

**CITY OF MERRILL
CITY PLAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING 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, Melissa Schroeder, Allie Henkelman, Chad Krueger, D8 Alderperson Rutkowski, Ralph Sturm, Jim Finucan
Present Not Voting: Building/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, City Administrator/Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, City Attorney Thomas Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Renee Krueger, Karry Johnson, Jesse Boyd, Dora Gorski, Robert Weaver, Don Dunphy, Eileen Guthrie, Police Chief Bennett, Merrill Community Media

II. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- 1. Consider placing the minutes from the February 4th meeting on file**
- (Schroeder/Henkelman) motion/second place minutes on file with the revision of Mayor Hass as present. The motion passed.

III. Public Hearing

- 1. Public Hearing Notice** - Mayor Hass read a statement regarding the role of the City Plan Commission. City Attorney Hayden read the public hearing notice. (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/Henkelman) motion/second to open the public hearing. The public hearing started at 6:03 pm. Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel explained the request for a rezoning change.

Public Hearing: Robert Weaver - 1200 N Center Avenue - spoke regarding Pine Crest. He questioned if the new owners would pay property taxes with the zoning change. He also stated a private entity should follow the City's vision. He stated Pine Crest is a big asset to the community.

Don Dunphy - 200 E Riverside Avenue - spoke in opposition to the County's application. He stated Pine Crest is currently a government entity with approximately 140 employees and the buyer would be a for-profit, privately-owned facility. He asked the Commission to deny the County's application.

City Administrator Akey, reminded everyone we were not talking about business models at this meeting. This is regarding zoning only. The City is not looking to dictate what a government entity should do with their property.

Renee Krueger - She stated she was the one who applied for the rezoning application from public to thoroughfare commercial. An entity is not able to operate outside a public/governmental facility without rezoning.

(Sturm/Krueger) motion/second to close the public hearing. The motion passed.

- 2. Lincoln County, 801 N Sales Street, requesting rezoning from Public to Thoroughfare Commercial, addresses of 607 N Sales Street and 2100 E 6th Street, located in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Legally described in PIN# 251-3106-182-0229.** - The Commission discussed the rezoning application. Schroeder questioned the reason a rezoning was not required previously and the 10-day between when the application was taken out. BIZA Pagel addressed the questions. Schroeder stated there are three options for the Commission to consider; to approve, deny or forward without recommendation.
- Schroeder motioned to forward the application without recommendation. The motion died for lack of a second.
- (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/Krueger) motion/second to approve the rezoning and forward to the Common Council. Schroeder requested a roll-call vote. The motion passed on a 6/1 roll call vote with Schroeder voting no.

IV. Public Comment There was no public comment.

V. Adjournment (Krueger/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm
Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting.