

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:30 PM**

- I. Call to Order** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
In attendance: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, City Administrator Akey, Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Social Media Specialist Savall.
Public present: Sue Kunkel, Pastor Mike Zahn and 1 person was remote
Excused: Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Parks & Recreation Director Wendorf
- II. Invocation - Pastor Mike Zahn - Christ United Methodist Church**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- IV. Roll Call** Present: Alderperson Caylor, Alderperson Caylor, Alderperson Meyer, Alderperson Fermanich, Alderperson Lass, Alderperson Rick, Alderperson Weix Jr., Alderperson Rutkowski
- V. Common Council Meeting Expectations** City Clerk Anderson-Malm read the meeting expectations statement.
- VI. Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- VII. Minutes from Previous Meeting**
 - 1. Consider placing the minutes from the June 11th meeting on file**
- Alderperson Meyer motioned to place minutes on file. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed.
- VIII. Revenue and Expense Reports**
 - 1. Consider the June 2024 Revenues and Expense Summary Report**
- Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.
- IX. Communications and Petitions**
 - 1. Consider the claim filed by Michelle Lahr for windshield damage on a vehicle in the designated Weinbrenner employee parking lot on June 10, 2024. The City's insurance carrier is recommending this claim be disallowed. The recommendation is based on the fact that an investigation revealed no liability on behalf of the City.** - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve the disallowance of a claim. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed.
- X. Health & Safety**

1. **Consider the Class "B" Alcohol Beverage License renewal application for Arbuda WI LLC dba Cobblestone Inn & Suites, 3209 E Main St., Merrill. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.**
- Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.
2. **Consider a temporary picnic license, to sell fermented malt beverages, for Merrill Baseball Legion/Jr Legion, at 500 Logan St, for July 10, 16, and 17th, 2024, in conjunction with Legion Baseball Games. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded, and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.
3. **Consider a temporary picnic license to sell fermented malt beverages for the Merrill Rangers, at 500 Logan St, on July 14, 21, 31, August 9, 10, and 11, 2024, in conjunction with the Baseball Games. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion passed.
4. **Consider a temporary picnic license, to sell fermented malt beverages for Merrill Youth Softball Association (aka Merrill Fastpitch), at the MARC Softball Concession Stand, from July 26th through July 28th, 2024 in conjunction with the Merrill Fastpitch Tournament. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.
5. **Consider a temporary picnic license to sell fermented malt beverages to Merrill Youth Softball Association (aka Merrill Fastpitch), at the MARC Softball Concession Stand on September 21, 2024, for a Merrill Fastpitch Kickball Tournament. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.
6. **Consider a temporary picnic license to sell fermented malt beverages to Merrill Youth Softball Association (aka Merrill Fastpitch) at Normal Park, on January 11, 2025, in conjunction with the 2nd Annual January Jamboree. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.**
- Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.
7. **Consider an extension of the premise for Merrill Youth Hockey at the MARC to serve beverages indoors and outside, on August 24, 2024, in conjunction with a car show hosted by Zelich Auto. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed.

XI. Board of Public Works

1. **Consider the SD Ellenbecker bid for the M2024-03 O'Day Street sidewalk project for \$45,600. The Board of Public Works Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded, and the motion passed on an 8/0 roll call vote.
2. **Consider the bid from American Asphalt for the M2024-04 Parking Lot paving project for \$86,520 with the understanding of a budget amendment proposal. The Board of Public Works recommends approval.** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve the bid and the budget amendment of \$50,000 to \$60,000 for 2024. Alderperson A. Caylor seconded, and the motion passed on an 8/0 roll call vote.

XII. Place Committee Reports on File

1. **Consider placing the following monthly reports on file: Board of Public Works, Festival Grounds, Health & Safety, Historic Preservation, Library Board, Marketing & Communications, Personnel & Finance, Police & Fire Commission, Tourism Commission, and Transit Commission.**
- Alderperson Meyer motioned to place monthly reports on file. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

XIII. Resolutions

1. **A Resolution authorizing the vacation of a portion of E 5th Street for daycare expansion.** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF E 5TH STREET FOR DAYCARE EXPANSION

WHEREAS, St. John Lutheran Church has requested, by petition, the vacating of a portion of E 5th Street for expansion of the church to accommodate daycare located at 1104 E 3rd St., Merrill, and;
WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works on May 1, 2024, and the City Plan Commission on May 6, 2024, have recommended such a vacation:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the following described street be vacated: Located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 31N, Range 6E, City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin: All of Fifth Street right of way lying between the East right of way of Court Street and the West right of way of Spruce Street.

The City of Merrill reserves an easement for construction and maintenance purposes related to utilities serving the public currently located in, on, or around the vacated area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City hereby declares that the public interest requires this street vacation, and the portion of the street to be vacated is not needed for public purposes and hereby declares

that the portion vacated shall revert, to the extent permitted by law, to the adjoining property owners.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no construction or development, on, over or under the vacated street area shall commence until the City of Merrill Board of Public Works has approved a final development plan submitted to it by St. John Lutheran Church.

Aldersperson Rick motioned to approve the resolution. Aldersperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

2. A Resolution honoring Shari P. Wicke, for her long-time service to the City of Merrill - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:
A RESOLUTION HONORING SHARI P. WICKE, FOR HER LONG-TIME SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Shari Wicke, has served the City of Merrill as the Community Development Program Director and Building & Zoning Assistant for over 26 years, from September 2, 1997, to May 1, 2024; and,

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

WHEREAS, Shari has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and

WHEREAS, Shari's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the Common Council and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Shari has given the City of Merrill and commends her for those 26 years of service; and

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

Aldersperson M. Caylor motioned to approve the Resolution. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

3. A Resolution honoring Lori Kroening, for her long-time service to the City of Merrill. - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:
A RESOLUTION HONORING LORI KROENING, FOR HER LONG-TIME SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Lori Kroening has served the City of Merrill Transit Department for close to 7 years. Lori began as a part-time Driver on June 26, 2017, and was promoted in August 2017 to full-time Transit Coordinator until her retirement on April 1, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by dedication to the best interests of our community and citizens; and
WHEREAS, Lori has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and
WHEREAS, Lori's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Transit Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the Common Council and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Lori has given the City of Merrill Transit Department, and commends her for those 7 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Lori, congratulate her upon the occasion of her retirement from the City of Merrill Transit Department, and extend our warmest wishes for her enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead. Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to approve the Resolution. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

4. **A Resolution honoring Thomas C. Teetzen, for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill.** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING THOMAS C. TEETZEN FOR HIS EXTENDED SERVICE AND GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Thomas Teetzen has served the City of Merrill as a Firefighter/Paramedic from April 22, 2004, to May 4, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, Thomas Teetzen's dedication to Fire service and to the City of Merrill and his hard work in virtually every area in which he was involved will be greatly missed by the Fire Department and Merrill's citizens; and,
WHEREAS, Thomas Teetzen has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow employees by the way in which he has carried out his duties; and,
WHEREAS, Thomas Teetzen's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Fire Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the Common Council and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the faithful service Thomas Teetzen has given the City of Merrill Fire Department and commends him for those 20 years of service; and

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

ahead.

Aldersperson A. Caylor motioned to approve the Resolution. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

XIV. Mayor's Communications Mayor's Communications for July:

July 10 - City Band concert at the Gazebo

July 11 - Kick-off of Gazebo Nights

July 18 - Banker's Square lunchtime concert from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

July 26–28 - Softball tournament at the MARC

July 27 - Black Squirrel Scurry

August 2 & 3 - Festival of Quilts at the Expo Center

August 3 - movie at Normal Park

August 7–11 - Lincoln County Fair at the Merrill Fairgrounds

August 13 - Partisan Primary Election

August 20 - Community Night Out

The Farmer's Market is at Normal Park on Wednesday and Saturday all summer.

State Park day passes are available at the TB Scott Library

The Strategic Plan will be reviewed; please review and return it to City

Administrator Akey or Mayor Hass.

Due to the August 13th Election, the August Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 14th at 6:30 pm.

XV. Adjournment Aldersperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Aldersperson Caylor seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

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