

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5:30 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
Present: Alderperson A. Caylor, Alderperson M. Caylor, Alderperson Meyer, Alderperson Fermanich, Alderperson Rick, Alderperson Rutkowski
Present not voting: City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Administrator Akey, Finance Director Ley, Kyle Gulke, Allen Wix, Hunter Lane, Landis Holdorf, Merrill Community Media
Absent: Alderperson Weix
- II. **Roll Call** Roll call was taken with 7 out of 9 present.
- III. **Public Comment** Kyle Gulke - 1504 Jackson Street - Addressed the Committee regarding appointing an alderperson instead of having a special election for that particular district to vote for an alderperson. He stated this is supposed to be a non-partisan position and said he disagrees with appointing.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Place the minutes from the January 28th meeting on file.** - Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to place the minutes on file. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.
 2. **Candidate Interviews and Appointment of District 5 Alderperson Hunter Lane**
Landis Holdorf - Candidates Lane and Holdorf answered questions provided to them by the Committee. Following the question/answer period, the Committee voted for the person to appoint to the vacant District 5 Aldermanic position. Paper ballots were provided to the Committee, the votes were tabulated by City Clerk Anderson-Malm and City Attorney Hayden. Hunter Lane received 1 vote, and Landis Holdorf received 6 votes. Alderperson A. Caylor recommended appointing Landis Holdorf to the District 5 Aldermanic position. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion passed.
- V. **Closed Session**
 1. **The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating on the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; to discuss potential acquisition of real estate.** - Mayor Hass read the closed-session language. Alderperson Rick motioned to enter into a closed session. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded and the motion passed on a 7/0 roll call vote. The Committee entered a closed session at 6:00 pm with the following present in

addition to the Committee members: City Administrator Akey, City Attorney Hayden, Finance Director Ley, Landis Holdorf, and City Clerk Anderson-Malm. City Clerk Anderson-Malm recorded minutes without objection. The Committee received an update regarding a potential acquisition of real estate.

VI. Reconvene in Open Session

- 1. The Committee may reconvene in an open session for potential action on the closed session item.** - Alderperson Rick motioned to enter into open session. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded and the motion passed. The Committee entered back into open at 6:12 pm. Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to forward to Council the purchase of the Armory for \$400,000 using a Bierman Foundation donation. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.

VII. Adjournment Alderperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Minutes submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm

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