



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2020

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	

Also in attendance: Mayor Derek Woellner, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Mike Rick, Lincoln County Health Director Shelley Hersil (Remote) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. COVID-19 Report(s)

Lincoln County Health Director Hersil reported that COVID-19 outbreaks, hospitalizations and deaths are increasing. Free testing is being done every Wednesday.

Lincoln County Health Director Hersil answered questions related to the flu clinics for students.

The “turn-around” time for COVID-19 testing was discussed, as was the temporary closing of Jefferson School.

Fire Chief Klug shared verbal information on contingency plans in the event the Fire Department experiences numerous COVID-19 cases.

Lincoln County Health Director Hersil then answered additional questions.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck noted that the report includes two cases that have appeared on previous report(s). Work is ongoing on both cases.

2. Vouchers

Fire Chief Klug and Police Chief Bennett answered questions on the vouchers.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

1. None.

V. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Resolution regarding COVID-19 prevention guidelines

The resolution that was in the meeting packet was previously tabled by the Common Council at their October 13th, 2020 meeting. Therefore, the resolution will not be considered now by the Health and Safety Committee.

Alderman Russell read a statement related to COVID-19 preventative measures. Alderman Russell stressed the importance of sharing COVID-19 information with the public. Alderman Blake agreed that providing information to the public is critical.

Mayor Woellner thanked the Health and Safety Committee for including the resolution on the agenda. While he realizes that the resolution cannot be reconsidered at this time, he wants to ensure that the public continues to be informed on this issue. He expressed disappointment that people are frequently not wearing masks or practicing social distancing.

Alderman Russell suggested that, in the future, these types of issues should be introduced at the committee level instead of being brought directly to the Common Council.

It was noted that many people do not have access to the internet and social media, and that it is important to distribute information to these people via different methods.

No action taken.

VI. Minutes & Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of September 28, 2020 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reviewed the report and shared information on the following.

- Social Media
- Community Scan
- Publicity
- Calls for Service/EMS Statistics

- Fire Inspection Data
- Training
- Call Back Report
- Meetings, Community Activities & Engagements

Fire Chief Klug reported that a new eligibility list will be established soon.

3. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett noted that September, as usual, was a busy month for the Police Department. Although the Fall Ride was cancelled, the Police Department assisted the City of Tomahawk on what would have been Fall Ride weekend. The Police Department also provided assistance for the visit to Mosinee by President Trump.

Discussion was held on the interview process conducted by the Police and Fire Commission.

Alderman Russell inquired as to whether the Fire Department and Police Department have an adequate inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Police Chief Bennett replied that they have adequate equipment, but that COVID-19 presents unique challenges for the department. Fire Chief Klug reported an adequate equipment supply. He agreed that COVID-19 presents challenges to the Fire Department as well.

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

The report was in the meeting packet.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Blake/Weix) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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VII. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Monday, November 30th, 2020 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VIII. Public Comment Period

None.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Blake/Weix) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:08 P.M.