

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025 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.
Aldersperson A. Caylor, Aldersperson M. Caylor, Aldersperson Meyer, Aldersperson Rick, Aldersperson Weix Jr., Aldersperson Rutkowski
Department Heads and City Officials present: City Administrator Akey, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek (remote), Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Transit Director Brummond (remote), Utility Operations Manager Steinagel
Others in attendance: Pastor William Hohman, Hunter Lane, Allen Wix, Amber Danielski (Clifton Larson), and Merrill Media Communications.
Excused: Aldersperson Fermanich, and Parks & Recreation Director Wendorf
- II. Invocation - Pastor William Hohman - New Testament Church**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Roll Call** Roll call was taken with 6 out of 8 in attendance.
- V. Common Council Meeting Expectations**
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Minutes from Previous Meeting**
 - 1. Consider placing the minutes from the December 10th meeting on file**
- Aldersperson Meyer motioned to place minutes on file. Aldersperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed.
- VIII. Revenue and Expense Reports for period ending December 31, 2024 will be provided at the February Common Council meeting** No action taken.
- IX. General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 - 1. Employee Recognition**
 - **Scott Gomoll - 10 years - Fire Department**
 - **Kraig Hanig - 10 years - Airport**
 - **Randall English - 10 years - Transit**

- Mayor Hass recognized the three employees and thanked them for their service to the City.
 - 2. City of Merrill 2023 Audit Presentation** - Amber Danielski from Clifton Larson (CLA) presented the 2023 audit and answered questions.

X. Place Committee Reports on File

- 1. Consider placing the following reports on file: Airport Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Joint Review Board, and Housing Authority.** - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to place monthly reports on file. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion passed.

XI. Resolutions

- 1. Resolution Adopting the Lincoln County All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE LINCOLN COUNTY ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property; and

WHEREAS, under taking hazard mitigation actions before disasters occur will reduce the potential for harm to people and property and save tax payer dollars; and

WHEREAS, an adopted All Hazards Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future grant funding for mitigation projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill adopted the previous All Hazards Mitigation Plan on March 13, 2018; and

WHEREAS, an update of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan is required every five years; and

WHEREAS, City of Merrill participated jointly in the planning process with Lincoln County and the other local units of government within the County to prepare an update to the existing multi-jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 14th day of January 2025, that the Lincoln County Emergency Management Department will submit, on behalf of the City, a signed copy of this resolution adopting the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update for filing with Wisconsin Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials.

Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to approve the Resolution. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion carried on a 5/1 voice vote. Alderperson Rick voted no.

- 2. Resolution Honoring Fairgrounds Manager Rick Bjorklund** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING FAIRGROUNDS MANAGER RICK BJORKLUND FOR HIS EXTENDED SERVICE AND GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Rick Bjorklund is retiring as the Fair Grounds Manager of the City

of Merrill; and,
WHEREAS, Rick Bjorklund has served in that capacity for the City of Merrill since May of 2016; and,
WHEREAS, Rick Bjorklund has played a vital part in the creation, execution and success of the Fair Grounds marketing and publicity efforts;
WHEREAS, the personal commitment and unselfish dedication Rick Bjorklund has put forth has contributed greatly to the growth, progress and stability of the City of Merrill; and,
WHEREAS, the City of Merrill offers a solid and stable community environment for all of its citizens in part because of Rick Bjorklund's dedicated service, through countless schedule changes; and,
WHEREAS, Rick Bjorklund's cheerful manner and hard work will be missed by the City of Merrill;
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 14th day of January, 2025, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Rick Bjorklund has given to the City of Merrill and commend him for those years of service and thank him for a job well done.

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

XII. Mayor's Communications Mayor Hass read the following communications:

The City is taking applications for an aldermanic position for District 5 until noon on February 4, 2025. Forms are available at the Treasurer's window, in the City Clerk's office or on the city website.

Ice Drags are Saturdays in January and February.

Adult winter bingo cards are available at the TB Scott Library.

Adult winter read starts January 20th at the TB Scott Library.

Please stop by the library and the Merrill Enrichment Center to check out and see all the programs they offer.

The Library will be closed on January 20th for staff development.

In the first week of February, the Youth Services department renovations will begin at the Library.

Notary Public service is available at the Library.

XIII. Adjournment Aldersperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 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>

