

**CITY OF MERRILL  
COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 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 Administrator Akey, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Ley, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Fire Chief Klug, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Transit Director Brummond (remote), Pastor Paul Hohman, Anthony Baumann, Mark Raymr, Tim Mieschke, Matt Leder, Tim Mieske, Kenny McVey, Erin Smith (ODC), various citizens in person and remote  
Excused: Library Director Ollhoff, Park & Recreation Director Wendorf
- II. **Invocation - Pastor Paul Hohman - New Testament Church**
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** The pledge was recited.
- IV. **Roll Call** Roll call was taken with all 8 Alderpersons in attendance.
- V. **Common Council Meeting Expectations** The expectations were read.
- VI. **Public Comment** Kenny McVay - Jenny Towers - asked about the courthouse clock. Mayor Hass said he would call him.
- VII. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**
  1. **Consider placing the minutes from the January 13th meeting on file.**  
- (D2 Alderperson M. Caylor/D3 Alderperson Meyer) motion/second to place minutes on file. The motion passed.
- VIII. **Revenue and Expense Reports**
  1. **Discuss and consider the December and January Revenue and Expense Summary Report** - (D1 Alderperson A. Caylor/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second to approve. D4 Alderperson Fermanich asked whether the January number reflected the budget. Finance Director Ley answered the question. The motion passed.
- IX. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
  1. **Employee Recognition:**  
**Rod Akey - City Administrator/Engineer/Public Works Director - 10 years**  
**Jason Raasch - Street Department - 10 years**  
**Donna Plautz - T. B. Scott Library - 10 years** - The employees were acknowledged. Mayor Hass presented City Administrator Akey with a certificate.

2. **HAVEN Inc client statistics for 2025** - This was included in the packet for information only. No action was taken.
3. **City of Merrill Sewer Service Area Plan - discussion** - Anthony Baumann, the Chair of the Town of Merrill was given floor privileges. He spoke with the council regarding the sewer service area plan. He requested there be a joint committee with the City of Merrill, Town of Merrill, Town of Pine River and Town of Scott represented to discuss the plan. City Administrator Akey indicated there would be a City Planning meeting on March 3rd. All townships can speak at that meeting. No action was taken.

#### **X. Health & Safety**

1. **Consider a temporary Class "B" beer license for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church for February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27th, 2026 from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm, in conjunction with the St. Francis Xavier Fish Fries. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.
2. **Consider a temporary Class "B" beer license for the Lincoln County Rodeo Association at the Merrill Fairgrounds on June 19, 20, and 21st, 2026, in conjunction with the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - (D5 Alderperson Holdorf/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.
3. **Consider a change of agent for Express Lane, 702 N Center Ave., to Kimberly Krawczyk. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - (D2 Alderperson M. Caylor/D6 Alderperson Rick) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.
4. **Consider a change of agent for WI CStore, 702 N Center Ave, to Kimberly Krawczyk, upon the pending sale. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval.** - (D6 Alderperson Rick/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.

#### **XI. City Plan Commission**

1. **Consider JAS Enterprises, LLC., requesting a Planned Unit Development for a multifamily residential development at 703 S Center Avenue. The City Plan Commission recommends approval.** - (D6 Alderperson Rick/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.
2. **Consider Opportunity Development Center Inc., requesting rezoning from Public to Business at 508 Eugene Street (formerly Highland Community Church). The City Plan Commission recommends approval.** - (D6 Alderperson Rick/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.

- 3. Consider Jon Malm, Woodsconsin, LLC, requesting a Conditional Use for placement of a shipping container at 705 S. Center Avenue. The City Plan Commission does not recommend approval.** - (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D5 Alderperson Holdorf) motion/second to deny the conditional use as recommended by the City Plan Commission. The motion passed.

## **XII. Acknowledge Committee Reports**

- 1. Acknowledge the following monthly reports: Housing Authority, Fairgrounds, Marketing & Communications, Transit Commission, Airport Commission, Health & Safety, Personnel & Finance, Board of Public Works, City Plan Commission and Park and Rec Commission.** - The monthly reports were acknowledged. No action was taken.

## **XIII. Ordinances**

- 1. A Charter Ordinance eliminating the Street Commissioner as an elected officer - third reading.** - City Clerk Anderson-Malm read the third and final reading of the Charter Ordinance eliminating the Street Commissioner as an elected officer. (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D1 Alderperson A. Caylor) motion/second to approve the ordinance for discussion. D6 Alderperson Rick spoke about the ordinance and does not agree with the ordinance. There was discussion between the council members. D4 Alderperson Fermanich and D3 Alderperson Meyer both stated none of their constituents or any citizens have contacted them regarding this ordinance. D6 Alderperson Rick asked why this shouldn't be put out for a referendum for the voters to decide. D2 Alderperson M. Caylor explained the history of the position as an elected officer. This was discussed at the budget meetings last fall and no citizen objection was heard at that time. The position was stripped of most of the duties by the previous city administration. City Administrator Akey explained the current position. The Street & Weed Commissioner position checks on lawns and sidewalks and reports to the Street Department Superintendent. The Street Commissioner position can be absorbed into the Street Department. Following discussion, the motion to accept the ordinance passed on a 7/1 roll call vote. D6 Alderperson Rick voted no.

## **XIV. Mayor's Communications** Mayor Hass read the following communications:

Merrill Ice Drags are Saturday's at the Council Grounds Bay.

Snow Bound in the Underdown is Saturday, February 21st.

Rotary Uncorked is at Les and Jim's on Saturday, February 28th.

A gun show will be at the Bierman Expo Building on March 6th.

T.B. Scott Library will be closed on Monday, February 16th for staff development.

Stop by the Merrill Enrichment Center to see all the great programs and classes being offered.

- ## **XV. Adjournment** (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 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>*