

**CITY OF MERRILL
FAIRGROUNDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026 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, D2 Alderperson M. Caylor, Brad Becker, Rodeo rep George Henrichs, D8 Alderperson Rutkowski
Present Not Voting: Social Media Specialist/Fairgrounds Coordinator Hallie Savall, City Administrator/Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Riders Club reps Lee Van der Geest, Amy Ollhoff and others
Excused: D1 Alderperson Andrew Caylor, Jay Schlueter
- II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
 1. **Minutes from the May 7th meeting.** - (Rodeo rep Henrichs/ Becker) motion/second to place minutes on file. The motion passed.
- III. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Fair Update** - Fair rep Becker updated the committee. Everything is lined up and they met with vendors. He also reminded everyone, this is a free fair and will continue to be. There is a charge for parking on the fair grounds but that is handled by non-profit groups.
 2. **Rodeo Update** - Rodeo rep George Henrichs updated the committee. The arena will be up and ready to go on June 5th. Everything is on track, weather permitting.
 3. **Permanent Vendor Update** - There was no report.
 4. **Calendar of Events** - The calendar was included in the packet. This weekend is the E Cycling event and a Flea Market at the fairgrounds.
 5. **Discuss events at the Fairgrounds arena.** - Lee Van der Geest from the Merrill Rider's Club spoke to the committee. He spoke of their concerns and wanted to figure out a middle ground with the City regarding scheduling events. There was an issue with preparing the arena which caused a Rider's Club event to be cancelled. Following discussion with other members of the club in addition to the committee members, it was decided the Rider's Club could book dates for 2027 by mid-January. They currently have six events scheduled before the Fair in August. It was also discussed to have sand down after the Fair in order to schedule events in the fall. No further action was taken.
- IV. **Monthly Reports**
 1. **Monthly Report - Fairgrounds Coordinator Savall** - The reports were included in the packet. FG Savall updated the committee with the Truck-a-Palooza numbers. There were 35 food trucks and 48 vendors. An estimated 5,000 people attended the event throughout the day. There will be a new

strategy next year for bathrooms and garbage. The event is scheduled for May 15, 2027. This event is a sponsored event and does not receive any money from City of Merrill taxpayers.

2. **Consider placing monthly reports on file** - (D2 Alderperson M. Caylor/Rodeo rep Henrichs) motion/second to place reports on file. The motion passed.

V. Public Comment There was no public comment.

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Thursday, July 2nd at 6:00 pm The July meeting will be Call of the Chair.

VII. Adjournment (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/D2 Alderperson M. Caylor) motion/second to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm

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