

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Roll Call: Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm
Present: Mayor Hass, D1 Alderperson A. Caylor, D2 Alderperson M. Caylor (5:18), D3 Alderperson Meyer, D5 Alderperson Holdorf, D6 Alderperson Sukow (5:17), D7 Alderperson Weix Jr., D8 Alderperson Rutkowski
Present Not Voting: City Administrator Akey, Finance Director Ley, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Facilities Maintenance Manager Brunett, Fire Chief Klug, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Transit Director Brummond, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Shane Vanderwaal - outside counsel
Excused: D4 Alderperson LaDonna Fermanich
- II. **Roll Call** Roll call was taken with 6 out of 9 present. D6 Alderperson Sukow arrived at 5:17 pm and D2 Alderperson M. Caylor arrived at 5:18 pm.
- III. **Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- IV. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**
 1. **Consider the minutes from the August 12th meeting** - (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to place minutes on file. The motion passed.
- V. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Continue presentation on 2027 Capital Budget requests** - Department Heads continued with the 2027 capital budget requests. The meeting started with the Police Department squad replacement and up-fitting. The remainder of the requests were presented. Following the presentations, the committee asked questions regarding various requests.
The following items were discussed from the 2027 Capital Project Request sheet that was included in the packet:
#10 - Replace 2003 Polaris UTV - Parks - Park & Recreation Director Wendorf will be in contact with a vendor regarding a lesser cost replacement.
#12 - Replace zero turn mowers (2) - Parks - Park & Recreation Director Wendorf removed one of the mowers, so he is only requesting 1 mower to be replaced.
#2 - Election Voting Machines (8) - D4 Alderperson Fermanich requested this item be removed. City Clerk Anderson-Malm explained the reason for the updated machines. Lincoln County is upgrading the current DS200's to DS300's. The DS200's are almost 19 years old with a life expectancy of 10–15 years. Lincoln County is the last county in Wisconsin to use the DS200's and they are showing wear. Reading and jamming issues occurred in the August primary. The DS200's will no longer be supported by ES&S, the company who provides our election equipment. Following further

discussion, it was decided this was a purchase that cannot be cut from the budget.

#6 - Clay tile roof replacement (Carnegie) - Library - Facilities Maintenance Manager Brunett stated he received a second quote which came in at \$14,000. The initial amount was \$18,000.

#9 - Aquatic Center improvements - Parks. There was a brief discussion regarding this request. It was decided this is something that cannot be put off and will need to be completed.

#3 Command Car 60 - Fire - Fire Chief answered questions from the committee. D3 Alderperson Meyer would like the vehicle to get to the 100,000 mile mark before trading for a new vehicle. (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to remove Car 60 from the 2027 capital budget requests. The motion passed on an 8/0 roll call vote.

#4 Mobile Radios - Fire - D2 Alderperson M. Caylor requested additional information before any decision is made. City Clerk Anderson-Malm will email the information to the committee members to review before the next budget meeting.

#7 Library Carpet replacement - 2nd floor - additional quotes were received. The amount will be revised for the next budget meeting.

Due to time constraints, the rest of the discussion will take place at the next budget meeting.

VI. Next Budget meeting: Tuesday, September 8th at 5:00 pm

VII. Closed Session

- 1. The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; to receive an update from legal counsel regarding ongoing litigation.** - Closed session was moved to the beginning of the meeting at the favor of the committee. Closed session occurred after public comment. City Clerk Anderson-Malm read the closed session language. (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D7 Alderperson Weix) motion/second to enter into a closed session. The motion passed on a 6/0 roll call vote. The committee entered into closed session at 5:04 pm with the following in attendance: D1 Alderperson A. Caylor, D2 Alderperson M. Caylor (5:18), D3 Alderperson Meyer, D5 Alderperson Holdorf, D6 Alderperson Sukow (5:17), D7 Alderperson Weix, D8 Alderperson Rutkowski, Mayor Hass, City Administrator Akey, Finance Director Ley, outside counsel Shane Vanderwaal and City Clerk Anderson-Malm who recorded minutes without objection. The committee received an update from outside counsel regarding ongoing litigation with Walmart.

VIII. Reconvene in Open Session

- 1. The Committee may reconvene in open session for possible action related to the closed session item.** - (Mayor Hass/D3 Alderperson Meyer) motion/second to reconvene in open session. The motion passed. The committee reconvened in open session at 5:22 pm. The following is action from closed session: (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D1 Alderperson A. Caylor) motion/second to approve the settlement with payment of \$34,880. If the 2026 assessment cannot be reduced to \$10 million, then the tax amount over \$10 million in value will be refunded in 60 days of Walmart paying in full. The motion passed.

- IX. Adjournment** (D3 Alderperson Meyer/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Minutes submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm

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