

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
All Alderpeople were present, in addition to the following:
City Administrator Akey, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek (remote), Facilities Maintenance Manager Brunett, Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, IT Manager Brown, Park & Recreation Director Wendorf, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Transit Director Brummond (remote), Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Merrill Airport representatives: Rich McCollough, Joe Malsak, Larry Weinig, Gary Schwartz, Carl Kemper, Kevin Krueger, Mark Ricakowski. Library Director Ollhoff was excused.
- II. **Roll Call** Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:
Aldersperson A. Caylor, Aldersperson M. Caylor, Aldersperson Meyer, Aldersperson Fermanich, Aldersperson Lass, Aldersperson Rick (remote), Aldersperson Weix, Aldersperson Rutkowski
- III. **Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **2025 Operating Budget Requests -**
 - a. **Water** - Finance Director Ley and Utility Operations Manager Steinagel provided information to the Committee. Aldersperson M. Caylor motioned to approve the water operating budget as presented and forward it to the next budget session. Aldersperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.
 - b. **Wastewater** - Finance Director Ley and Utility Operations Manager Steinagel provided information regarding the wastewater budget. Aldersperson M. Caylor motioned to approve the wastewater budget as presented and forward it to the next budget session. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.
 - c. **Landfill** - Utility Operations Manager Steinagel provided information to the Committee regarding the landfill budget. Aldersperson A. Caylor motioned to approve the budget as presented and forward to the next budget session. Aldersperson Weix seconded and the motion passed.
 - d. **Airport** - The airport budget request was moved to the beginning of the agenda without objection. Gary Schwartz spoke to the Committee regarding the maintenance hangar proposal. Rich McCollough and Carl Kemper from Becher Hoppe addressed the Committee. The proposal is for a 100' x 100' hangar for maintenance with a bathroom and office space for 2 people. The current hangar is 60' x 60'. There was a discussion regarding financing and

what to do with the current hangar. If approved, the groundbreaking could be in 2025. Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to forward the airport budget to the final budget session. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion passed.

- e. **Airport Aviation Fuel** - Finance Director Ley pointed out to the Committee that the Airport Aviation Fuel budget is not balanced. Mayor Hass motioned to forward the airport aviation fuel budget to the final budget session. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion passed.

2. **2025 Capital Budget Requests** -

- a. **Utility** - Following a discussion regarding the Utility 2025 Capital Budget Requests, Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve the Utility Capital projects and forward to the final budget session. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

- b. **City Capital** - The 2025 City Capital requests were discussed. The department head addressed the committee about each request and answered questions regarding the capital request. Finance Director Ley provided a list of requests by priority and funding source. The following motions were made regarding 2025 City Capital requests:

Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to refer the Airport Fixed Base Operator Maintenance Hangar to the next budget meeting. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.

Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to remove the Fire Department Car 60 Command Car Replacement request from the Capital Budget. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

Alderperson Meyer motioned to remove the Library Carpet Replacement. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to remove the IT Voice Gateways. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed.

Alderperson Fermanich motioned to remove the Parks & Recreation Streeter Square Basketball Court, request of \$45,000 for replacement, and completely remove the Streeter Square Basketball Court for \$5,000. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded, and the motion passed on a 6/3 roll call vote. Alderperson's

Lass, Weix, and Rutkowski voted no.

Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to reduce the Parks & Recreation spiral slide and activity feature pump request from \$35,000 to \$10,000. Alderperson Meyer seconded, and the motion passed on a 7/2 vote. Alderpersons Lass and Weix voted no.

Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to reduce the Parks & Recreation replacement of park entrance signs request from \$35,000 to \$15,000. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded, and the motion passed on a 7/2 vote. Alderpersons Meyer and Rick voted no.

Alderperson Fermanich motioned to reduce the Parks & Recreation request to finish concrete aprons around shelters from \$25,000 to \$9,000. Alderperson Meyer seconded, and the motion passed on a 7/2 vote. Alderpersons Weix and Rick voted no.

Aldersperson M. Caylor motioned to reduce the Parks & Recreation request to replace rental skates from \$10,000 to \$2,500. This motion was amended to reduce the request from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Aldersperson Meyer seconded, and the motion passed on an 8/1 vote. Aldersperson Rick voted no. Aldersperson Lass motioned to remove the Parks & Recreation request for park shelter keypad locks. Aldersperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

V. Establish the date and time of the next Budget Meeting The next budget meeting will be on Monday, October 14th at 6:30 pm.

VI. Adjournment Aldersperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Aldersperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Minutes submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm

Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting