

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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. The following elected officials, department heads, and residents were in attendance:
Elected Officials present: Andrew Caylor, Michael Caylor, Nathan Meyer, LaDonna Fermanich, Robert Lass, Mike Rick, Mark Weix Jr., Rebecca Rutkowski, City Clerk Anderson-Malm
Department Heads present: City Administrator Akey, City Attorney Hayden, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek, Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, Library Director Ollhoff, Parks & Recreation Director Wendorf, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, and Utility Operations Manager Steinagel
Others in attendance: Pastor Justin Smoot, LCEDC Sarah Guild, Sue Kunkel, Brad Becker
- II. **Invocation - Pastor Justin Smoot - Our Saviors Lutheran Church** Pastor Justin gave an invocation.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge was recited.
- IV. **Roll Call** Roll call was taken with all Alderpersons attending.
- V. **Common Council Meeting Expectations** City Clerk Anderson-Malm read the expectations.
- VI. **Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- VII. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**
 1. **Consider placing the minutes from the August 14th and September 10th meetings on file** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to place the minutes on file. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion passed.
- VIII. **Revenue and Expense Reports**
 1. **Discuss and consider the September Revenue and Expense reports.**
 - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve the revenue and expense reports. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed.
- IX. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Employee Recognition**
 - **Dawn Smith - Parks and Recreation Department - 20 years**
 - **Jared Baker - Merrill Utility - 10 years**

- Mayor Hass thanked Dawn and Jared for their service to the City of Merrill.

2. **Discuss and consider offering a group vision insurance benefit and amending Section 14 of the Employee Handbook (Fringe Benefits). This is being brought directly to the Common Council.** - Finance Director Ley answered questions from the council. Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.
3. **Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant application. This is being brought directly to the Common Council.** - LCEDC Guild addressed the council with the details of the EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant application. Following further discussion and questions, Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.
4. **Consider bids for the Spruce Street extension. Mayor Hass is bringing this directly to the Common Council.** - City Administrator Akey explained the bids to the Council. Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve the bid from Merrill Gravel & Construction Company for \$334,433. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion passed.
5. **Consider a temporary picnic license to sell fermented malt beverages to the Merrill Eagles Club on October 19, 2024, at the Merrill Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Lincoln County 150th Celebration. Mayor Hass is bringing this directly to the Common Council.** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

X. Redevelopment Authority

1. **Discuss and consider a development agreement by and between the City of Merrill, Wisconsin and Wendorf Construction, LLC. The Redevelopment Authority recommends approval.** - Alderperson Fermanich motioned to approve. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded and the motion passed.

XI. Fairgrounds Committee

1. **Discuss and consider removing trees on Memorial Drive in conjunction with the fence installation. The Fairgrounds Committee recommends approval.** - City Administrator Akey provided the council with information regarding removing trees on Memorial Drive. Following a brief discussion, Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson A. Caylor seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson M. Caylor voted no.

XII. Place Committee Reports on File

1. **Consider placing the following monthly reports on file: Airport Commission, Committee of the Whole, Fairgrounds Committee, Historic Preservation, Marketing & Communications, Redevelopment Authority, Enrichment Center, Transit Commission, and Parks & Recreation**

Commission. - Alderperson Fermanich requested minutes from the Housing Authority be included in the future. Alderperson Meyer motioned to place the committee reports on file. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

XIII. Mayor's Appointments Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve all four appointments. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson M. Caylor voted no.

1. **Consider approving the following appointments:**
Sue Norenberg to the Housing Authority, replacing Nancy Kwiesielewicz as of 11/10/2024 with a term to expire on 11/10/2029.
Pete Koblitz to the Joint Review Board
Re-appoint Gary Schwartz to the Airport Commission - term to expire 10/01/2026
Re-appoint Jeff Schneider to the Housing Authority - term to expire 11/10/2029 -

XIV. Mayor's Communications Mayor Hass read the following communications:
October is budget season as well as Fire Prevention month.
Budget sessions for the City will be held on October 14th and October 28th.
Park and Recreation is holding Halloween Hoopla on October 25th at the MARC.
October 31st is Trick-or-Treating in the City of Merrill from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.
The Haunted Sawmill runs every weekend in October.
On October 19th, Lincoln County is celebrating its 150th birthday. Activities start in Tomahawk in the morning, then come to Merrill starting at noon. Discover Wisconsin will be at the fairgrounds along with food trucks, and a carnival provided by St. Johns Lutheran Church/School. This event will take place at the Merrill Fairgrounds.
The Merrill Enrichment Center has a lot to offer. Please read their newsletter and participate in the many classes they offer.
The TB Scott Library has a lot to offer too. Please stop in and see the building and all of its history. It is a unique treasure in the city.

XV. Adjournment Alderperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

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

The minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting. Meeting minutes are available in the City Clerk's office and on the City of Merrill website. Complete Ordinances are available on the City of Merrill website. <https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us>