



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 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: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Steve Hass, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Lincoln County Health Director Shelley Hersil (remote) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Potential COVID-19 Update Report(s)

Lincoln County Health Director Hersil reported remotely. We have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases recently, and the number of hospitalizations is also on the rise. Total cases in the county are now approaching 250, with about 50 of those occurring in the last four weeks. Additional testing opportunities are being offered throughout the county.

Lincoln County Health Director Hersil then answered questions.

III. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaint summary report was in the meeting packet.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported on the three cases on the report. Court dates have been assigned to the first two cases, and Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel is working on the third case.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug answered a question related to a voucher.

Motion (Weix/Blake) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

IV. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

None.

V. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 6, Article IV, Section 6-90, to establish maximum number, size and location of apiaries (places where bees are kept) on private property.

The proposed ordinance was in the meeting packet. City Attorney Hayden has drafted the ordinance at the request of Alderman Osness.

Alderman Russell requested that floor privileges be granted to Alderman Osness. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Alderman Osness provided verbal details on his reasons for requesting this ordinance.

The proposed ordinance language specifies the following:

1. A maximum of three apiary structures shall be allowed on private property.
2. Each apiary shall not exceed ten cubic feet in size.
3. Apiaries shall be placed at least ten feet from the property line.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 10/13/2020 6:00 PM
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VI. Minutes & Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of August 24, 2020 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug

The report was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug reviewed the report, including the following:

Recent fire inspections and the request for a Fire Inspector position
Ongoing training
Participation in cleanup at the State of Wisconsin Firefighter Memorial site
Structure fire

3. Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett

The report was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett reviewed the report

27 Applications for the Police Officer position were received.

Lincoln County has received a grant related to addressing accident “hot spots” and other traffic issues.

Police Chief Bennett issued a reminder that the Police Department does not “sponsor” trick-or-treating, but they do provide resources. Trick-or-treating in the City of Merrill this year is scheduled for 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 31st.

4. Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society

The report was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Blake noted that, during the previous month, numerous cats were adopted.

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, October 26th, 2020 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VIII. Public Comment Period

Alderman Russell thanked the Fire Department and Police Department for the assistance they provided after his recent accident.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Blake/Weix) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:49 P.M.