



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES • TUESDAY JANUARY 14, 2020

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

2. Invocation by Rev. Laverne Larson, Christ United Methodist Church

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

5. Public Comment Period

Tom Mueller spoke against the Second Amendment Sanctuary City resolution, citing his concerns related to the possibility of gun violence.

Gene Bebel spoke against the Second Amendment Sanctuary City resolution.

Casey Hanson spoke against the Second Amendment Sanctuary City resolution.

Ryan Schwartzman stated that he could not support the Second Amendment Sanctuary City resolution as it is written. He also questioned why Mayor Woellner brought the budget policy ordinance directly to the Common Council, without prior committee consideration. He does not support the ordinance as written.

6. Minutes of previous Common Council meeting(s):

1. Minutes of December 10, 2019 meeting

Motion (Norton/Russell) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. Revenue & Expense Reports(s):

1. December report will be considered at February Common Council meeting

Motion (Norton/Russell) to refer the December, 2019 Revenue & Expense Report (when available) to the February 11th, 2020 Common Council meeting.

RESULT: CARRIED

8. General agenda items:

1. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Kathryn M. Seubert, 40 Years (Clerk/Treasurer office)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Kathy Seubert.

9. Health and Safety Committee:

1. Application from Rotary Club of Merrill for a temporary "Class B" (picnic) license to sell wine at the Bell Tower Residence Artisan Showcase at Bell Tower Assisi Hall, 1500 O'Day Street, on Saturday, February 8, 2020. Alderman Hass is bringing this application directly to the Common Council.

Motion (Hass/Rick) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

10. Water and Sewage Disposal Committee:

1. Consider 3.0% adjustment to Water & Sewage Service Fees for 2020. The Water and Sewage Disposal Committee recommends approval.

Motion (Norton/Sabatke) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

11. Placing Committee Reports on File:

1. Consider placing the following committee reports on file: Committee of the Whole, Festival Grounds Committee, Library Board, Merrill Enrichment Center Committee, Redevelopment Authority and Water and Sewage Disposal Committee.

Motion (Norton/Van Lieshout) to place on file.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

12. Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-21, related to policy to limit tax rate increase in annual City budgets. Mayor Woellner is bringing this ordinance directly to the Common Council.

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a first reading by title only and then provided a verbal synopsis of the ordinance.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to refer the ordinance to the Committee of the Whole, to be considered at a meeting to be held after the April election and Common Council reorganization. Motion carried 6-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Russell and Alderman Norton.

13. Resolutions:

1. A Resolution declaring the City of Merrill to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary City (Resolution #2625).

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms is guaranteed as an Individual Right under the Second Amendment to The United States Constitution and under the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, Article 1, Section 25 - "The people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose"

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms for defense of Life, Liberty, and Property is regarded as an Inalienable right by the People of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin and;

WHEREAS, the People of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin derive economic benefit from all safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting, and shooting conducted within the city of Merrill using all types of firearms allowable under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and;

WHEREAS, the Merrill, Wisconsin City Council, has been elected to represent the people of Merrill, Wisconsin and being duly sworn by their oath of Office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and;

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin State Senate and Wisconsin State Assembly, been elected by the people of the state of Wisconsin and been duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Merrill are opposed to any legislation considered by the Wisconsin State Legislature that would infringe the right to keep and bear arms and would ban the possession and use of any firearms, magazines, ammunition or body armor now employed by individual citizens of Merrill, Wisconsin for defense of life, liberty and property or would require a firearms owners ID card or tax the possession of the firearms or ammunition within Merrill Wisconsin;

Be it resolved the people of Merrill, Wisconsin hereby declare the City of Merrill to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary City.

Be it further the resolved the People of Merrill, Wisconsin affirms support of the Merrill Police Department to exercise sound discretion to not enforce against any citizen any unconstitutional firearms laws;

Be it further resolved that the Merrill City Council will not appropriate any funds for any enforcement of unconstitutional laws against the people of Merrill, Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the people of Merrill, Wisconsin, do hereby oppose the enactment of any legislation that would infringe upon the rights of the people to keep and bear arms, and consider such laws to be unconstitutional and beyond lawful legislative authority.

Motion (Norton) to deny the resolution. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion (Osness/Rick) to approve the resolution.

Motion (Norton/Blake) to refer the resolution to the Health and Safety Committee. Motion failed.

Motion to approve the resolution carried 6-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Blake and Alderman Norton.

2. A Resolution honoring Mike Weix for his long-term service to the City of Merrill (Resolution #2626).

WHEREAS, Mike Weix has served the City of Merrill Street Department for 30 years; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by dedication to the best interests of our community and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mike Weix has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow employees by the way in which he has carried out his duties; and

WHEREAS, Mike Weix's skills, and experience, and cheerful manner will be missed at the City of Merrill Street Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 14th day of January, 2020, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Mike Weix has given the City of Merrill Street Department and commends him for those 30 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Mike Weix, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement from the City of Merrill Street Department, and extend our warmest wishes for his enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

Motion (Common Council/Common Council) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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3. A Resolution honoring Kathy Seubert for her long-term service to the City of Merrill (Resolution #2627).

WHEREAS, Mike Weix has served the City of Merrill Street Department for 30 years; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by dedication to the best interests of our community and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mike Weix has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow employees by the way in which he has carried out his duties; and

WHEREAS, Mike Weix's skills, and experience, and cheerful manner will be missed at the City of Merrill Street Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 14th day of January, 2020, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Mike Weix has given the City of Merrill Street Department and commends him for those 30 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Mike Weix, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement from the City of Merrill Street Department, and extend our warmest wishes for his enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

Motion (Common Council/Common Council) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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14. Mayor's Communications

City Clerk Heideman reported that the ballot placement drawing for the upcoming spring elections will be held in the City Hall Common Council Chambers at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 16th.

Mayor Woellner stated that he is seeking people to serve on various City citizen committees. Anyone who is interested should contact him.

15. Adjournment

Motion (Norton/Blake) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:53 P.M.