

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 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.
Present: D1 Alderperson Caylor, D2 Alderperson Caylor, D3 Alderperson Meyer, D4 Alderperson Fermanich, D5 Alderperson Holdorf, D6 Alderperson Rick, D7 Alderperson Weix Jr., D8 Alderperson Rutkowski
Others present: City Administrator Akey, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, Library Director Ollhoff, Parks & Recreation Director Wendorf, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Deacon Jim Arndt, Sara Guild (remote), Merrill Community Media.
- II. **Invocation - Deacon Jim Arndt - St. Francis Xavier Church** The invocation was given.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Roll Call** Roll Call was taken with all eight Alderpeople in attendance.
- V. **Common Council Meeting Expectations** City Clerk Anderson-Malm read the meeting expectations.
- VI. **Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- VII. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**
 1. **Consider placing the minutes from the February 11th meeting 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 January and February 2025 Revenue and Expense reports.** - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed.
- IX. **Fairgrounds Committee**
 1. **Discuss and consider removing the sand in front of the Grandstand on the Thursday of the Fair for the remainder of the year. The Fairgrounds Committee recommends approval.** - Mayor Hass provided an update. No further action was required.
- X. **Health & Safety**
 1. **Discuss and consider a change of agent for M&C Entertainment dba Ballyhoo's to Heather Pophal. The Health & Safety Committee**

recommends approval. - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion passed.

2. **Discuss and consider a change of agent for Kwik Trip Store 386, 2311 E Main St to Beau Walker. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion passed.
3. **Discuss and consider a temporary alcohol beverage license to sell beer and wine to the Merrill Youth Hockey Association at the Merrill Expo Center, 303 N Sales St, from 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm on March 22, 2025, in conjunction with the Little Lakes Banquet event. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

XI. Personnel & Finance

1. **Discuss and consider the 2025-2026 proposed maintenance contract for Bowmar Appraisal. The Personnel & Finance Committee recommends approval.** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion passed.
2. **Discuss and consider adding a 1-day funeral leave for grandparents-in-law and great-grandparents to our current personnel policy. The Personnel & Finance Committee recommends approval.**
- Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

XII. Board of Public Works

1. **Discuss and consider awarding Jake's Excavating & Landscaping LLC the State Street reconstruction project for the low bid of \$884,954.35. The Board of Public Works recommends approval.** - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Holdorf seconded. City Administrator Akey provided the answer regarding the original budget amount, which was \$980,000. Following discussion, the motion passed.
2. **Discuss and consider awarding American Asphalt of Wisconsin the Water Street resurfacing project for the low bid of \$207,216.19. The Board of Public Works recommends approval.** - Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rick seconded. City Administrator Akey provided the original budget amount of \$250,000. Following discussion the motion passed.

XIII. Place Committee Reports on File

1. **Consider placing the following monthly reports on file: Merrill Enrichment Center, Airport Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Committee of the Whole, Fairgrounds Committee, Transit Commission, Marketing & Communications, Health & Safety, Board of**

Public Works, Personnel & Finance, Library Board and Redevelopment Authority. - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded. Alderperson Meyer questioned the reasoning for the various dates of meeting minutes provided in the packet. City Clerk Anderson-Malm answered the question and questioned if this item is needed on future agendas. Alderperson Fermanich stated she likes to read what occurs at other meetings. Alderperson M. Caylor stated the Council is not approving any minutes, just placing them on file. Following discussion, the motion passed.

XIV. Resolutions

1. **Resolution Honoring Police Captain Dale A. Bacher** - City Attorney read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING DALE A. BACHER FOR HIS EXTENDED SERVICE AND GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Dale A. Bacher has served the City of Merrill as a PO, PO1, PO2, FTO, Detective, Lieutenant and Captain, from June 1, 1988 to January 10, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, Dale Bacher's cheerful manner, dedication to Police service and to the City of Merrill and his hard work in virtually every area in which he was involved will be greatly missed by the Police Department and Merrill's citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Dale Bacher has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow employees by the way in which he has carried out his duties; and,

WHEREAS, Dale Bacher's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Police Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of March, 2025, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the faithful service Dale Bacher has given the City of Merrill Police Department and commends him for those 36 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Dale Bacher, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement from the City of Merrill Police Department, and extend our warmest wishes for his enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve the resolution. Alderperson Holdorf seconded and the motion passed.

2. **Resolution Honoring Officer Jamie A. Jaeger** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING JAMIE A. JAEGER FOR HER EXTENDED SERVICE AND GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Jamie A. Jaeger has served the City of Merrill as a PO, PO1, PO2, FTO, Detective and School Resource Officer, from July 10, 1995 to December 31, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, Jamie Jaeger's cheerful manner, dedication to Police service and to the City of Merrill and her hard work in virtually every area in which she was involved will be greatly missed by the Police Department and Merrill's citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Jamie Jaeger has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and,

WHEREAS, Jamie Jaeger's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Police Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of March, 2025, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the faithful service Jamie Jaeger has given the City of Merrill Police Department and commends her for those 29 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Jamie Jaeger, congratulate her upon the occasion of her retirement from the City of Merrill Police Department, and extend our warmest wishes for her enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

Aldersperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Aldersperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed.

3. Resolution Honoring Christine R. Brahos - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING CHRISTINE R. BRAHOS, FOR HER LONG-TIME SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Christine R. Brahos, has served the City of Merrill Police Department from July 20, 1998 to January 21, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by dedication to the best interests of our community and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Christine has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and

WHEREAS, Christine's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Police Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of March, 2025, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Christine has given the City of

Merrill Police Department and commends her for those 26 years of service;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Christine, congratulate her upon the occasion of her retirement from the City of Merrill Police Department, and extend our warmest wishes for her enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

Aldersperson Rutkowski motioned to approve. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.

- 4. Resolution Honoring Faith E. Martinson** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING FAITH E. MARTINSON, FOR HER LONG-TIME SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Faith E. Martinson, has served the City of Merrill T.B. Scott Free Library from January 24, 2001 to January 10, 2025; and,
WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by dedication to the best interests of our community and citizens; and
WHEREAS, Faith has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and
WHEREAS, Faith's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill T.B. Scott Free Library;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of March, 2025, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Faith has given the City of Merrill T.B. Scott Free Library and commends her for those 24 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Faith, congratulate her upon the occasion of her retirement from the City of Merrill T.B. Scott Free Library, and extend our warmest wishes for her enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

Aldersperson Weix motioned to approve. Aldersperson Holdorf seconded and the motion passed.

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

March 13th - Digital Literacy Stay Safe Online at the Library

Day State Park passes are available at the Library.

The Library offers notary services - call the Library to schedule an appointment.

March 15th - Merrill Fast Pitch is sponsoring an indoor bags tournament at Les

and Jim's

April 5th - the Children's Festival is at the MARC

April 5th - a Spring Craft and Vendor Show is scheduled

April 8th - LCED Economic Summit will be held in Tomahawk at the Inshalla Golf Course

March 18th - Early in-person voting starts and April 1st is the Spring Election

May 17th - Food Truck-a-palooza will be at the Fairgrounds

Congratulations to the Merrill Girls Bowling Team on becoming D2 back-to-back champions!

XVI. Adjournment Alderperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 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>