

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024 MINUTES
2025 BUDGET CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Present: Mayor Hass, Alderperson A. Caylor, Alderperson M. Caylor, Alderperson Meyer, Alderperson Fermanich, Alderperson Lass, Alderperson Rick, Alderperson Weix Jr., Alderperson Rutkowski
Others present: City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Administrator Akey, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek, Facilities Maintenance Manager Brunett, Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, IT Manager Brown, Library Director Ollhoff, Parks & Recreation Director Wendorf, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Transit Director Brummond, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Gary Schwartz, people supporting the Merrill Airport, Merrill Community Media.
- II. **Roll Call** Roll call was taken with all nine voting members present.
- III. **Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Consideration of the City General Fund Budget request (Fund 10) and proposed 2024 Tax Levy** - The discussion concerning the Merrill Airport and maintenance hangar was moved to the beginning of the meeting. Following discussion, Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to include the hangar in the 2025 budget. Alderperson Meyer seconded; the motion passed on a roll call vote of 8/1. Alderperson Rick voted no.
Additional information was provided regarding the 2025 levy. Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to forward the 2025 General Fund to the November 12th meeting. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded. The motion was withdrawn due to further discussion was required.
Alderperson Meyer motioned to reduce the Historical Society budget request from \$8,000 to \$5,000. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded; the motion passed on a 7/2 roll call vote. Alderperson's Rick and Weix voted no.
Alderperson Fermanich motioned to reduce the City Band budget request from \$14,000 to \$12,000. The motion died for lack of a second.
Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to forward the 2025 General Fund with the revisions from the Historical Society to the November 12th meeting. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded; the motion passed on a 9/0 roll call vote.
 2. **Consideration of Other City Funds:** - Following discussion, Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to forward the Other City Funds, as adjusted, to the November 12th meeting. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded; the motion passed on a 9/0 roll call vote.

- a. **Landfill (Fund 20)** - No changes were made.
 - b. **Police School Resource Officer (Fund 21)** - No revisions were made.
 - c. **Merrill Fair Grounds (Fund 24)** - No revisions were made.
 - d. **Community Development (Fund 25)** - No revisions were made.
 - e. **Aviation Fuel (Fund 27)** - No revisions were made.
 - f. **Debt Service (Fund 30)** - No revisions were made.
 - g. **Capital Projects (Fund 52)** - No revisions were made.
 - h. **Marketing and Communications (Fund 26)** - Mayor Hass motioned to remove the ZTV (\$12,000) and Merrill Minute (\$5,808) from the Fund 26 budget, reducing the total to \$26,400. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded. The motion died on a 4/4 roll vote. Alderperson Meyer abstained. Alderpersons Fermanich, Lass, Weix, and Rutkowski voted no. Mayor Hass motioned to remove \$12,000 for ZTV from the Fund 26 budget, reducing the total to \$32,208. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded. The motion passed on a 6/2 roll call vote. Alderperson Meyer abstained. Alderpersons Lass, and Weix voted no.
 - i. **Fire Inspection (Fund 26)** - No revisions were made.
 - j. **MEC Transportation (Fund 26)** - No revisions were made.
 3. **Consideration of Tax Incremental Districts (TIDs) 2025 Budget Requests** - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to forward the TID's 2025 budget requests to the November 12th meeting. Alderperson Rick seconded; the motion passed on a 9/0 roll call vote.
 4. **Consideration of Water and Sewer Utility 2025 Budget Requests** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to forward the Water & Sewer 2025 budget requests to the November 12th meeting. Alderperson A. Caylor seconded; the motion passed on a 9/0 roll call vote.
 5. **Consideration of 2025 Capital Budget Requests** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to forward the Capital 2025 budget requests to the November 12th meeting. Alderperson Rick seconded; the motion passed on a 9/0 roll call vote.
- V. **Adjournment** Finance Director Ley was thanked for her hard work on the budget. Alderperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Alderperson Weix seconded; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm

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