. He suggested that it would be discussed at the Department Head and/or City staff level, and ,if necessary, could be considered at a future meeting. There was no objection to his suggestion, so no action was taken.

2. Consider reopening City Hall and other City facilities. On January 12th, 2021, this was referred from the Common Council to the Health and Safety Committee.

Mayor Woellner explained that he is currently using two-week increments when assessing COVID-19 levels and possibilities for reopening City facilities. He plans on some type of reopening when levels drop to either HIGH or MEDIUM. The current level for Lincoln County is VERY HIGH. Lincoln County government currently has all facilities open.

Alderman Russell reported that the Health and Safety Committee is allowed to act as a Board of Health for the City. He suggested that structural changes to the committee be considered, in order to improve addressing of community health and safety issues. Alderman Weix stated his opinion that additional health professionals should be added as Health and Safety Committee members. Alderman Hass asked whether anyone knows if Dr. Gill wants to remain a committee member.

No action was taken at this time.

3. Discussion and recommendation(s) on ambulance transfers outside the service area

Information was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug provided verbal details on the current policies and procedures for ambulance transfers outside the service area. There have been two such calls in the last two weeks. Fire Chief Klug explained that these type of transfers generate revenue for Lincoln County without compromising service.

No action was taken.

VI. Minutes and Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of December 28, 2020 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The monthly report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Klug addressed the highlights of the report.

Due to COVID-19, fire inspections are still postponed. Interviews for the new fire inspector position have been completed, and it is anticipated the position will be filled by March.

The callback report indicates that callback availability is improving.

The Fire Department assisted in a large barn fire recently.

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 addressed the highlights of the report.

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

Vaccinations have started for Police Department personnel who have opted to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Police Chief Bennett is encouraged by the response of staff.

Donated money is being used for expenditures that are not included in the Police Department budget.

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Weix/Blake) to place the monthly reports on file.

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

Monday, February 22nd 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 6:35 P.M.