

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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 pm.
Present: D1 Alderperson A. Caylor, D2 Alderperson M. Caylor, D3 Alderperson Meyer, D4 Alderperson Fermanich, D5 Alderperson Holdorf, D6 Alderperson Rick, D7 Alderperson Weix Jr., D8 Alderperson Rutkowski
Present Not Voting: City Attorney Hayden, City Administrator Akey, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, IT Manager Brown, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Transit Director Brummond, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Clyde Nelson, Sue Kunkel, Hallie Savall, David Buck, Sharon Idstein, Cindi Christensen, Pastor Smallman, Brad Becker, Merrill Community Media
Excused: Park & Recreation Director Wendorf
- II. Invocation - Pastor Bob Smallman**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Roll Call** Roll call was taken. All 8 Alderpeople were 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 April 8th and April 22nd meetings on file.** - (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second place minutes on file. The motion passed.
- VIII. Revenue and Expense Reports**
 - 1. Consider the April 2025 Revenue and Expense Report** - (D1 Alderperson A. Caylor/D4 Alderperson Fermanich) motion/second approve. The motion passed.
- IX. General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 - 1. Employee Recognition:**
Marci L. Rankin - 10 years - Police Department - Mayor Hass thanked Marci for her service to the City.
 - 2. Discuss and consider the Fair Association donating money to the City of Merrill for fairgrounds improvements. This is being brought directly to the Common Council.** - Fair Association Representatives Cindi Christensen and David Buck presented the City of Merrill with a check for \$20,000 for continued improvements to the fence surrounding the fairgrounds. She

provided a background on the services and improvements the Fair Association has completed in years past in conjunction with the City.

X. Tourism Commission

1. **Tourism Report - 2024** - Clyde Nelson - Chamber of Commerce discussed the Tourism Report for 2024. The report was included in the packet. He stated there was an increase of \$2,000 from 2023. There is a 6% room tax on hotels and Air B&Bs in the City of Merrill. He also provided information regarding the Visitor's Guides. The Chamber published 25,000 Visitor Guides that have been distributed at a number of shows throughout the Midwest. He also highlighted some of the trails in Lincoln County that provide income to Merrill as well as Lincoln County.
2. **Tourism Room Tax - SL304 for 2024** - The report was included in the packet.

XI. Health & Safety

1. **Consider a temporary Class "B" beer license for the Merrill Eagles on May 17, 2025 at the Merrill Fairgrounds Eagles Beer Stand, 2001 E 2nd St from 11:00 am - 8:00 pm in conjunction with Merrill's Food Truck-a-palooza. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second approve. The motion passed.
2. **Consider a temporary Class "B" beer license for the Merrill Special Olympics Booster Club on May 17, 2025, at the Merrill Fairgrounds (tent located by the red bathrooms), 2001 E 2nd St from 11:00 am 8:00 pm in conjunction with Merrill's Food Truck-a-palooza. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval with the revised end time of 8:00 pm.** - (D5 Alderperson Holdorf/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second approve. The motion passed.

XII. Acknowledge Committee Reports

1. **Acknowledge the following committee reports: Merrill Enrichment Center, TB Scott Library Endowment Fund, Merrill Housing Authority, TB Scott Library Board, Personnel & Finance, Airport Commission, Historic Preservation, Marketing & Communications, Transit Commission, Committee of the Whole, Health & Safety, Board of Public Works, Redevelopment Authority, Park & Recreation Commission, and the Board of Review.** - No action was required.

XIII. Ordinances

1. **An Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-21 City Budget. The Personnel & Finance Committee recommends approval.** - City Attorney Hayden read the Ordinance (D2 Alderperson M. Caylor/D3 Alderperson Meyer) motion/second to suspend the rules and give the second

and third readings by title only. The motion passed. City Attorney Hayden gave the Ordinance the second and third readings by title only. (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D2 Alderperson M. Caylor) motion/second to approve. The motion passed on an 8/0 roll call vote.

XIV. Resolutions

1. **A Resolution honoring Jon L. Leiskau for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill.** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING JON L. LEISKAU FOR HIS EXTENDED SERVICE AND GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL

WHEREAS, Jon Leiskau has served the City of Merrill as a Firefighter-EMT, Firefighter-Paramedic and Battalion Chief from March 18, 2001, to April 6, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, Jon Leiskau's dedication to Fire 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 Fire Department and Merrill's citizens; and,

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

WHEREAS, Jon Leiskau's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Fire Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 13th day of May 2025, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the faithful service Jon Leiskau has given the City of Merrill Fire Department and commends him for those 24 years of service; and

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

(D1 Alderperson A. Caylor/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.

2. **A Resolution honoring E. Kay Andrews for her long-time service to the City of Merrill.** - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

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

WHEREAS, E. Kay Andrews served the City of Merrill T.B. Scott Free Library from May 1, 2003, to April 18, 2025; and,

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

WHEREAS, Kay has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and
WHEREAS, Kay'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 13th day of May 2025, that the Common Council and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Kay has given the City of Merrill T.B. Scott Free Library and commends her for those 22 years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Kay, 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.

(D3 Alderperson Meyer/D4 Alderperson Fermanich) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.

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

There are a lot of events at the Library and the Enrichment Center. Please visit their websites or call or stop in for information.

Memorial Day is fast approaching. A ceremony will take place on Memorial Day at the St. Francis Veterans Cemetery. The Merrill City Band will start playing at 10:30 am with the ceremony starting at 11:00 am.

The city-wide garage sale is this Saturday, May 17th.

Food Truck-a-palooza is this Saturday, May 17th.

State Street reconstruction and Water Street maintenance have started.

XVI. Adjournment (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D6 Alderperson Rick) motion/second adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 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>