

**CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5:15 PM**

- I. Call to Order** Roll Call: D7 Mark Weix called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm
Present: D7 Weix, D6 Sukow, D8 Rutkowski
Present Not Voting: Police Chief Corey Bennett, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Norb "Nubs" Ashbeck, City Administrator Akey, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Chamber of Commerce Director Sarah Brooks, Sue Kunkel

- II. Public Comment** There was no public comment.

III. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1. **Consider placing the minutes from the July 27th meeting on file.** - (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/D6 Alderperson Sukow) motion/second to place minutes on file. The motion passed.

IV. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers

1. **Nuisance Complaints** - Nubs Ashbeck explained the nuisance complaints. Numbers two and five have been closed and will be removed from the list. The other three either have court dates set or are working through the procedure.
2. **Discuss and consider approving the vouchers** - D8 Rutkowski reached out to Fire Chief Klug on an expense. Fire Chief Klug answered the question regarding an expense paid from Act 102 funds. These funds are not taxpayer dollars. Police Chief Bennett answered a question regarding upgrades to the defense and arrest tactics space. This equipment was purchased through the Safety Grant offered by the City's Insurance Provider. Following discussion, (D8 Rutkowski/D6 Sukow) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.

V. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. **Discuss and consider a Class "A" Beer license application for Hollandtown Minimart LLC dba Merrill Cenex, 504 E 2nd St.** - (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/D6 Alderperson Sukow) motion/second to approve. Police Chief Bennett mentioned this is a recent purchase. The background check showed no concerns. The motion passed.
2. **Discuss and consider a temporary "Class B" wine license for the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce on October 17, 2026, from 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm at various locations and businesses throughout the City of Merrill in conjunction with a Sip & Stroll Merrill event.** - (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/D6 Alderperson Sukow) motion/second to approve. Sara Brooks, Chamber of Commerce Director, explained the wine walk to the committee members. This is to promote tourism and businesses throughout Merrill.

The Chamber is working with Kobussen to offer a shuttle service to the various parts of town. They are also partnering with the hotels for a Sip & Stay program. Each business participating will offer wine, snacks, appetizers and/or desserts. Business 1009 E Main St was removed from the list and 805 E Main St (Cosmo Hall) was added to the list of participating businesses. The changes were approved by Police Chief Bennett. Following discussion, the motion passed with the revisions. This will be forwarded to the September Common Council.

VI. Monthly Reports

- 1. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug** - Fire Chief Klug highlighted some items from the report. D7 Weix requested information regarding the call-back report. Chief Klug answered the question.
- 2. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett** - Police Chief Bennett highlighted some items from the report. August has been a busy month. He and Fire Chief Klug answered questions regarding the Fair. Both said the Fair went well with minimal incidents.
- 3. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society - no report this month -**
- 4. Consider placing monthly reports on file** - (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/D6 Alderperson Sukow) motion/second to place monthly reports on file. The motion passed.

VII. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Monday, September 28th at 5:15 pm

VIII. Adjournment (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/D6 Alderperson Sukow) motion/second to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.

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