



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:21 P.M.

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

The following attended the meeting virtually: 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, Lincoln County Health Department Director Shelley Hersil, Lincoln County Emergency Planning Manager September Murphy, Alderman Steve Hass, Alderman Steve Osness, Alderman Mike Rick, Alderman Steve Sabatke and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

II. COVID-19 Report(s)

Lincoln County Health Department Director Hersil stated that she does not have a lot of new information to report.

COVID-19 testing continues. The National Guard current deployment will expire December 9th. At this time, it is unknown whether that deployment will be extended. If not, the National Guard will not be participating in COVID-19 testing after December 9th.

Hospitals are currently at 90% capacity, and have been for several weeks.

To date, the number of COVID-19 related deaths in Lincoln County is higher than expected.

All Merrill Area Public Schools will be fully open on December 1st.

Lincoln County Health Department Director Hersil then answered questions.

Alderman Russell encouraged the use of COVID-19 testing.

Fire Chief Klug confirmed that both current and future Fire Department personnel could be involved in COVID-19 testing.

Lincoln County Emergency Planning Manager Murphy reported that that state continues to provide PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Lincoln County then distributes this equipment as necessary. To date, approximately 20,000 PPE items have been distributed in Lincoln County. Lincoln County continues to work with the state to ensure adequate resources are provided and distributed timely.

Lincoln County Emergency Planning Manager Murphy then answered questions.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck noted that the report contains only one case. The due date on that case is December 14th.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
----------------	-----------------

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

1. Change of Agent application for Krist Oil Company, naming Michelle M. Spatz the Agent for Krist Food Mart #88, 105 South Center Avenue.

Information was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett has no concerns with the application.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 12/8/2020 6:00 PM
----------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------

V. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Request for Community Care Paramedic position (Limited Term Employee) in the Fire Department

Alderman Russell reported that this request was discussed previously at the November 24th, 2020 Personnel and Finance Committee meeting. At that meeting, the Personnel and Finance Committee opted to delay consideration of the request until their December meeting.

Fire Chief Klug explained that the funding for this position would come from the Good Samaritan Foundation account. The current balance in that account is approximately \$11,000. No other funds are currently earmarked to support the position after the Good Samaritan Foundation funds have been spent.

City Administrator Johnson noted that, per the Employee Handbook, Common Council approval is not required for the hiring of Limited Term Employees.

Alderman Russell requested that floor privileges be granted to any Common Council member who wants to speak on this issue. Without objection, it was so ordered

Alderman Osness expressed his opinion that too many agenda items have been considered by multiple committees, and that this practice needs to stop.

Alderman Russell stated that, at some point, the chiefs (and other Department Heads) must be trusted to make wise decisions when considering these types of positions. Alderman Blake agreed with Alderman Russell.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve the Community Paramedic Position (Limited Term Employee) in the Fire Department and to authorize Fire Chief Klug to take the necessary steps to fill the position.

RESULT:	APPROVED
----------------	-----------------

2. COVID-19 Information technology plan

City Administrator Johnson gave a verbal report on the sound system installation at the Expo Center. This would allow the Expo Center to be used for meetings and would also make it easier to provide social distancing for larger groups. The equipment for the sound system has arrived and will be installed this week. After installation, testing of the sound system will begin.

Discussion was then held on public viewing of meetings, both live and recorded.

No action taken.

VI. Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of October 26, 2020 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
----------------	-----------------

2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reviewed the highlights of the report.

Training continues. Three Firefighter/Paramedics have earned state certifications in Driver/Operator-Pumper and Driver/Operator/Aerial. Four staff members participated in the Battalion Chief promotional process.

There was a recent home explosion in the Town of Schley.

In the last month, there has been a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the area.

3. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett reported that the Police Officer candidate applications and related materials have been reviewed. The next step is the interview process, which will be conducted as part of an upcoming Police and Fire Commission meeting. The in-house promotional process is also currently ongoing.

Due to a lack of participants, the 2020 Christmas Parade has been cancelled.

Winter Parking rules will take effect on the evening of November 30th.

The Police Department participated in the "Lights of Christmas" fundraiser. Approximately \$2,000 was raised, to be used to purchase gift cards for families in need.

A squad car no longer in service was sold. The transaction netted approximately \$7,000.

Police Chief Bennett mentioned that Eros, the service canine, is nearing the end of his service years. Discussion was held on the planning for transitioning to a new canine officer.

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

The report was in the meeting packet.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Blake/Weix) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

VII. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Monday, December 28th at 5:15 P.M. This will be a virtual-only meeting.

VIII. Public Comment Period

None.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Weix/Blake) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:30 P.M.