CITY OF MERRILL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES ● TUESDAY OCTOBER 1, 2019

Budget Session | **City Hall Council Chambers** | **5:15 PM**

I. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Alderperson - First District	Present	
Steve Hass	Alderperson - Second District	Present	
Rick Blake	Alderperson - Third District	Present	
Steve Osness	Alderperson - Fourth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Alderperson - Fifth District	Present	
Mike Rick	Alderperson - Sixth District	Present	
Rob Norton	Alderperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

Others in attendance included: Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack, Transit Director Brad Brummond, City Attorney Tom Hayden, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Enrichment Center Director Tammie Mrachek, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Parks & Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Matt Waid, Lori Anderson-Malm, Ryan Schwartzman, Kyle Gulke, LaDonna Fermanich, Al Wix, Ralph Sturm (arr. 5:28) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. There will be short recess for 6:00 p.m. City Plan Commission meeting

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Schedule for 2020 Budget Meetings

1. COW Meetings

The 2020 budget meetings schedule was in the meeting packet.

Mayor Woellner reviewed the schedule.

V. Review and discussion of Budget Background Information:

1. Budget Overview and Capital Funding Sources

Finance Director Unertl reviewed the Budget Overview and information on the Capital Budget, Borrowing and Debt Service (pages B-1 & B-2 of meeting packet).

2. Net New Construction and State Levy Limit

Finance Director Unertl reviewed info related to Net New Construction and the Tax Levy Summary (pages B-3 & B-4 of meeting packet).

3. Expenditure Restraint Program CPI

Finance Director Unertl reviewed info related to the Expenditure Restraint Program and Intergovernmental Revenue from the State of Wisconsin (pages B-5, B-6 & B-7 of meeting packet).

4. Non-Department Revenues - 2020

Finance Director Unertl reviewed budget information related to the Non-Departmental Fund (pages B-8 & B-9 of meeting packet).

5. Fiscal status of Undesignated General Fund

Finance Director Unertl reviewed information related to the Undesignated General Fund Balance (page B-10 of meeting packet).

VI. Personnel & Employee Benefits

1. 2020 Budget

Finance Director Unertl reviewed budget information related to: City Organizational Chart, Police & Firefighter Wages, Non-union Employee Wages, Library Employee Wages, Wisconsin Retirement System Employer Rates and Employee Health Insurance (pages P-1 to P-12 of meeting packet).

Mayor Woellner raised the possibility of establishing "our own" fund for providing loans to residents for property remediation. In his opinion, the income level to quality for federal funding is not practical.

VII. Review and consideration of 2020 Budget Requests:

1. Proposed Infrastructure Investments

Finance Director Unertl provided information on potential infrastructure investments (pages I-1 to I-14 of meeting packet). Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel shared "drone" pictures of the proposed infrastructure sites.

2. Landfill Remediation

Finance Director Unertl reviewed info related to the Landfill Remediation Fund (page L-1 of meeting packet).

3. Water Fund

Finance Director Unertl and Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reviewed info related to the Water Fund (pages W-1 to W-14 of meeting packet).

4. Sewer Fund

Finance Director Unertl reviewed info related to the Sewer Fund (pages S-1 to S-10 of meeting packet).

5. Recess

At 5:59 P.M., Mayor Woellner declared a recess in order to hold the City Plan Commission meeting at 6:00 P.M.

At 6:15 P.M., Mayor Woellner called the Committee of the Whole meeting back to order.

Alderman Russell asked about the possibility and costs of having a Public Service Commission survey on water rates.

Note: The order of agenda items was changed, and, as a result, the Infrastructure Investments agenda item was discussed after the recess, immediately before Public Comment.

VIII. Public Comment

LaDonna Fermanich commended the Water Department for their work with liners. She then mentioned the proposed West St. Paul Street project, and noted that several of the streets in the vicinity of East St. Paul Street have been gravel for many years.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Sabatke) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:58 P.M.